HISTORY 203: HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES: SYLLABUS

Spring 2012
Lectures: 10:00-11:20 Tu, Th 123 Pacific
+ Weekly Discussion Section
E-mail: dapope@uoregon.edu
Office Hours: Mon. 2:00-3:30 and Thurs. 11:30-1:00 or by appointment

Graduate Teaching Fellows:
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History 203 surveys the history of the United States from World War I (1914-1918) to the present. We will examine broad patterns of social, cultural and political change. At the same time, in the lectures I’ll illustrate some of these broader patterns with weekly biographies of famous and not-so-famous Americans.

Most lectures will be in PowerPoint format. I'll post these PowerPoints on line shortly before each class session, but they are not meant as a substitute for class attendance. You will be able to link to each of them from the on-line version of this syllabus. The URL for this syllabus is http://www.uoregon.edu/~dapope/203syllabus.htm. I strongly suggest you bookmark the syllabus in your web browser. I'll also provide access to the syllabus via Blackboard.

Course Format and Requirements:

This course will meet for lectures 10:00-11:20 Tuesdays and Thursdays. Attendance at the lecture sessions is strongly recommended. You will be responsible for the material covered in lectures and discussion sections as well as in the readings. The PowerPoints are a framework for your note taking, not a substitute for it. Although the class size means I’ll be lecturing most of the time, I welcome questions and comments and will pose questions for you to respond to from time to time.

In addition to the lectures, each of you has signed up for a one-hour weekly discussion section. The section will be an opportunity to review topics discussed in lectures and in the readings and to consider some issues in greater depth. Your discussion leader will also give you short assignments most weeks. Attendance at your discussion sessions is required. Discussion leaders will take attendance. If you can’t attend for a compelling reason such as illness, contact your section instructor, in advance if possible.
Books: The following books should be available at the U of O Bookstore. Used copies of some of them may be available in local used bookstores or on the web.

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* (our textbook): I’ve ordered the second half of what the publisher calls the Seagull Third Edition. If you have a copy of the full version of *Give Me Liberty!* Seagull Third Edition or the second half or the full version of the Seagull Second Edition, that will be an adequate substitute. (In fact, any version of the textbook that contains the chapters beginning with World War I and going up to the present will be fine.)

Eric Foner, ed., *Voices of Freedom*, volume 2, Seagull Third Edition. This is a reader containing primary source documents. It comes bundled together with *Give Me Liberty!* (for only $5 additional, by the way). As with the textbook, if you get volume 2 of the Seagull Second Edition or any other format of the third edition, that will be OK.

I’ve ordered two other books at the bookstore. You should get one of them, as I’ll explain in class. You’ll be writing a brief paper on one or the other of these books.

1. Jeffrey P. Moran, *The Scopes Trial: A Brief History with Documents* (Instructions for *Scopes Trial* paper will be posted soon.)
   OR
2. Steven Stoll, *U.S. Environmentalism since 1945: A Brief History with Documents* (Instructions for *U.S. Environmentalism* paper will be posted soon.)

Requirements:

1. A short (3-5 page) paper. You'll have a choice between writing on topic dealing with *The Scopes Trial* or on a topic dealing with *U.S. Environmentalism since 1945.*
   The paper will be worth 20% of your grade. If you do the *Scopes Trial* paper and are dissatisfied with your grade, you can also do the paper on *U.S. Environmentalism since 1945.* In that case, we will count the higher of the two paper grades and discard the other.
   If you do the *Scopes Trial* paper, it is due in your discussion session on Tues. or Wed., May 1 or May 2.
   If you do the *U.S. Environmentalism since 1945* paper, it is due in your discussion session on Tues., May 29 or Wed., May 30.

2. A midterm exam, in class, Tuesday, May 8. The midterm will be worth 20% of your exam.

3. Participation, attendance and assignments in your discussion session will be worth 20% of your grade.

4. A final exam, Monday, June 11, 8:00-10:00 a.m. in our regular classroom. The final will be worth 40% of the grade. The final will cover the entire term's material but will emphasize topics covered after the midterm.
Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments:
Each week, a portion of one of the lectures will be devoted to a biographical portrait of a man or woman who exemplifies some important aspects of the era we are studying. Discussion sessions some weeks will devote time to the biographical figure; there may be a brief document to read about the "person of the week."

**April 3:** Introduction: America and the "Great War"

April 5: The 1920's and a New Kind of Hero--Charles A. Lindbergh

Read: *Give Me Liberty!*, chapter 19; *Voices of Freedom*, chapter 19. Also, read the *New York Times* account of Lindbergh's flight: "Lindbergh Does It!", from the *New York Times*, May 21, 1927. and watch a few minutes of a newsreel of Lindbergh's flight and his return to New York.

Start reading Moran, *The Scopes Trial* if you choose to do this paper option.

April 10: From Boom to Depression: The Stock Market Crash and the Economic Crisis
April 12: The New Deal: Crisis Politics and Idealistic Reform--Eleanor Roosevelt

Read: *Give Me Liberty!*, chapter 20 and *Voices of Freedom*, chapter 20.

April 17: A New Deal for People of Color?
April 19: TBA

Read: *Give Me Liberty!*, chapter 21 and *Voices of Freedom*, chapter 21; read an excerpt from a Huey Long "Share our Wealth" radio speech, 1935. You can also listen to the audio of the speech at this site. Click on the audio icon under the heading (recommended).

April 24: World War II: "The Good War"?
April 26: From War to Cold War / An "Old Soldier" in War and Cold War--Douglas MacArthur

Read: *Give Me Liberty!*, chapter 22 and *Voices of Freedom*, chapter 22. If you’re doing your paper on The Scopes Trial, you should plan to have completed reading the book by now.

May 1: The Post-War Boom: Americans as a "People of Plenty". **SCOPES TRIAL PAPER DUE IN YOUR SECTION ON TUESDAY, May 1 or WEDNESDAY, May 2!**
May 3: The Cold War and Domestic Anti-Communism-- Paul Robeson

Read: *Give Me Liberty!*, chapter 23 and *Voices of Freedom*, chapter 23.

May 8: MIDTERM EXAM
May 10: The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement--Bob Moses and Ella Baker


Note: If you’re doing the paper on *U.S. Environmentalism since 1945*, start reading that book after the midterm.

May 15: Vietnam--American Loses a War
May 17: Movements of the Sixties/A Protesting Physician--Dr. Benjamin Spock

Read: *Give Me Liberty!*, chapter 25 and *Voices of Freedom*, chapter 25. Watch YouTube interview clips with Dr. Spock on baby and child care and on civil disobedience.
May 22: Nixon, Reagan and the Conservative Ascendancy
May 24: The End of Industrial America?/Sam Walton
  **Read:** *Give Me Liberty!*, chapter 26 and *Voices of Freedom*, chapter 26.

May 29: A New "Nation of Immigrants" / A Farmworker Leader--Dolores Huerta
  **PAPERS ON U.S. Environmentalism since 1945 DUE IN SECTIONS, Tuesday, May 29 or Wednesday, May 30.**
May 31: An Environment in Peril?
  **Read:** *Give Me Liberty!*, chapter 27 and *Voices of Freedom*, chapter 27.

June 5: The Great Recession of 2008-20??
June 7: The U.S. as Superpower: Strength and Its Limits/Special Mystery Guest Biographical Presentation
  **Read:** *Give Me Liberty!*, chapter 28 and *Voices of Freedom*, chapter 28; read excerpts from *Colin Powell* article on the “Powell Doctrine” on the use of military force.

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