History 351: American Radicalism
Spring 2014

Note: This is a course description. I hope to have a full syllabus available online by March 15.

History 351 is the second term of a two-term sequence on the history of American radical movement and ideas. This term we will deal with topics in American radicalism since about 1900. History 350 is not a prerequisite and is not offered in 2013-14.

We will focus on movements for radical social change in four periods in the twentieth century and beyond: anarchism, socialism and feminism in the early 1900s through the life and ideas of Emma Goldman, America’s most famous anarchist; labor union organizing in the Great Depression of the 1930s as seen in a dramatic novel about farm workers in California; an important new interpretation of the Civil Rights Movement that focuses on efforts to prevent and punish white male sexual violence against African American women in the South; and environmentalist activism of recent decades with a critique of the movement by authors who predict “the death of environmentalism.”

I do not assume that students in this class have any previous course work in American history. If at some point you find yourself unfamiliar with terminology, events, people, etc. mentioned in class or in the reading, don't hesitate to check with me. I should be able to explain it to you or refer you to some brief background reading.

Discussion of the topics we cover this term is an important part of the course. The political, social and ethical implications of the material will, I hope, be of personal as well as intellectual interest to you, regardless of your own political or philosophical views. Because the class is likely to be large, I'll be lecturing a good deal of the time, but I encourage you to ask questions and make comments. Discussion will be most fruitful for all if people keep up with the reading assignments as much as possible.

Course Requirements:
1. An in-class midterm examination: One essay plus short identifications. Worth about 25% of course grade.

2. A short paper (4 to 7 pages typed double-spaced): Paper is worth about 25% of course grade. Instructions and options for this paper will be available shortly after the beginning of the term. The paper will be due in Week 9 of the term.
3. Final exam: Primarily essay exam, format tba. The in-class final is scheduled for Monday, June 9, at 10:15 a.m. I may provide a take-home exam alternative. Final is worth about 50% of course grade.

4. There will be an extra-credit short paper option involving watching and writing an essay on a movie dealing with American radicalism. I’ll supply information about this optional assignment by early spring quarter.

Books: I’ve ordered the following at the UO Bookstore. These are all required reading. You may be able to find used copies online or at local used bookstores:

   Emma Goldman, *Anarchism and Other Essays* (Note: this book also is available online at http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/anarchist_archives/goldman/GoldmanCW.html.)

   John Steinbeck, *In Dubious Battle*

   Danielle L. McGuire, *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance—A New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power*

   Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus, *Break Through: Why We Can’t Leave Saving the Planet to the Environmentalists* [Note: There’s an earlier edition of this book with a different subtitle: *Break Through: From the Death of Environmentalism to the Politics of Possibility*. It’s an acceptable substitute for the later edition, so get it if it saves you a little money.]