

American History, 1945-Present
26:510:585
Spring 2018

Class Location: Hill Hall 104
Class Meeting Times: Mondays, 5:30-8:10

Professor: Dr. Beryl Satter
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This course surveys histories of the U.S., 1945 to the present. Topics covered include anti-Communist networks and the “traditional family” of the 1950s; the civil rights, women’s rights and gay liberation movements of the 1960s and 1970s; working class men and the Vietnam War; suburbia and the rightward turn; immigration and the uneven racialization of Mexican Americans; the politics of the family and the welfare state (via the labor struggles of home health care workers); and several synthetic works covering the cultural, political and economic meanings of the nation’s move, since the 1970s, to an economy based on finance rather than manufacturing, extremes of economic inequality, new forms of white supremacy, and battles over control over the reproductive rights of women of all races.

We will be reading a book a week (books listed below). Occasionally we will also read extra book chapters or primary sources. The additional readings, marked on the syllabus with an asterisk, will be on Blackboard under “Course Documents.”

Course Books

- Ellen Schrecker, *Many Are the Crimes: McCarthyism in America* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998).
- Elain Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era* (New York: Basic Books [1988] 2008).
- Charles M. Payne, *I've Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995).
- Christian Appy, *Working Class War: American Combat Soldiers and Vietnam* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1993).
- Sherie M. Randolph, *Florynce 'Flo' Kennedy: The Life of a Black Feminist Radical* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015)
- Timothy Stewart-Winter, *Queer Clout: Chicago and the Rise of Gay Politics* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016)
- Kevin Kruse, *White Flight: Atlanta and the Making of Modern Conservatism* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005)

- Julie M. Weise, *Corazon de Dixie: Mexicanos in the U.S. South Since 1910* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015)
- Bruce J. Schulman and Julian E. Zelizer, eds, *Rightward Bound: Making America Conservative in the 1970s* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008)
- Robert Self, *All in the Family: The Realignment of American Democracy since the 1960s* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2012)
- Eileen Boris and Jennifer Klein, *Caring For America: Home Health Workers in the Shadow of the Welfare State* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012)
- Nancy McLean, *Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America* (New York: Viking Books, 2017)
- Gerald F. Davis, *Managed by the Markets: How Finance Reshaped America* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009)

These books are available for purchase at the Rutgers University Bookstore, located in the Hahne Building. The books are also on reserve at Dana Library.

Course requirements

1) Class Participation (will be taken into account and can raise or lower final grade)

-To encourage class participation, every student must bring at least one question about the week's reading to class EVERY WEEK. You must email me your question or questions on by noon of the day we are reading that book. I will take your questions into account when the final grade is tabulated.

2) Two short papers (5-7 pages, typed and double-spaced, approximately 250 words per page) that review and analyze the reading for one week of the course.

-The first book review is due by March 5; the second is due by April 30.

-The papers are due on the day the book you review is discussed in class.

** -You must email me *several* questions about the book you have reviewed by noon of the day we are reading that book. These questions should arise from your book review. Your questions, along with the questions that the rest of the class will present verbally, will help form the basis of class discussion.

-Each review (along with typed questions about the book) is worth 25% of your grade.

3) Final exam, in form of take-home review essay on the course readings. Exam due date to-be-announced. Final exam is worth 50% of your grade. Past exam questions are posted on Blackboard under "Assignments." There you'll see the link to "Previous Exams."

4) Because of importance of participation, attendance is required. If you miss more than four classes (a month of classes), you will fail the course.

Syllabus

Mon. Jan. 22: Introduction

Ta-Nehisi Coates, *We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy* (New York: One World, 2017), pp. xiii-xvii, 151-281. NOTE: for this reading, see Blackboard, under "Course Documents." Read the pdfs in this order:

-*Coates pp. xiii-xvii

-*Coates pp. 151-161

-*Coates Case for Reparation (or download from web)

-*Coates pp. 211-222

-*Coates Black Family in the Age of Mass Incarceration (or download from web)

Also read

*"Book Reviews," in Richard Marius, *A Short Guide to Writing about History*, third edition (Longman Press, 1999), pp. 175-177

I. The Creation of Cold War America

Mon. Jan. 29:

Ellen Schrecker, *Many Are the Crimes: McCarthyism in America*

Mon. Feb. 5:

Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound*

*Rickie Solinger, "Dependency and Choice: The Two Faces of Eve," *Social Justice* 25:1 (1998), 1-27

II. Mid-Century Dissent and Backlash

Mon. Feb. 12:

Charles Payne, *I've Got the Light of Freedom*

Mon. Feb. 19:

Christian Appy, *Working-Class War*

*"SNCC Position Paper on Vietnam," "The Fort Hood Three," and "My Lai," in *"Takin' It to the Streets: A Sixties Reader"*, eds. Alexander Bloom and Wini Breines, 2nd Ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003), pp. 184-185, 204-206, 209-213

Mon. Feb. 26:

*Martin Luther King, Jr., "Where are We?" and "'Racism and the White Backlash," in *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1967), pp. 1-22, 67-101

*Stokely Carmichael and Charles V. Hamilton, "White Power: The Colonial Situation," and "Black Power: Its Need and Substance," in *Black Power: The Politics of Liberation in America* (New York: Vintage Books 1967), pp. 1-56

*"No More Miss America," "Principles: New York Radical Women," "Redstockings Manifesto," Barbara Susan, "About My Consciousness Raising," Pat Mainardi, "The Politics of Housework," "Women Support Panther Sisters," and Barbara Susan, "An Abortion Testimonial," in *Takin' It to the Streets*, pp. 404-416, 428-429

Sherie Randolph, *Florynce 'Flo' Kennedy*

Mon. March 5:

*Carl Wittman, "The Gay Manifesto" (written 1969) and Red Butterfly, "Comments on Carl Wittman's 'A Gay Manifesto'" (published 1970)

*Chicago Gay Liberation Front, "A Leaflet for the American Medical Association," in *Out of the Closets: Voices of Gay Liberation*, eds. Karla Jay and Allen Young, 20th Anniversary Edition (New York: New York University Press, [1972] 1992), pp. 145-147.

Timothy Stewart-Winter, *Queer Clout*

Michael Bronski, "The Last Gay Liberationist," *Boston Review*, Dec. 20, 2017: see <http://bostonreview.net/gender-sexuality/michael-bronski-last-gay-liberationist>

Mon. March 12: SPRING BREAK

III. The Rightward Turn

Mon. March 19:

Kevin Kruse, *White Flight*

Mon. March 26: (Last day to drop course and still get a "W" grade)

Julie M. Weise, *Corazon de Dixie: Mexicanos in the U.S. South Since 1910*

*Barry Bluestone and Bennett Harrison, *The Deindustrialization of America* (New York: Basic Books 1982), Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-81).

Mon. April 2:

Bruce J. Schulman and Julian E. Zelizer, eds, *Rightward Bound: Making America Conservative in the 1970s*

*Judith Stein, "Preface," "The Great Compression" and first few pages of "Affluence Challenged and Restored" (chapter one and start of chapter two of her book *Pivotal Decade: How the United States Traded Factories for Finance*), pp. ix-xiii, 1-22, 23-28

IV. Syntheses of Post-1970s America

Mon. April 9:

Robert Self, *All in the Family: The Realignment of American Democracy since the 1960s*

Mon. April 16:

*Evelyn Nakano Glenn, "From Servitude to Service Work: Historical Continuities in the Racial Division of Paid Reproductive Labor," *Signs* 18:1 (Autumn, 1992), 1-43.

Eileen Boris and Jennifer Klein, *Caring For America: Home Health Workers in the Shadow of the Welfare State*

Mon. April 23:

-Nancy McLean, *Democracy in Chains*

Mon. April 30:

-Gerald Davis, *Managed by the Markets*

Toni Morrison, "The Foreigner's Home," in Morrison, *The Origin of Others* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2017), pp. 93-111.