This seminar will introduce students to notable works in twentieth-century U.S. history. It will cover a wide variety of topics, so the course is suitable for those wishing an overview of the field, as well as for those thinking forward to their oral exams.

The course is reading intensive. Each class meeting is organized around two full books. For any five of the eight class meetings with readings due, students will come to class with a 800-1000 word “think piece” riffing on an analytical observation and comparison between the two books. Preparation of this sort ensures that everyone comes to class prepared to engage in a lively discussion about the authors’ arguments, source bases, methods, and agendas. For each class meeting, students will also be assigned to introduce the books and launch the discussion.

The final writing assignment may be either a historiographical essay or an original research paper. Final grades will be calculated as follows: Think pieces 30%; Class participation 30%; Final essay 40%.

ASSIGNED BOOKS:
Richard Hofstadter, The Age of Reform
Eric Rauchway, Blessed Among Nations: How the World Made America
Eric Love, Race over Empire: Racism and U.S. Imperialism
Barton Elmore, Citizen Coke: The Making of Coca-Cola Capitalism
Meg Jacobs, Pocketbook Politics: Economic Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America
Sarah Phillips, This Land, This Nation: Conservation, Rural America, and the New Deal
Mae Ngai, Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America
Madeline Hsu, The Good Immigrants: How the Yellow Peril Became the Model Minority
Nathan Connolly, A World More Concrete: Real Estate and the Remaking of Jim Crow South Florida
Andrew Needham, Power Lines: Phoenix and the Making of the Modern Southwest
Alice Kessler-Harris, In Pursuit of Equity: Women, Men, and the Quest for Economic Citizenship
Joseph Crespino, In Search of Another Country: Mississippi and the Conservative Counterculture
Daniel Rodgers, Age of Fracture
Shane Hamilton, Trucking Country: The Road to America’s Wal-Mart Economy
Sept 6
Introductions and planning

Sept 13
Richard Hofstadter, *The Age of Reform*
Elizabeth Sanders, excerpts, *Roots of Reform* (instructor will distribute)
Eric Rauchway, *Blessed Among Nations*

Sept 20
Eric Love, *Race over Empire*
Barton Elmore, *Citizen Coke*

Sept 27
No class. Read ahead. Start final essay.

Oct 4
Meg Jacobs, *Pocketbook Politics*
Sarah Phillips, *This Land, This Nation*

Oct 11
No class. Monday schedule.

Oct 18
Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects*
Madeline Hsu, *The Good Immigrants*

Oct 25
Nathan Connolly, *A World More Concrete*
Andrew Needham, *Power Lines*

Nov 1
No reading. Class presentations on research (historiographic or archival) in progress.

Nov 8
Alice Kessler-Harris, *In Pursuit of Equity*
Margot Canaday, *The Straight State*

Nov 15
Joseph Crespino, *In Search of Another Country*
Daniel Rodgers, *Age of Fracture*

Nov 22
No class. Thanksgiving Recess. Read ahead. Start final essay.
Nov 29
No reading. Class presentations on final essays.

Dec 6
Shane Hamilton, *Trucking Country: The Road to America’s Wal-Mart Economy*

Thursday Dec 8
Draft deadline for final essays

Friday Dec 16
FINAL ESSAY DUE

**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](http://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 and a failing grade will be assigned.