HI 337 A1: America in Depression and War, 1890-1945
Spring 2019
CASB06B, Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15

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Office Hours: TR 3:30-4:30, R 10-11, and by appointment

Overview: This course examines the political, economic, social, and cultural history of the United States from 1890 through 1945, with particular attention to how modern America was shaped by depressions in the 1890s and 1930s and by imperial and global ambitions that led the United States to fight in two world wars. Related themes include the rise of the modern corporation, improvements in technology, the evolution of the consumer society, the expansion of the federal government, evolving race relations and the emergence of Jim Crow, and changing conceptions of gender roles.

Course Organization/Requirements: This course requires a good deal of reading, writing, and listening along with your active participation in class discussions. Many class meetings will mix lectures with discussions of assigned readings and, occasionally introduce additional primary and secondary sources. I encourage you to email me interesting news items related to the course topic so that I can share them with the class.

Specific course requirements are as follows:

Short Paper (10%) (In class, Thursday, Feb 21)
Midterm Exam (25%) (In class, Thursday, March 7)
Analytic Paper (25%) (Due in class either April 25th or May 2)
Final Exam (25%) (Wednesday, May 8)
Attendance and Class Participation (15%)

The analytical paper prompt will be posted to the class Blackboard site on April 1.

Attendance: Students are required to attend lectures and discussions, and attendance will be taken at each lecture via a sign in sheet. Missing more than two classes will lower your participation grade. Note that these absences need not be consecutive. If you have a special obligation that will require you to miss several classes (e.g., varsity athletics, religious observances), please talk with me at the beginning of the semester.

Exams: Students are expected to take the midterm and final on the days they are administered (March 7 and May 8). Make-up exams will only be given in the event of a medical emergency (with a note from a doctor) or a family emergency.

Technology: Use of laptops (and other digital devices) is not permitted in class.

Readings
The following books are available at the Barnes and Noble bookstore in Kenmore Square:

Eric Rauchway, *Murdering McKinley: The Making of Theodore Roosevelt’s America*

Richard D. Polenberg, *The Era of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1933-1945: A Brief History with Documents*

In addition to these, other readings are posted to the class’ Blackboard site.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the passing off of another’s words or ideas as your own, and it is a serious academic offense. Cases of plagiarism will be handled in accordance with the disciplinary procedures described in the College of Arts and Science Academic Conduct Code. All students are subject to the CAS code, which can be read online at: [http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/](http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/)

Penalties for plagiarism can range from failing an assignment or course to suspension or expulsion from the university. If you have any questions about plagiarism, please speak with me.

**Schedule of Lectures, Readings, and Assignments**

Tuesday, January 22-Intro to Class
Thursday, January 24-The Gilded Age

*Murdering McKinley*, Preface and Chapter 1

Blackboard Readings:

- Gospel of Wealth, *American Yawp Reader*
- How the Other Half Lives, *American Yawp Reader*

Tuesday, January 29-Closing the West and The Great Depression of 1893
Thursday, January 31-The Populists

Readings:

*Murdering McKinley*, Chapter 2-3

Blackboard Material:

- The Omaha Platform of the People’s Party, *American Yawp Reader*
- A Cross of Gold, *American Rhetoric*

Tuesday, February 5-The Progressives
Thursday, February 7-1896, the McKinley Presidency, and the end of the 19th Century

Readings:

*Murdering McKinley*, Chapters 3-4

Blackboard Readings:

- The Subjective Necessity for Social Settlements, *American Yawp Reader*
- Black Progress, *American Yawp Reader*
- Lynch Law in America, *American Yawp Reader*

Tuesday, February 12-American Fights a War and Gains and Empire
Thursday, February 14-Teddy Roosevelt in the White House

Readings:

*Murdering McKinley*, Chapters 6-7

Blackboard Material:
American Expansionism, *American Yawp Reader*
The War Prayer, *American Yawp Reader*
Platform of the American Anti-Imperialist League, *American Yawp Reader*

**Tuesday, February 19** - **NO CLASS (Monday Schedule)**
**Thursday, February 21** - The High Watermark of Progressivism - **SHORT PAPER DUE**
   Blackboard Material:
   The New Nationalism  
   The New Freedom, *American Yawp Reader*

**Tuesday, February 26** - US Foreign Policy from the Philippines to Mexico
**Thursday, February 28** - Making the World Safe for Democracy
   Blackboard Readings:
   Woodrow Wilson, World War I, and An American Conception of National Security  
   Chapter 1, *Over Here*  
   Woodrow Wilson Asks Congress to Declare War, *American Yawp Reader*  
   The Fourteen Points, *The Avalon Project*

**Tuesday, March 5** - Building a Better World at Home and Abroad
**Thursday, March 7** - **MIDTERM**
   Blackboard Material:
   Chapter 5, *Born for Liberty*  
   Answering Objections to Woman’s Suffrage, *American Yawp Reader*

**March 12 and 14** - **NO CLASS (Spring Break)**

**Tuesday, March 19** - The 1920s 1: Terror
**Thursday, March 21** - The 1920s 2: The Politics of Normalcy
   Blackboard Readings:
   Chapter 16, *Savage Peace*  
   Chapter 3, *American Crucible*  
   Warren G. Harding “Return to Normalcy,” *American Yawp Reader*  
   Hiram Evans “The Klan’s Fight for Americanism,” *American Yawp Reader*

**Tuesday, March 26** - The 1920s 3: All That Jazz (but None of That Alcohol)
**Thursday, March 28** - The Good Times End: The Great Depression and Herbert Hoover
   Blackboard Readings:
   Chapter 8-9, *The Perils of Prosperity*  
   Hebert Hoover “The Principals of the United States Government,” *American Yawp Reader*  
   Table for Two, *The New Yorker*

**Tuesday, April 2** - The New Deal 1: The Election of 1932 and the 100 Days
**Thursday, April 4** - The New Deal 2: The High Watermark of the New Deal
   Readings:
The Era of Franklin D. Roosevelt

Part I, pages 1-16
Part II, Section 1-4

Blackboard Reading
Selected Letters from the Great Depression/New Deal

Tuesday, April 9-The New Deal 3: Things Fall Apart
Thursday, April 11-America in the World from The Treaty of Versailles to the Fall of France

Readings:
The Era of Franklin D. Roosevelt
Part I, pages 16-24
Part II, Section 5-7

Blackboard Readings
A Witness Returns from the War, Reporting World War II

Tuesday, April 16-Breaking Norms: The Election of 1940 to the Attack on Pearl Harbor
Thursday, April 18-In Class Video and Discussion “Why We Fight: War Comes to America”

Blackboard Readings:
Chapters 7-8, The Improbable Wendell Wilkie
America First Rally in Pittsburgh, Reporting World War II

Tuesday, April 23-The Second World War 1: Fighting the War
Thursday, April 25- The Second World War 2: The Arsenal of Democracy

Readings:
The Era of Franklin D. Roosevelt
Part I, pages 24-35
Part II, Sections 8-9

Blackboard Readings
The Atlantic Charter, American Yawp Reader
Introduction, The Four Freedoms
Nurses Under Fire in the Philippines, Reporting World War II
The Internment of Japanese Americans, 1942, Reporting World War II

Tuesday, April 30-The Second World War 3: A World at War
Thursday, May 2-1945 and Beyond

Blackboard Readings:
Three Americans, Reporting World War II
Susan B. Anthony II, Working in the Navy Yard, Reporting World War II
Rupert Trimmingham and Others: Democracy?, Reporting World War II
Beautiful Upon a Hill, Reporting World War II
Chapter 5, The Four Freedoms

In Class Final: Wednesday, May 8, 3:00-5:00