

MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY (1865-2008)
USII GRADUATE TEACHING FIELD

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This is my list of required reading for the second half of the graduate teaching field in American history. In addition to the required reading, students are expected to have a textbook knowledge of the field and a familiarity with some of its major sources. With my permission, substitutions may be made for books on the required list.

I recommend that students who intend to have me serve as the advisor for their doctoral dissertation, do this teaching field with another qualified department faculty member if they are taking more than one graduate research field with me. My lists for these fields are posted online.

PhD students are not required to audit the three undergraduate survey courses that the department regularly offers in the field of modern American history (Industrial America, 1865-1928, Liberal America, 1929-1973, and Postindustrial America, 1974-2016), but some may find it helpful to do so.

TEXTBOOKS AND SURVEYS

A solid, relatively inexpensive, one-volume textbook is David Shi and George Tindall, *America: A Narrative History* (8th ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 2010). The premier series surveying American history is the Oxford History of the United States. These include:

Kennedy, David M. *Freedom from Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945*.

Patterson, James T. *Grand Expectations: The United States, 1945-1974*.

Patterson, James T., *Restless Giant the United States from Watergate to Bush V. Gore*.

Herring, George C. *From Colony to Superpower: U.S. Foreign Relations Since 1776*, chs. 7-20.

Unfortunately, the volumes in this series covering the years 1865-1929 have yet to be published. Two other fine surveys of this period that you might consider are T.J. Jackson

Lears, *Rebirth of a Nation: The Making of Modern America, 1877-1920* and Nell Irvin Painter, *Standing at Armageddon: The United States, 1877-1919*

SOURCES

Familiarize yourself with the documents in Richard Hofstadter, ed., *Great Issues in American History: From Reconstruction to the Present Day, 1864-1981* (New York: Vintage Books, 1982).

REQUIRED READING

The thrust of this reading list is not primarily historiographical. Its purpose is to offer you a richer account of major themes in modern American history than a textbook can. Hence this selection emphasizes books of considerable breadth and consensual authority that will serve you well when preparing lectures in modern American history survey courses. I also include a few classics of which every student of modern American history should have read.

Ayers, Edward L. *The Promise of the New South: Life After Reconstruction*.
 Bensel, Richard. *The Political Economy of American Industrialization*.
 Bodnar, John. *The Transplanted: A History of Immigrants in Urban America*.
 orus,
 Brinkley, Alan. *The End of Reform: New Deal Liberalism in Recession and War*.
 Cohen, Elizabeth. *Making a New Deal: Industrial Workers in Chicago, 1919-1939*.
 Cott, Nancy F. *The Grounding of Modern Feminism*.
 Cowie, Jefferson. *Stayin' Alive: The 1970s and the Last Days of the Working Class*.
 Cronon, William. *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*.
 Denning, Michael. *The Cultural Front: The Laboring of American Culture in the Twentieth-century*.
 Dower, John W. *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War*.
 Dumenil, Lynn. *The Modern Temper: American Culture and Society in the 1920s*.
 Edwards, Rebecca. *New Spirits: Americans in the Gilded Age, 1865-1905*.
 Foner, Eric. *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877*.
 Gaddis, John. *Strategies of Containment*.
 Gerstle, Gary. *American Crucible: Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century*.
 Gitlin, Todd. *The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage*.
 Gutman, Herbert G. *Work, Culture, and Society in Industrializing America: Essays in American Working-class and Social History*.
 Hahn, Steven. *A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South From Slavery to the Great Migration*
 Hodgson, Godfrey. *The World Turned Right Side up: a History of the Conservative Ascendancy in America*.
 Hofstadter, Richard. *The Age of Reform; from Bryan to F.D.R.*
 Horowitz, Morton. *The Transformation of American Law, 1870-1960*.

- Hunt, Michael H. *Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy*.
- Jackson, Kenneth T. *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States*.
- Katznelson, Ira. *Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time*.
- Kennedy, David M., *Over Here the First World War and American Society*.
- Kloppenber, James T. *Uncertain Victory: Social Democracy and Progressivism in European and American Thought, 1870-1920*.
- Lasch, Christopher. *The New Radicalism in America*.
- Leffler, Melvyn P. *For the Soul of Mankind: The United States, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War*.
- Leuchtenburg, William. *Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal*.
- Lichtenstein, Nelson. *State of the Union: a Century of American Labor*.
- Limerick, Patricia Nelson. *The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West*.
- McClay, Wilfred M. *The Masterless: Self & Society in Modern America*.
- McGerr, Michael E. *A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920*.
- McGreevy, John T. *Catholicism and American Freedom: a History*.
- McMath, Robert. *American Populism*.
- Marchand, Roland. *Advertising the American Dream*.
- Ngai, Mae. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Immigrants and the Making of Modern America*.
- Nolan, Mary, *The Transatlantic Century*.
- Pells, Richard H. *The Liberal Mind in a Conservative Age*.
- _____. *Radical Visions and American Dreams; Culture and Social Thought in the Depression Years*.
- Rodgers, Daniel T. *Age of Fracture*.
- _____. *Atlantic Crossings: Social Politics in a Progressive Age*.
- Sklar, Martin J. *The Corporate Reconstruction of American Capitalism, 1890-1916: The Market, the Law, and Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988.
- Sklar, Robert. *Movie-made America: a Cultural History of American Movies*.
- Trachtenberg, Alan. *The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age*.
- Wiebe, Robert H. *The Search for Order, 1877-1920*.
- Wilentz, Sean. *The Age of Reagan*.
- Williams, William Appleman. *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*.
- Woodward, C. Vann. *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*.
- Young, Marilyn. *Vietnam Wars*.

READINGS COURSE

I am prepared to offer a readings course to any student who wishes to enroll in one for purposes of preparing for the teaching field examination in modern American history. This course may be of one of two sorts: one that meets biweekly to discuss two selected books on the list (History 591) and includes practice for the written portion of the examination or one that meets after the student has completed the reading and includes practice for the oral portion of the examination (History 592). In both cases, an important part of

both courses will be the preparation of a syllabus for a survey course in American history (1865-Present). This syllabus, along with the essays for the written portion of the examination, will serve as the foundation for the oral portion of the examination.

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