This course explores social, cultural, political, and economic life in the United States through two world wars, prosperity, and depression. The course is organized around two central themes: the transition from Victorian culture to modernity and the emergence of a federal regulatory state. Supported by lectures and discussions, students will analyze films, speeches, oral histories, letters, songs, advertisements, political cartoons, documentary photographs, government documents, newspaper articles and editorials, and other primary sources to examine Progressivism, the Great Migration of African Americans during the First World War, the birth of modern advertising, social and political life during the 1920s and 1930s, especially New Deal liberalism, and domestic, diplomatic, and military history of World War II.

Goals: This course is designed to 1) strengthen student knowledge of early 20th century U.S. history within a global context and 2) strengthen student skills in historical research and interpretation. The latter skills include the ability to distinguish among a variety of genres of primary and secondary historical texts; the ability to use historical texts appropriately and effectively in academic work; and the ability to define and argue persuasively a historical thesis.

Requirements: We will investigate each topic through multimedia presentations, discussions, and required readings. Students are required to complete eight short essays (see next section); one midterm exam; one paper (based on course readings); and one final exam. The following books – available for purchase at the University Book Center and the Maryland Book Exchange, except for the Brinkley book – are required reading:

Short essays. At least 48 hours before each class meeting, the instructor will post discussion questions on the course ELMS website. One of them will be marked with an asterisk. Write a 300-400 word essay in response to the marked question. Essays are due at the beginning of class. Each student must submit a total of eight essays, so can skip two.

Midterm and final exams. Each of these exams will ask you to identify and state the significance of four terms and write one essay. The final will address post midterm material; it will not be comprehensive.

Class participation. Classroom discussions are one of the most important components of the course. The best way to earn high marks for discussion is to complete each week's required reading before class meetings; be well prepared to discuss the posted class discussions; bring your own questions and issues for discussion; and participate regularly and constructively in class discussions. Students will earn a grade, posted to the ELMS course website, for each class meeting.

Course grades will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date due</th>
<th>percent of course grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>each class</td>
<td>24 (2 percent each meeting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief response essays</td>
<td>any 8 of 12</td>
<td>24 (3 percent each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>July 27</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>August 19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>August 19</td>
<td>21</td>
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</tbody>
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Make-up Exams and Late Papers. If for any family or medical reason you find it absolutely necessary to miss an in-class examination, you must contact the instructor before the examination to obtain his consent to your absence if you wish to take a make-up exam. Papers are due in class on their due dates. Unless you make other arrangements with the instructor, late papers will be penalized one full letter grade for each day of tardiness.

Students with Disabilities. Please inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester if you require any disability-related special accommodations.

Religious Observances. The University System of Maryland policy provides that students not be penalized because of observances of religious beliefs, but rather shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment missed due to individual participation in religious observances. Please inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester if you are going to miss any assignments due to religious observances by personally handing him written notification of the projected absence at the beginning of the semester.
**Academic Integrity.** Essential to the fundamental purpose of the University is the commitment to principles of truth and academic honesty. The Code (see [http://www.shc.umd.edu/code.html](http://www.shc.umd.edu/code.html)) prohibits students from cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, or forging signatures. Following the recommendation of the University Senate, students in this course will be required to write the following signed statement on each examination or assignment: *I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination (or assignment).*

**SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS**

**July 13:**  *PROGRESSIVISM: ORIGINS AND IDEAS*
- Gordon, ch. 1.

**July 15:**  *NATIONAL PROGRESSIVISM*
- Flehinger, entire.

**July 20:**  *THE GREAT WAR AND THE GREAT MIGRATION*
- Arnesen, entire.

**July 22:**  *THE BUSINESS OF CONSUMPTION: THE 1920s*
- Parrish, pp. 1-81, 135-182.
- Gordon, chs. 2 and 4.

**July 27:**  *FARMERS, WORKERS, AND UNIONS: THE 1920s*
- midterm exam (first hour)
- Parrish, pp. 81-93.
- Gordon, ch. 3.

**July 29:**  *ANTIMODERNIST REACTIONS: THE 1920s*
- Parrish, chs. 94-134, 183-203.
- Gordon, chs. 5 and 6.

**Aug. 3:**  *THE GREAT DEPRESSION: ONSET AND RESPONSES*
- Parrish, chs. 204-269.
- Gordon, ch. 7.

**Aug. 5:**  *THE FABRIC OF LIFE IN DEPRESSION AMERICA*
- Parrish, pp. 300-308, 405-420.
- Gordon, ch. 9 and 10.
Aug. 10: *THE NEW DEAL, LIBERALISM, AND LABOR*
  • Parrish, pp. 270-300, 308-316, 354-363.
  • Gordon, chs. 11 and 12.

Aug. 12: *THE NEW DEAL ATTACKED, EXPANDED, TEMPERED*
  • Gordon, ch. 13.

Aug. 17: *MOBILIZING FOR WAR*
  • Parrish, pp. 437-476.
  • Gordon, ch. 15.
  • Brinkley, prologue and chs. 1-5.

Aug. 19: *WOMEN AND AFRICAN AMERICANS AT WAR WITH AMERICA*
  • Gordon, ch. 14.
  • Brinkley, chs. 6-10.
  • final exam (last two hours)

Revised July 10, 2009