

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

Paul S. Sutter

Spring 2006

### Course Description

This course is designed to be a rigorous introduction to U.S. history and historiography since the Civil War. The course will be reading-heavy, with a book plus several articles per week required of each student. I also provide a list of suggested readings for each week that are largely meant to provide you with a sense of other important books in given areas. The enterprising student might read reviews of these books and/or make an effort to figure out their basic arguments. My hope is that such extended reading lists will help those of you in the Ph.D. track to prepare your comps reading list in modern U.S. history.

This course will also involve substantial writing of three kinds:

- 1) **Weekly Reaction Essays** - I will ask you to complete weekly reaction essays of *no more than 2 pages* that discuss the books and articles you have read. Please use these to lay out your discussion agenda and to work through issues that you think are particularly important.
- 2) **Book Reviews** – Each of you will complete *three* 5-page book reviews over the course of the semester on books that you will read in addition to the assigned readings. You will choose at least *two* of these books from the “Recommended” reading lists. The *third* book review can be on a book of your choice that does not appear on my syllabus, with the idea that you will read and review a book that you think should be recommended reading. If you prefer, you can choose a third book from the syllabus. During the weeks when you are reviewing a book, you will not be required to hand in a reaction essay – though you will make some effort to connect the book under review to the week’s other readings. I will ask you to circulate all of these reviews electronically so that your colleagues will have access to them.
- 3) **Mock Comp** – At the end of the semester, each of you will be required to take a mock comprehensive exam in modern U.S. history. I will schedule that as the time approaches, but the basic idea is that you will be given several broad questions and you’ll have a day to answer them.

The grading breakdown will be as follows:

Weekly Reactions Essays	30%
Book Reviews	30%
Mock Comp	20%
Attendance and Participation	20%

## Books

- Steven Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration*
- William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*
- David Hounshell, *From the American System to Mass Production, 1800-1932*
- Grace Elizabeth Hale, *Making Whiteness: The Culture of Segregation in the South, 1890-1940*
- Elizabeth Sanders, *Roots of Reform: Farmers, Workers, and the American State, 1877-1917*
- Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*
- Dana Frank, *Purchasing Power: Consumer Spending, Gender, and the Seattle Labor Movement, 1919-1929*
- Patricia Sullivan, *Days of Hope: Race and Democracy in the New Deal Era*
- Kathy Peiss, *Hope in a Jar: The Making of America's Beauty Culture*
- David Johnson, *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government*
- Mark Bradley, *Imagining Vietnam and America: The Making of Postcolonial Vietnam, 1919-1950.*
- Barbara Ransby, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Tradition*
- Robert Self, *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland*
- Melani McAllister, *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East, 1945-2000*
- Victoria de Grazia, *Irresistible Empire: America's Advance Through Twentieth-Century Europe*

## Course Schedule

### **January 9 – Reconstruction**

#### Read:

- Steven Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration*
- Alex Lichtenstein, "Was the Emancipated Slave a Proletarian?" *Reviews in American History (RAH)* 26, 1 (March 1998): 124-45 (Project Muse)
- Eric Foner, "The Meaning of Freedom in the Age of Emancipation," *Journal of American History (JAH)* 81 (September 1994): 435-60 (J-STOR)

#### Recommended:

- Eric Foner, *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution* (or, alternately, the digested version, *A Short History of Reconstruction*)
- Eric Foner, *Nothing But Freedom: Emancipation and Its Legacy*
- Leon Litwack, *Been in The Storm So Long: The Aftermath of Slavery*
- Joseph Reidy, *From Slavery to Agrarian Capitalism in the Cotton South*

- Barbara Fields, *Slavery and Freedom on the Middle Ground*
- Laura Edwards, *Gendered Strife and Confusion: The Political Culture of Reconstruction*
- Julie Saville, *The Work of Reconstruction: From Slave to Wage laborer in South Carolina, 1860-1870*
- Heather Richardson, *The Death of Reconstruction: Race, Labor, and Politics in the Post-Civil War North, 1865-1901*
- Rebecca Scott, *Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba after Slavery*

### **January 16 – No Class – MLK Day**

### **January 23 – Western and Environmental History**

#### Read:

- Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*
- Kate Brown, "Gridded Lives: Why Kazakhstan and Montana Are Nearly the Same Place," *AHR* 106, 1 (February 2001): 17-48 (History Cooperative)
- Richard White, "From Wilderness to Hybrid Landscapes: The Cultural Turn in Environmental History," *The Historian* 66, 3 (September 2004): 557-564. (Blackwell Synergy)
- Karen Merrill, "In Search of the 'Federal Presence' in the American West," *Western Historical Quarterly* 30, 4 (Winter 1999): 449-473. (JSTOR)

#### Recommended

- Patricia Nelson Limerick, *The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West*
- David Gutierrez, *Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the Politics of Ethnicity*
- Linda Gordon, *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*
- Richard White, *It's Your Misfortune and None of My Own: A New History of the American West*
- Donald Worster, *Rivers of Empire: Water, Aridity, and the Growth of the American West*
- Karl Jacoby, *Crimes Against Nature: Squatters, Poachers, Thieves, and the Hidden History of American Conservation*
- Andrew Isenberg, *The Destruction of the Bison*
- Donald Worster, *Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s*
- Joseph Taylor, *Making Salmon: An Environmental History of the Northwest Fisheries Crisis.*
- Neil Foley, *White Scourge: Mexicans, Blacks, and Poor Whites in Texas Cotton Culture*

**January 30** – Business, Technology, and IndustrializationRead:

- David Hounshell, *From the American System to Mass Production, 1800-1932*
- Naomi Lamoreaux, Daniel Raff, and Peter Temin, “Beyond Markets and Hierarchies: Toward a New Synthesis in American Business History,” *AHR* 108, 2 (April 2003): 404-33. (History Cooperative)
- Gail Cooper, “Custom Design, Engineering Guarantees, and Unpatentable Data: The Air Conditioning Industry, 1902-1935,” in *Technology and Culture* 35, 3 (July 1994): 506-36

Recommended:

- Philip Scranton, *Endless Novelty: Specialty Production and American Industrialization, 1865-1925*
- Thomas Hughes, *American Genesis: A Century of Invention and Technological Enthusiasm, 1870-1970*
- Merritt Roe Smith and Leo Marx, eds., *Does Technology Drive History?: The Dilemma of Technological Determinism*
- David Nye, *Electrifying America: Social Meanings of a New Technology, 1880-1940*
- Deborah Fitzgerald, *Every Farm a Factory: The Industrial Ideal in American Agriculture*
- Thomas Misa, *A Nation of Steel: The Making of Modern America, 1865-1925*
- Sven Beckert, *The Monied Metropolis: New York City and the Consolidation of the American Bourgeoisie, 1850-1896*

**February 6** – Jim Crow and the New SouthRead:

- Grace Elizabeth Hale, *Making Whiteness: The Culture of Segregation in the South, 1890-1940*.
- Barbara Fields, “Ideology and Race in American History,” in *Region, Race, and Reconstruction: Essays in Honor of C. Vann Woodward*, Ed. J. Morgan Kousser and James M. McPherson, eds.: 143-177. Available at: <http://www.chss.montclair.edu/english/furr/essays/fieldsideolandrace.html>
- Peter Kolchin, “Whiteness Studies: The New History of Race in America,” *JAH* 89,1 (2002): 154-173 (History Cooperative)
- James Cobb, “Beyond Planters and Industrialists: A New Perspective on the New South,” *Journal of Southern History* 54, 1 (February 1988): 45-68 (JSTOR)

Recommended

- Glenda Gilmore, *Gender and Jim Crow: Women and the Politics of White Supremacy in North Carolina, 1896-1920*
- C. Vann Woodward, *Origins of the New South, 1877-1913*
- Jane Dailey, Glenda Elizabeth Gilmore, and Bryant Simon, eds., *Jumpin’ Jim Crow: Southern Politics from Civil War to Civil Rights*
- Edward Ayers, *The Promise of the New South: Life after Reconstruction*

- David Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*
- Gavin Wright, *Old South, New South: Revolutions in the Southern Economy since the Civil War*
- Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, *Righteous Discontent: The Women's Movement in the Black Baptist Church, 1880-1920*

### **February 13 – Populism and Progressivism**

#### Read:

- Elizabeth Saunders, *Roots of Reform: Farmers, Workers, and the American State, 1877-1917*
- Thomas L. Haskell, "Taking Exception to Exceptionalism," *Reviews in American History* 28, 1 (2000): 151-166. (Project Muse)

#### Recommended:

- Stephen Skowronek, *Building a New American State: The Expansion of Administrative Capacities*
- Daniel Rodgers, *Atlantic Crossings: Social Politics in a Progressive Age*
- Robert Wiebe, *The Search for Order, 1877-1920*
- T.J. Jackson Lears, *No Place of Grace: Antimodernism and the Transformation of American Culture*
- James Kloppenberg, *Uncertain Victory: Social Democracy and Progressivism in European and American Thought, 1870-1920*
- Lawrence Goodwyn, *The Populist Moment: A Short History of the Agrarian Revolt in America*
- Steven Hahn, *The Roots of Southern Populism: Yeoman Farmers and the Transformation of the Georgia Upcountry, 1850-1890*

### **February 20 – Immigration and Imperialism**

#### Read:

- Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*
- Gary Gerstle, "Liberty, Coercion, and the Making of Americans," *JAH* 84 (September 1997): 524-558 (JSTOR)
- Kristin Hoganson, "Cosmopolitan Domesticity: Importing the American Dream, 1865-1920," *AHR* 107, 1 (February 2002): 55-83 (History Cooperative)
- Paul Kramer, Empires, "Exceptions, and Anglo-Saxons: Race and Rule between the British and United States Empires, 1880-1910," *JAH* 88, 4 (March 2002): 1315-1353 (History Cooperative)

#### Recommended:

- Kristin Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars*
- John Bodnar, *The Transplanted: A History of Immigrants in Urban America*

- Gail Bederman, *Manliness and Civilization: A Cultural History of Gender and Race in the United States, 1880-1917*
- Emily Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream: American Economic and Cultural Expansion, 1890-1945*
- Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants the Alchemy of Race*
- Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Barbarian Virtues: The United States Encounters Foreign Peoples at Home and Abroad, 1876-1917*
- Erika Lee, *At America's Gates: Chinese Immigrants during the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943*
- Roger Daniels, *Guarding the Golden Door: American Immigration Policy and Immigrants since 1942*
- Gary Gerstle, *American Crucible: Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century*
- Anne Laura Stoler et al, "Empires and Intimacies: Lessons from (Post) Colonial Studies, a Round Table," *JAH* 88, 3 (December 2000): 829-97.

### **February 27** – Labor History

#### Read:

- Dana Frank, *Purchasing Power: Consumer Spending, Gender, and the Seattle Labor Movement, 1919-1929*
- Ellis Hawley, "Herbert Hoover, the Commerce Secretariat, and the Vision of an 'Associative State,' 1921-1928," *JAH* 61, 1 (June 1974): 116-40 (JSTOR)
- Lizabeth Cohen, "The Class Experience of Mass Consumption: Workers as Consumers in Interwar America," in *The Power of Culture* (I'll get you copies)
- Herbert Gutman, "Work, Culture, and Society in Industrializing America, 1815-1919," *AHR* 78, 3 (June 1973): 531-88.

#### Recommended:

- Lizabeth Cohen, *Making a New Deal: Industrial Workers in Chicago, 1919-1939*
- David Montgomery, *Fall of the House of Labor: The Workplace, the State, and American Labor Activism, 1865-1925*
- Tera Hunter, *To Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors After the Civil War*
- Joseph McCartin, *Labor's Great War: The Struggle for Industrial Democracy and the Transformation of the American Workplace, 1912-1921*
- Nelson Lichtenstein, *The State of the Union: A Century of American Labor*
- Gunther Peck, *Reinventing Free Labor : Padrones and Immigrant Workers in the North American West, 1880-1930*
- Robin D. G. Kelley, *Race Rebels : Culture, Politics, and the Black Working Class*
- Kevin Boyle, *The UAW and the Heyday of American Liberalism 1945-1968*

### **March 6** – The New Deal and Politics

#### Read:

- Patricia Sullivan, *Days of Hope: Race and Democracy in the New Deal Era*

- Meg Jacobs, “‘How About Some Meat?’: The Office of Price Administration, Consumption Politics, and State Building from the Bottom Up,” *JAH* 84 (December 1997): 910-41 (JSTOR)

#### Recommendations

- Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform: New Deal Liberalism in Recession and War*
- Alan Brinkley, *Voices of Protest: Huey Long, Father Coughlin, and the Great Depression*
- Gary Gerstle and Steve Fraser, *The Rise and Fall of the New Deal Order*
- Meg Jacobs, *Pocketbook Politics*
- Jason Scott Smith, *Building New Deal Liberalism: The Political Economy of Public Works, 1933-1956*
- Jacobs, Novak, and Zelizer, eds., *The Democratic Experiment: New Directions in American Political History*
- Brian Balogh, *Chain Reaction: Expert Debate and Public Participation in American Commercial Nuclear Power 1945-1975*
- Michael Katz, *In the Shadow of the Poorhouse: A Social History of Welfare in America*

#### **March 20** – Women’s/Gender History

##### Read:

- Kathy Peiss, *Hope in a Jar: The Making of America’s Beauty Culture*
- Alice Kessler-Harris, “In the Nation’s Image: The Gendered Limits of Social Citizenship in the Depression Era,” *Journal of American History* 86, 3 (1999): 1251-1279. (JSTOR)
- Joanne Meyerowitz, “Beyond the Feminine Mystique: A Reassessment of Postwar Mass Culture,” *JAH* 79 (March 1993): 1455-82 (JSTOR)

##### Recommended:

- Nancy Cott, *The Grounding of Modern Feminism*
- Alice Kessler Harris, *In Pursuit of Equity: Women, Men, and the Quest for Economic Citizenship in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century America*
- Rosalind Rosenberg, *Divided Lives: American Women in the Twentieth Century*
- Linda Gordon, *Pitied But Not Entitled: Single Mothers and the History of Welfare*
- Susan Douglas, *Where the Girls Are: Growing Up Female with the Mass Media*

#### **March 27** – McCarthyism/History of Sexuality

##### Read:

- David Johnson, *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government*
- Margot Canaday, “Building a Straight State: Sexuality and Social Citizenship Under the 1944 GI Bill,” *JAH* 90, 3 (2003): 935-957 (History Cooperative)

- Joanne Meyerowitz, "Sex Research at the Borders of Gender: Transvestites, Transsexuals, and Alfred C. Kinsey," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 75, 1 (2001): 72-90.

#### Recommended

- Allan Berube, *Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War II*
- George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940*
- Joanne Meyerowitz, *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States*
- Ellen Schrecker, *Many Are the Crimes: McCarthyism in America*
- Melvin Leffler, *A Preponderance of Power: National Security, the Truman Administration, and the Cold War*.
- Michael J. Hogan, *A Cross of Iron: Harry Truman and the Origins of the National Security State, 1945-1954*.
- Aaron Friedberg, *In the Shadow of the Garrison State*

#### **April 3** – The Cold War and Vietnam

##### Read:

- Mark Bradley, *Imagining Vietnam and America: The Making of Postcolonial Vietnam, 1919-1950*.
- Leffler, Melvyn. "The Cold War: What Do 'We Now Know.'" *American Historical Review* 104, 2 (April 1999): 501-24. (JSTOR)

##### Recommended:

- John Dower, *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War*
- Frederik Logevall, *Choosing War: The Lost Chance for Peace and the Escalation in Vietnam*
- John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History*
- John Lewis Gaddis, *We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History*
- Robert Schulzinger, *A Time for War: The United States and Vietnam, 1941-1975*
- Michael Sherry, *In the Shadow of War: The United States since the 1930s*
- Thomas J. McCormick, *America's Half-Century: United States Foreign Policy in the Cold War and After*

#### **April 10** – The Civil Rights Movement

##### Read:

- Barbara Ransby, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Tradition*
- Mary Dudziak, "Josephine Baker, Racial Protest, and the Cold War," *JAH* 81, 2 (September 1994): (JSTOR)

- David L. Chappell, "A Stone of Hope: Prophetic Faith, Liberalism, and the Death of Jim Crow" *Journal of the Historical Society* (Spring 2003). (available electronically)

#### Recommended

- Charles Payne, *I've Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle*
- Michael Klarman, *From Jim Crow to Civil Rights: The Supreme Court and the Struggle for Racial Equality*
- Taylor Branch, *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-1963*
- James Goodman, *Stories of Scottsboro*
- John Egerton, *Speak Now Against the Day: The Generation Before the Civil Rights Movement in the South*
- John Dittmer, *Local People: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi*
- Chana Kai Lee, *For Freedom's Sake: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer*
- Timothy Tyson, *Radio Free Dixie: Robert F. Williams and the Roots of Black Power*
- Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights : Race and the Image of American Democracy*
- Zaragosa Vargas, *Labor Rights Are Civil Rights: Mexican-American Workers in Twentieth Century America*
- Robert Rogers Korstad, *Civil Rights Unionism: Tobacco Workers and the Struggle for Democracy in the Mid-Twentieth Century South*

#### **April 17** – Urban and Suburban History/Conservatism

##### Read:

- Robert Self, *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland*
- Thomas Sugrue, Crabgrass-Roots Politics: Race, Rights, and the Reaction Against Liberalism in the Urban North, 1940-1964," *JAH* 82, 2 (1995): 551-578 (JSTOR)
- Kevin Kruse, "The Politics of Race and Public Space: Desegregation, Privatization, and the Tax Revolt in Atlanta," *Journal of Urban History* 31, 5 (2005): 610-633. (SAGE)
- Alan Brinkley, "The Problem of American Conservatism," and comments *AHR* 99, 2 (1994): 409-52 (JSTOR)
- Jon Butler, "Jack-in-the-Box Faith: The Religion Problem in Modern American History," *JAH* 90, 4 (March 2004): 1357-1378 (History Cooperative)

##### Recommended:

- Thomas Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*
- Matthew Lassiter, *The Silent Majority: Suburban Politics in the Sunbelt South*
- Kevin Kruse, *White Flight: Atlanta and the Making of Modern Conservatism*
- Robert M. Fogelson, *Downtown, Its Rise and Fall, 1880-1950*

- Adam Rome, *The Bulldozer in the Countryside: Suburban Sprawl and the Rise of American Environmentalism*
- Kenneth Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States*
- Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era*
- McGirr, *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right*
- John Findlay, *Magic Lands: Western Cityscapes and American Culture After 1940*
- Andrew Hurley, *Environmental Inequalities: Race, Class, and Industrial Pollution in Gary, Indiana, 1945-1980.*
- Michael Kazin, *The Populist Persuasion: An American History*
- Dan T. Carter, *The Politics of Rage: George Wallace, the Origins of the New Conservatism, and the Transformation of American Politics*
- Joel Carpenter, *Revive Us Again: The Reawakening of American Fundamentalism*
- Bruce Schulman, *The Seventies: The Great Shift in American Culture, Society, and Politics*
- Jonathan Rieder, *Canarsie: The Jews and Italians of Brooklyn Against Liberalism*
- Gil Troy, *Morning in America: How Ronald Reagan Invented the 1980s*
- Rick Perlstein, *Before the Storm: Barry Goldwater and the Unmaking of the American Consensus*
- Donald Critchlow, *Phyllis Schlafly and Grassroots Conservatism: A Woman's Crusade*

#### **April 24** – American Foreign Relations/The Middle East

##### Read:

- Melani McAllister, *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East, 1945-2000*
- Michael J. Hogan, "The 'Next Big Thing': The Future of Diplomatic History in a Global Age," *Diplomatic History* 28, 1 (January 2004): 1-22 (Blackwell Synergy)

##### Recommended:

- Mary Renda, *Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of U.S. Imperialism, 1915-1940*
- Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: Sex, Race, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico*
- Penny von Eschen, *Race Against Empire: Black Americans and Anti-Colonialism, 1937-1957.*
- Petra Goedde, *GIs and Germans: Culture, Gender, and Foreign Relations, 1945-1949*
- Christina Klein, *Cold War Orientalism: Asia in the Middlebrow Imagination, 1945-1961*
- Douglas Little, *American Orientalism: The United States and the Middle East since 1945*

- David Farber, *Taken Hostage: The Iran Hostage Crisis and America's First Encounter with Radical Islam*

**May 1** – International/Global/Consumerism

Read:

- Victoria de Grazia, *Irresistible Empire: America's Advance Through Twentieth-Century Europe*
- Louis Galambos, "Recasting the Organizational Synthesis: Structure and Process in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries," *Business History Review* 79, 1 (2005): 1-38. (I'll get you a copy)

Recommended

- Reinhold Wagnleitner, *Coca-Colonization and the Cold War: The Cultural Mission of the United States in Austria After the Second World War*
- Olivier Zunz, *Why the American Century?*
- John Dower, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II*
- Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumer's Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America*
- Akira Iriye, *The Globalizing of America, 1913-1945*
- Robert Rydell and Rob Kroes, *Buffalo Bill in Bologna: The Americanization of the World, 1869-1922*
- Thomas Bender, ed., *Rethinking American History in a Global Age*