

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**  
**Department of History**

**HISTORY HILD 2C**

***UNITED STATES HISTORY: THE TWENTIETH CENTURY***

Spring 2004

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Course Description:

The final portion of a year-long lower-division course that provides students with a background in North American and United States history from pre-Columbian times to the present. In this segment of the course, emphasis will be placed on the examination of the principal forces affecting the nation's social, political, and economic life during the twentieth century.

Course Readings:

The following books have been ordered at the University Bookstore:

American Social History Project, Who Built America?: Working People and the Nation's Economy, Politics, Culture and Society (Volume Two: 1877 to the Present).

Walter Bernstein, Inside Out: A Memoir of the Blacklist.

Danny Santiago, Famous All Over Town.

Michael Stoff, The Manhattan Project: A Documentary Introduction to the Atomic Age.

These works have also been placed on reserve at the Geisel Library.

Course Requirements:

There will be three lectures and one meeting of each discussion section per week. A one-hour midterm examination will be given in class as specified in the course schedule. A three-hour final examination will be given during the formal examination period at the end of the quarter.

These written exercises will account for 25% and 35% respectively of a student's final course grade. The remaining portion of the grade will be accounted for by the student's participation in the discussion section meetings (15% of the final grade), and by the student's performance in an independent writing assignment (25% of the final grade). In order to receive a grade for the course, students must make a good-faith effort to complete all the assignments during the quarter. All course requirements are subject to revision at the discretion of the instructor.

Independent Writing Assignment:

In addition to formal written examinations, the student will be expected to write a paper (approximately 8 to 10 pages in length) based on independent research. That research effort will be based on special work undertaken in the discussion groups for the course -- that is described below. The paper will be due on **May 28** in lecture.

Films:

Three films will be shown during specially arranged evening meetings. The scheduling of these presentations is described in the reading list. For those students who cannot attend these special sessions, the films will be held on reserve **after** their initial evening presentations. Students may then arrange to see the films by contacting the Film and Video Library staff at the Geisel Library.

Policy on Grade Appeals, Late Papers, and Make-Up Examinations:

Students who wish to appeal the grading of examinations and/or writing assignments may do so in writing, in a memorandum to the instructor outlining the specific reasons for their request, within two weeks of the report of the original grade. Make-up examinations will not be offered, nor will late papers be accepted, unless extraordinary circumstances (such as medical difficulties or family emergencies) have been appropriately documented.

**Course Themes and Lecture Topics**

- Week 1:                   *Populism and Progressivism*  
Lecture -- Introduction: The "American Century"  
Lecture -- Populism and Socialism  
Lecture -- Progressivism
- Week 2:                   *Imperialism, Bolshevism, and the Great War*  
Lecture -- The New Manifest Destiny  
Lecture -- The New Freedom  
Lecture -- World War I
- Week 3:                   *Political Rights and Civil Equality*  
Lecture -- The First Red Scare  
Lecture -- The Struggle for Racial and Sexual Equality  
Lecture -- Special Presentation on Library Research Resources
- Week 4:                   *Isolationism, Statism, and Fascism*

Lecture -- “Normalcy” and the “New Era”  
Lecture -- World War II  
Lecture -- Domestic Economy and Politics  
Film: “Miss Evers’ Boys” (1997) [Directed by Joseph Sargent]  
(Special evening screening on Wednesday, April 21: see assignment list)

Week 5: *Anti-Communism and the Cold War*  
Lecture -- Globalism and Containment  
Lecture -- The Second Red Scare: McCarthyism  
Lecture -- The Cold War at Home and Abroad

Week 6: *The “Pax Americana”*  
Lecture – **Midterm Examination [Monday, May 3]**  
Lecture -- Militarism and Intervention Overseas  
Lecture -- The “Second Era of Good Feelings”  
Film: “Fail Safe” (1964) [Directed by Sidney Lumet]  
(Special evening screening on Wednesday, May 5: see assignment list)

Week 7: *Redistributive Politics and Welfarism*  
Lecture -- The “New Frontier”  
Lecture -- The “Great Society”  
Lecture -- The “New Federalism”

Week 8: *Liberation Movements: International and Domestic*  
Lecture -- The Vietnam War [1968]  
Lecture – The Second Wave of Feminism  
Lecture -- The Second Reconstruction and Civil Rights  
Film: “The Front” (1976) [Directed by Martin Ritt]  
(Special evening screening on Wednesday, May 19: see assignment list)

Week 9: *Reaction and Retrenchment*  
Lecture – Racism, Sexism, and Jingoism  
Lecture – The “Reagan Revolution” and the Middle Class Revolt  
Lecture – U.S. Hegemony and World Interdependence

Week 10: *Devolution and Restructuring*  
Lecture – **Cancelled (Memorial Day Holiday)**  
Lecture -- Rethinking Class, Ethnicity, and Gender  
Lecture -- The End of the “American Century”

**FINAL EXAMINATION: Tuesday, June 8; 8am-11am (101 Center Hall)**

Assignment List

- Week 1:           **Who Built America?**, ch.5.
- Week 2:           **Who Built America?**, ch.6.  
Special assignment for discussion -- see handout.
- Week 3:           **Who Built America?**, ch.7.  
Bernstein, **Inside Out**, pp.4-70.  
Special assignment for discussion -- see handout.
- Week 4:           **Who Built America?**, chs.8-9.  
Bernstein, **Inside Out**, pp.71-142.  
Special assignment for discussion --see handout.  
Film: "Miss Evers' Boys" (118 minutes)  
Date/Location: Wednesday, April 21, 7:00pm;  
Center Hall 212.
- Week 5:           **Who Built America?**, ch.10.  
Bernstein, **Inside Out**, pp.143-216.  
Special assignment for discussion - see handout.
- Week 6:           **Who Built America?**, ch.11.  
Bernstein, **Inside Out**, pp.217-279.  
Special assignment for discussion - see handout.  
Film: "Fail Safe" (113 minutes)  
Date/Location: Wednesday, May 5, 7:00pm;  
Center Hall 212.
- Week 7:           **Who Built America?**, ch.12.  
Santiago, **Famous All Over Town**, pp. 1-95.  
Special assignment for discussion -- see handout.
- Week 8:           **Who Built America?**, ch.13.  
Santiago, **Famous All Over Town**, pp.96-198.  
Special assignment for discussion -- see handout.  
Film: "The Front" (118 minutes)  
Date/Location: Wednesday, May 19, 7:00pm;  
Center Hall 212.
- Week 9:           Santiago, **Famous All Over Town**, pp.199-285.
- Week 10:          **Who Built America?**,ch.14.