Professor Sarah Phillips  
History Department  
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sarahphi@bu.edu; 617-353-9914  
Office hours: Friday 12-3; by appt.  

Teaching Fellow:  
Clare Ploucha: cploucha@bu.edu  
226 BSR rm. 210  
Mon 12:30-2; Thurs 1-2:30; by appt

CAS HI 337  The United States 1900-1945  Spring 2012

This course will examine the major political, economic, and social developments in the United States from the beginning of the twentieth century to World War II. Readings are available at the BU Barnes & Noble and on reserve at Mugar Library. Students will also find course materials on the Blackboard website.

In this course you will become familiar with the dynamic processes that shaped modern America. You will also acquire the ability to interpret primary sources and to craft written historical interpretations. You will do well in this class if you (1) complete the reading the week it is scheduled; (2) listen carefully during lectures and understand that they will not repeat the reading, but will provide new contexts, supplementary case studies, and alternative interpretations; (3) take notes during lecture and review your notes frequently; (4) attend the discussion workshops; (5) budget plenty of time to complete the writing assignments and to study for the exams; and (6) meet with your Teaching Fellow to discuss your papers in advance of the deadlines.

Required Texts:
James Oakes et al, Of the People: A History of the United States from 1900 to 1945  
(Oxford, custom) ISBN 9780199926824
Jo Ann E. Argersinger, The Triangle Fire: A Brief History with Documents  
(Bedford/St. Martins) ISBN 9780312464523
Jeffrey P. Moran, The Scopes Trial: A Brief History with Documents (Bedford/St.  
Martins) ISBN 9780312249199
Richard Polenberg, The Era of Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933-1945: A Brief History with  
Documents (Bedford/St. Martins) ISBN 9780312133108
Ira Katznelson, When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold History of Racial  
Inequality in Twentieth-Century America (Norton) ISBN 9780393328516

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Pop Quizzes: We will not take attendance, but pop quizzes on the previous lecture are always a possibility, so it is in your interest to attend lectures consistently and to review your notes from the previous lecture before arriving. No make-up quizzes will be administered. No exam-day absences are permitted and no make-up exams will be administered. If you miss an exam you must accept the zero.
Exams: There will be two in-class exams, a midterm and a final, covering the textbook, some of the additional reading, and the material presented in lectures. The format will consist of matching (to assess textbook comprehension), and short answers and essays (to assess lecture and additional reading comprehension).

Written Assignments: There will be three papers, each requiring a thesis-driven analysis of the additional course readings (the Blackboard documents plus The Triangle Fire, The Scopes Trial, and The Era of Franklin D. Roosevelt). The assignments will be distributed with a writing and style guide. No paper extensions will be granted. Late papers will be penalized one-third grade per day late. We will grade only hard copies of the essays; no email submissions will be accepted.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component/Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>% Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pop Quizzes</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #1</td>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Mar. 6</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #2</td>
<td>Apr. 12</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #3</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Teaching Fellow, Optional Workshops, and Workshop Incentives: In this course you will be assigned a Teaching Fellow (TF). Your TF will take an interest in your course performance, will grade your work, and will be available to meet with you to discuss paper drafts. The TF will also hold 6 workshops to help you navigate and understand the course readings. During “workshop weeks” the TF will offer the same workshop at 3 different times during the week. You’ll have the option of attending one, and you’ll sign up in advance. These workshops are not required, but they are highly recommended, and they are obviously a sine qua non for any student wishing to perform well on the written essays. As an added incentive, a ½ percentage point will be added to your final course grade for each workshop you attend, to a maximum of 3 total points. 3 points can make a big difference; just consider how much more you’d enjoy an A- rather than a B+, or a B- rather than a C+.

Academic Integrity: It is your responsibility to read and understand the Boston University Academic Conduct Code (available at www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code) and to abide by its provisions. Any suspected cases of plagiarism or unethical academic behavior will be referred to the appropriate officials.
**Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments:**
The readings marked with asterisks (**) are posted on the Blackboard website.

Jan 17  Course Introduction  
Jan 19  Crisis of the 1890s  
READ:  *Of the People* chap. 20  
**Gary Gerstle, "Theodore Roosevelt's Racialized Nation, 1890-1900"**

Jan 24  Nation and Empire  
Jan 26  Whither the West?  
READ:  *Of the People* chap. 21  
**Gary Gerstle, "Civic Nationalism and Its Contradictions, 1890-1917"**

Jan 31  Progressivism and the Modern Presidency  
Feb 2   "Municipal Housekeeping": Women and Progressivism  
READ:  *Triangle Fire*, Introduction & chaps. 1-2 (pp. 1-71)  
WORKSHOP MEETINGS

Feb 7   Voices on the Left  
Feb 9   The "Shield of Segregation": Ordering Race Relations  
READ:  *Triangle Fire*, chaps. 3 & 4 (pp. 72-121)  
WORKSHOP MEETINGS

Feb 14  Progressive Policy at High Tide  
Feb 16  World War I  
ESSAY #1 DUE IN CLASS  
READ:  *Of the People* chap. 22

Feb 21  NO LECTURE – MONDAY SCHEDULE OF CLASSES  
Feb 23  Migration and Immigration  
READ:  *Of the People* chap. 23  
*Scopes Trial*, Introduction (pp. 1-72)

Feb 28  Many Meanings of Mass Production  
Mar 1  Culture and Consumption Between the Wars  
READ:  *Scopes Trial* Part II (pp. 73-170)  
WORKSHOP MEETINGS

Mar 6   MIDTERM  
Mar 8   Political Worlds of the 1920s  
READ:  *Scopes Trial* Part III (pp. 171-214)  
WORKSHOP MEETINGS

Mar 10-18: SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS
Mar 20  Crash and Depression
Mar 22  Launching the New Deal
       ESSAY #2 DUE IN CLASS
READ:  **Of the People** chap. 24 (missing in textbook — available on Blackboard)

Mar 27  Voices of Protest
Mar 29  ASEH MEETING: NO LECTURE
READ:  *Era of FDR*, 1-57, 68-77, 83-102, 114-132
WORKSHOP MEETINGS

Apr 3   Modernizing Rural America
Apr 5   The Dust Bowl in History and Memory
READ:  *Era of FDR*, 64-67, 77-83, 108-113
       **Sarah Phillips, excerpts from This Land, This Nation**

Apr 10  *It Happened One Night*
Apr 12  *It Happened One Night*
READ:  *When Affirmative Action Was White*, Preface, chaps. 1 & 2

Apr 17  A Welfare State, Sort of: What the New Deal Did
Apr 19  Isolation and Neutrality
READ:  *Era of FDR*, 133-160, 58-64, 161-183
       *When Affirmative Action Was White*, chap. 3
WORKSHOP MEETINGS

Apr 24  World War II
Apr 26  *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter*
READ:  *Era of FDR*, 184-227
       *When Affirmative Action Was White*, chaps. 4 & 5

May 1   War at Home

**Friday, May 4  ESSAY #3 DUE TO YOUR TF BY 12 NOON**

**Tuesday, May 8, 9:00AM  FINAL EXAM**