

**History 945: The United States Since 1929
Fall 2013**

Seminar Time: Wednesday, 8:50-10:50am
Professor William P. Jones
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Office Hours: T & Th 11:00-12:00 (or by appointment)

This seminar focuses on the social, political and cultural history of what some scholars have dubbed the “New Deal order.” While historians have long viewed the New Deal as a key turning point in American history, they have more recently begun to consider its impact on a definite and perhaps exceptional era in American history. Some have seen the decline of that era as early as Franklin Roosevelt’s second term, while others have dated it to the 1960s, the 1980s and even the present. We will examine the evidence and analyses presented in these various approaches and discuss their relevance for understanding the long trajectory of American history since the Great Depression.

Course requirements

1. *Seminars:* Each student is expected to completed all core readings before weekly seminar meetings, attend all meetings and participate actively and respectfully in class discussions. If you cannot attend a meeting please notify my well in advance so we can develop an alternative assignment.
2. *Seminar Leadership:* In addition to the core reading, each student will lead discussion during two class meetings. Each discussion leader will prepare a 10 minute introduction to the historiographical issues addressed in the core reading. This can draw from additional texts on a related topic or summarize the scholarly reviews of the core reading. When more than one student is leading discussion, they should meet in advance to coordinate their presentations. Please be prepared to sign up for discussion leadership on September 3.
3. *Book Reviews:* Each student will write reviews of two core readings. You should model the reviews on a scholarly journal, such as the *Journal of American History* or the *American Historical Review*. Reviews are due in the seminar meeting during which we discuss the reviewed book.
4. *Final Paper:* Each student will write a 12-15 page historiographical essay that addresses a specific question or theme raised by the course material. Similar to literature reviews in other fields, such essays summarize the existing literature on a particular topic, explains the major issues of debate among scholars addressing that topic, and points to one or two questions that arise of the scholarship that warrant future research. You should choose a topic that furthers your own research or expands your knowledge in ways that will be useful for teaching. Please make an appointment to discuss your topic with me before October 8. A complete bibliography is due on October 29. The completed paper is due in class on December 10.

Note on writing: All written assignments for this class should be typed, double-spaced with standard one-inch margins. They should be carefully edited and free of grammatical, spelling or

typographical errors. Please use the standard humanities style of documentation as described in Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (7th Edition) or *The Chicago Manual of Style* (15th Edition). I recommend purchasing one of these books, as it will be useful throughout your scholarly career.

Core Readings: All articles and book chapters are posted at Learn@UW <<https://learnuw.wisc.edu/>>. The following books can be purchased at Room of One's Own Books, 307 W. Johnson St. (257-7888).

- Lizabeth Cohen, *Making a New Deal: Industrial Workers in Chicago, 1919-1939* (Cambridge, 1991)
- Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform: New Deal Liberalism in Recession and War* (Vintage, 1996)
- Mae M. Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (Princeton, 2005)
- Margot Canaday, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America* (Politics and Society in Twentieth-Century)
- Ira Katznelson, *Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time* (Norton, 2013)
- Alice Kessler-Harris, *In Pursuit of Equity: Women, Men, and the Quest for Economic Citizenship in 20th Century America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001)
- Howard Brick, *Transcending Capitalism: Visions of a New Society in Modern American Thought* (Cornell University Press, 2006)
- Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (Cambridge, 2007)
- Van Gosse and Richard Moser Eds., *The World the 60s Made: Politics and Culture in Recent America* (Temple, 2003)
- Kim Phillips-Fein, *Invisible Hands: The Businessman's Crusade Against the New Deal* (Norton, 2010)
- Jefferson Cowie, *Stayin' Alive: The 1970s and the Last Days of the Working Class*
- Daniel Rogers, *The Age of Fracture* (Harvard University Press, 2011)

September 3: Introduction

Core Reading:

- Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, "The Long Civil Rights Movement and the Political Uses of the Past," *Journal of American History* 91 (March 2005)
- Van Gosse, "Postmodern America: A New Democratic Order in the Second Gilded Age," in Gosse and Moser Eds., *The World the 60s Made: Politics and Culture in Recent America* (Temple, 2003), 1-36.
- Jefferson Cowie and Nick Salvatore, "The Long Exception: Rethinking the Place of the New Deal in American History," *International Labor and Working-Class History* No. 74, Fall 2008, pp. 3-32

September 10: The New Deal as a Cultural Shift

Core Reading: Lizabeth Cohen, *Making a New Deal: Industrial Workers in Chicago, 1919-1939* (Cambridge, 1991)

Additional Reading: James Gregory, *The Southern Diaspora: How the Great Migrations of Black and White Southerners Transformed America* (UNC Press, 2005)

September 17: The Limits of Reform

Core Reading: Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform: New Deal Liberalism in Recession and War* (Vintage, 1996)

Additional Reading: Landon R. Y. Storrs, *The Second Red Scare and the Unmaking of the New Deal Left* (Princeton University Press, 2012)

September 24: No Class

October 1: Race and Nation

Written Assignment: Title and one paragraph description of final paper.

Core Reading: Mae M. Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (Princeton, 2005)

Additional Reading: Joshua Freeman, *American Empire: The Rise of a Global Power, the Democratic Revolution at Home 1945-2000* (Penguin, 2013)

October 8: Sex and Citizenship

Core Reading: Margot Canaday, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America* (Politics and Society in Twentieth-Century

Additional Reading: Robert O. Self, *All in the Family: The Realignment of American Democracy Since the 1960s* (Hill & Wang, 2012)

October 15: Race and Liberalism

Core Reading: Ira Katznelson, *Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time* (Norton, 2013)

Additional Reading: Thomas J. Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit* (Princeton, 1996)

October 22: Gender and Citizenship

Core Reading: Alice Kessler-Harris, *In Pursuit of Equity: Women, Men, and the Quest for Economic Citizenship in 20th Century America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001)

Additional Reading: Stephanie Coontz, *A Strange Stirring: The Feminine Mystique and American Women at the Dawn of the 1960s* (Basic Books, 2011)

October 29: Making Sense of the Postwar Order

Written Assignment: One page bibliography for final paper

Core Reading: Howard Brick, *Transcending Capitalism: Visions of a New Society in Modern American Thought* (Cornell University Press, 2006)

Additional Reading: Nelson Lichtenstein, ed., *American Capitalism: Social Thought and Political Economy in the Twentieth Century* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006)

November 5: Limits of American Power

Core Reading: Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (Cambridge, 2007)

Additional Reading: Elizabeth Borgwardt, *A New Deal for the World: America's Vision for Human Rights* (Harvard, 2005)

November 12: The Return of Liberalism

Core Reading: Van Gosse and Richard Moser Eds., *The World the 60s Made: Politics and Culture in Recent America* (Temple, 2003)

Additional Reading: G. Calvin Mackenzie, Robert Weisbrot, *The Liberal Hour: Washington and the Politics of Change in the 1960s* (Penguin Press, 2008)

November 19: The New Conservatism

Core Reading: Kim Phillips-Fein, *Invisible Hands: The Businessman's Crusade Against the New Deal* (Norton, 2010)

Additional Reading: Joe Crespino, *Strom Thurmond's America* (Hill & Wang, 2012)

November 26: The New Meaning of Class?

Core Reading: Jefferson Cowie, *Stayin' Alive: The 1970s and the Last Days of the Working Class* (New Press, 2010)

Additional Reading: Eileen Boris and Jennifer Klein, *Caring for America: Home Health Workers in the Shadow of the Welfare State* (Oxford University Press, 2012)

December 3: The End of an Era?

Core Reading: Daniel Rogers, *The Age of Fracture* (Harvard University Press, 2011)

Additional Reading: Mary L. Dudziak, ed., *September 11 in History: A Watershed Moment?* (Duke University Press, 2003)

December 10 Taking Stock

Core Reading:
Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, "The Long Civil Rights Movement and the Political Uses of the Past," *Journal of American History* 91 (March 2005)

Van Gosse, "Postmodern America: A New Democratic Order in the Second Gilded Age,"
in Gosse and Moser Eds., *The World the 60s Made: Politics and Culture in
Recent America* (Temple, 2003), 1-36.

Jefferson Cowie and Nick Salvatore, "The Long Exception: Rethinking the Place of the
New Deal in American History," *International Labor and Working-Class History*
No. 74, Fall 2008, pp. 3-32