HI 843- Graduate Seminar:
Problems in Twentieth-Century History

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Course Description:

This study will take a detailed look at historical problems in twentieth-century America. We will meet 6 times a semester and discuss the historiography of a particular topic and consider strategies of how to teach the topic to undergraduates. Throughout the course, you will develop lecture outlines and we will discuss teaching strategies. The course also aims to help prepare you for your future comprehensive oral exam.

Assignments:

1) Participation and bi-weekly meetings: 20%

2) Reading Assessments: 45%: On the Tuesday before our meetings, you will be required to submit a 2 page evaluation of the weekly readings. Each meeting, one student will present an oral synopsis of the reading that goes into more detail than the standard response and explains important historiographic themes of the topics in a 5-10 minute presentation. Together these essays and presentations will account for 45% of your grade in the course.

3) Lecture Outline and Syllabus 35%: On May 15, you will turn in a syllabus for a 20th century history course (you can focus it on certain topics in your field) and detailed lecture/discussion outlines that articulate a teaching strategy and readings for each week. For each week of the course (12 weeks), you will need to have at least a one page outline of the important lecture themes, specific examples to use in class, and how the student reading assignments connect to these themes. This will count for 35% of your grade.

NOTE ON PLAGIARISM. Remember that plagiarism is a serious offense and it is your responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the CAS Academic Conduct Code. Plagiarism is subject to serious sanctions, including reprimand, suspension, and expulsion. Cases of suspected academic misconduct in this course will be referred to the Dean’s Office. For a detailed description of Boston University's
rules, consult the code of conduct at www.cs.bu.edu/students/conduct.html or pick up a copy in room CAS105.

**Schedule of Readings and Class Meetings**

**January 18: Introduction**

**February 1: The “Jazz Era:” Changes in early 20th Century American Culture: Mark**

**ASSIGNED READING:**
1. Lewis Erenberg, *Steppin’ Up Out*
2. Lawrence Levine, *Highbrow/Lowbrow*
3. Lary May, *Screening Out the Past*
4. Melvyn Stokes and Richard Maltby, eds. *American Movie Audiences: From the Turn of the Century to the Early Sound Era*

**February 22: FDR’s America: The Great Depression and the New Deal: Mark**

**ASSIGNED READING:**
1. Anthony Badger, *The New Deal*
2. Lizbeth Cohen, *Making the New Deal*
3. Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform*
4. Sarah Phillips, *This Land, This Nation*

**March 7: A Suburban Nation in the Cold War: Jared**

**ASSIGNED READINGS:**
1. Kenneth Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier*
2. Thomas Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis*
4. Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound*

**March 28: The Sixties: From Liberalism to Radicalism: Jared**

**ASSIGNED READINGS:**
1. Bradford Martin, *The Theater is in the Street*
2. Alan Brinkley, *Liberalism and Its Discontents*
3. Allen Matusow, *The Unraveling of America*

**April 18: Richard Nixon, the Silent Majority, and the New Right: Jared**

**ASSIGNED READINGS:**
1. Matthew Lassiter, *The Silent Majority*
2. Lisa McGirr, *Suburban Warriors*
4. Donald Critchlow, *Phyllis Schlafly and Grassroots Conservatism*

**May 2: The Reagan Revolution? Mark**

**ASSIGNED READINGS:**
1. Gil Troy, *Morning in America*
2. Bradford Martin, *The Other Eighties*
3. Sean Wilentz, *The Age of Reagan*