Course Description:
This course will study radicalism in twentieth-century American history, emphasizing race, class, gender, sexuality, and the relationship between power and resistance. We will examine anarchism, socialism, immigration, labor activism, feminism, Civil Rights, Black Power, environmentalism, the LGBT rights movement, and Occupy Wall Street. We will use a combination of primary and secondary sources to learn how ordinary Americans, intellectuals, students, community activists, labor unions, and political organizations sought to change the social and economic structure of the United States.

Course Themes:
Course themes include the struggle for freedom of speech and the right to protest; the interaction between tactics of oppression and strategies of resistance; divisions among different groups along the lines of race, class and gender; the international connections in radical development; and how the various tactics deployed by radical groups have changed over the course of the century.

Course Readings
These books are all available at UO Bookstore. You may be able to find used copies online or at local used bookstores

Required:

Course Requirements:
Students are responsible for completing the assigned readings before the date listed; regular class attendance; timely completion of written work; and active participation and engagement in class discussions. All work must be your own; plagiarism will not be tolerated. Bring your assigned readings to class in order to refer to them during discussion.
Evaluation

Course grades will be calculated on a 100 point scale, according to the following system:

**30 Points – Reading Questions (15 points each)**

These writing assignments allow you to address key points in two of the texts we are using. I will distribute the questions in class and expect short, but complete, answers. Each assignment should be brief, around two pages, and should reflect an active engagement with the material.

**15 Points – Class Participation and Discussion**

We will spend a portion of most class sessions discussing the readings, the questions raised by lecture, and your questions in response to both. In particular, the readings from *The Radical Reader* or other assigned discussion readings are necessary for discussion each day. Attendance will be taken in class and will affect your participation grade.

**25 Points – In-Class Midterm Exam**

This exam will be taken during class time midway through the course. You will be asked to choose two questions out of three that will connect some of the themes that we have examined up until that point, as well as properly identifying five people, events or issues from the class lectures and materials.

**30 Points – Final Paper**

This assignment (4-6 pages) will be due the day of our scheduled final exam. You will produce a 4-6 page paper that relies on evidence from the primary sources provided in *The Radical Reader*. The topic will be your choice, but I encourage you to discuss your final paper idea with me in advance if you are having trouble. You are encouraged to choose something that will let you discuss readings from several different subject areas (for example, labor activism, radical feminism and black power movements) or to focus specifically on one area, such as radical environmentalism or anarchism, and provide substantial historical context for that specific topic from the course materials. You are not expected to do outside research for this project. You will also be expected to discuss relevant events and arguments from the readings and lectures in your answer.

**2 Points – Extra Credit**

Students who complete an extra-credit assignment can receive bonus points worth up to 2 bonus points toward your final grade. There will be two extra-credit opportunities, one a short movie review and the other a short summary of a famous trial of an American Radical. You may choose and receive bonus points for one extra-credit assignment only.
Course Schedule

Complete the assigned reading for each day before class and come prepared for discussion.

Part One: The Radical Left in the Early 20th Century

7/23 Introduction: Definitions and Origins of American radicalism

7/24 Class in American Society: IWW and Wener Sombart
Reading and Discussion: The Radical Reader, 259-263; 277-287; Marx and Engels handout; Sombart handout
Scenes from The Wobblies

7/25 Emma Goldman and Anarchism
Reading and Discussion: The Radical Reader, 288-309; Goldman handout
Scenes from American Experience: Emma Goldman

7/26 Socialism and Black Radicalism
Reading and Discussion: The Radical Reader, 206-210; 310-323; 329-343; Debs handout
Scenes from Marcus Garvey: Look for me in the Whirlpool

Part Two: Radicalism and the Great Depression

7/30 Depression Conditions
Reading and Discussion: In Dubious Battle
Assignment Due: Reading questions
Scenes from Scottsboro, An American Tragedy

7/31 Labor Unrest and Communists
Reading and Discussion: The Radical Reader, 324-326;
Kelly, We Are Not What We Seem
Scenes from The Great Depression

8/1 McCarthyism, Beatnicks, and the New Left
Reading and Discussion: The Radical Reader, 463-476; Robeson handout
Assignment Due: Extra-Credit Movie Review, On the Waterfront

8/2 In-Class Midterm
Part Three: Radical Movements in the 1960s

8/6 The Long Civil Rights Era
Reading and Discussion: The Radical Reader, 352-381; McGuire handout
Scenes from Eyes on the Prize

8/7 Radical Feminism and Student Movements
Reading and Discussion: The Radical Reader, 413-452; 483-494; 507-513
Scenes from Berkeley in the 1960s and Two Days in October

8/8 Race, Class, and Labor
Reading and Discussion: The Radical Reader, 381-410; 542-545; Peltier handout
Scenes from Salt of the Earth

8/9 Black Power
Reading and Discussion: Waiting 'Til the Midnight Hour
Assignment Due: Reading Questions
Scenes from What We Want, What We Believe

Part Four: New Social Movements

8/13 Radical Environmentalism
Reading and Discussion: The Radical Reader, 527-541; 546-560; Shellenberger and Nordhous handout
Assignment Due: Extra Credit Famous Trial summary
Scenes from Tree-Sit: the Art of Resistance

8/14 LGBT Activism
Reading and Discussion: The Radical Reader, 563-602
Scenes from After Stonewall

8/15 From Marx to Foucault: Postmodern Radicalism
Reading and Discussion: The Radical Reader, 609-616, 623-649; 655-684
Scenes from Battle in Seattle

8/17 – FINAL PAPER DUE BY 3:15 PM (either slip it under my office door at McKenzie 340E or e-mail it to me at feather@uoregon.edu and make sure you get an e-mail confirmation from me that I received it and was able to open the file)