

HIST 7002—U.S. History Colloquium, Civil War to the Present

Professor Pratt

Fall 2007

Thursdays, 3:30-6:15

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to some of the most significant books on a broad array of topics focusing on U.S. history from the Civil War era to the present. Although some articles may be assigned from time to time, the main readings for this course will be monographs. Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be active participants in our weekly discussions.

Students are required to complete *five* 3-5 pages reviews on books of your choice. Additionally, students are required to complete a *brief synopsis*, not more than two pages, on every other book. You need not write a synopsis of any book that you have elected to review. The purpose of the synopsis is to help you think about the book in a coherent manner, which will also enable you to make a more meaningful contribution to the class discussion. ***Please note that all written assignments should be left in my mailbox by no later than 5:00pm on the Wednesday before our class meets.***

The grading breakdown will be as follows:

Book reviews	50%
Synopses	25%
Participation	25%

Reading schedule

Aug. 16	Steven Hahn, <i>A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration</i>
Aug. 23	Elizabeth Sanders, <i>Roots of Reform: Farmers, Workers, and the American State, 1877-1917</i>
Aug. 30	George Chauncey, <i>Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940</i>
Sept. 7	Michael B. Katz, <i>In the Shadow of the Poorhouse: A Social History of Welfare in America</i>
Sept. 14	Roger Daniels, <i>Guarding the Golden Door: American Immigration Policy and Immigrants Since 1882</i>

- Sept. 21 Kathy Peiss, *Hope in a Jar: The Making of America's Beauty Culture*
- Sept. 28 Robert J. Cottrol, et al., *Brown v. Board of Education: Caste, Culture, and the Constitution*
- Oct. 4 David Johnson, *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government*
- Oct. 11 Mark Bradley, *Imagining Vietnam and America: The Making of Postcolonial Vietnam, 1919-1950*
- Oct. 18 No Class
- Oct. 25 Fall Break
- Nov. 1 No Class [Annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association]
- Nov. 8 Mary L. Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy*
- Nov. 15 Melani McAllister, *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East, 1945-2000*
- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 29 Robert J. Norrell, *The House I Live In: Race in the American Century*
- Dec. 6 Michael Eric Dyson, *Come Hell or High Water: Hurricane Katrina and the Color of Disaster*