

HIST 4990: America Between the Wars
Professor Victoria Grieve
Fall 2006, Monday 4:30-7:00pm

Classroom: Main 227

Office Location: Main 323

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 1-2pm and by appointment

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NOTE: This syllabus is subject to changes and/or additions at the discretion of the professor.

Course Description: This course is designed for senior History majors as the capstone course for their undergraduate work. HIST 4990 offers students the opportunity to apply knowledge from survey classes and upper-division courses to a well-defined research project. This course emphasizes historiographical literacy, research, and writing skills in relation to a specific historical topic: American culture between World War I and World War II. The end result of the course is a well-researched, well-written, conceptually sound, and scholarly paper, which indicates that you have mastered the skills of a historian.

This class has three objectives:

- 1.) Students review the basic methods, skills, and tools of historical research.
- 2.) Students examine the historiography of a particular issue, America between World War I and World War II.
- 3.) Most important, students write a major research paper based on a critical examination of various primary and secondary sources. Students will first create a statement of their research topic (prospectus), then construct a bibliography, then outline the paper, then compose the paper.

Your first assignment is to familiarize yourself with the requirements of this course. Read this syllabus carefully in order to understand the *assignments* you must complete, the *due dates* for your work, and the *penalties* for late submissions.

Basic Reminders:

- 1.) The research papers for this course must:
 - focus on questions dealing with America between World War I and World War II (roughly 1914-1941).
 - rely on primary source materials
- 2.) Attendance is mandatory during weeks one through seven, week nine, week twelve, and for the presentations during Finals week. I will be available by appointment to answer any questions you may have about your work. **You are required to come to see me at least once**, but feel free to visit as often as you'd like to discuss your ongoing work and any problems or questions you may have.

3.) ALL deadlines are firm, and I impose stiff penalties for any written work submitted late. I do not make exceptions.

4.) ANY evidence of plagiarism, even a single sentence, will be grounds for automatic failure in the course. Familiarize yourself with the definition, policies, and penalties regarding plagiarism at: <http://www.usu.edu/policies/PDF/Acad-Integrity.pdf>
See the helpful tutorial at: <http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/>

5.) Throughout the semester, as your paper achieves various stages of completion, make back-up copies of your files. On the day your paper is due, a system crash or lost disk or any other technological failure will **not** be an acceptable excuse for late submissions. No excuses!

Required Readings (Available in the Bookstore or Online):

- Dumenil, Lynn. *The Modern Temper: American Culture and Society in the 1920s*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1995.
- Kirszner, Laurie G. and Stephen R. Mandell, *The Pocket Handbook for History*. Second edition. Boston: Thomson Wadsworth, 2004.
- Pells, Richard. *Radical Visions and American Dreams: Culture and Social Thought in the Depression Years*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 1973.

The Research Paper:

As stated on page one, research papers for this course will focus on questions dealing with American culture between World War I and World War II.

Your will work toward this final goal in stages:

- Stage One: approval of a topic (due September 18)
- Stage Two: approval of a bibliography (due September 25)
- Stage Three: approval of an outline (due October 2)
- Stage Four: completion of a rough draft (due November 6)
- Stage Five: completion of the final paper (due December 4)

The final copy of your paper (both electronic and hard copy) should adhere to the Chicago Manual of Style. The electronic copy must be in Word format. The hard copy must be in 12-point font with one inch margins on all sides, double-spaced, pages numbered, no plastic covers or holders, paper-clipped; 18-22 pages of text plus 1-5 pages of endnotes and 1-2 page bibliography.

Make back-up copies of all work throughout the semester. A system crash, lost disk, or other technological failure will **not** constitute an acceptable excuse for late submissions.

Class Schedule:

Week 1: August 28

Introduction to the topic of American history between the wars and to historical research; selection/assignment of peer reviewer for the semester.

Begin reading Dumenil, *Modern Temper* and Pells, *Radical Visions and American Dreams*.

Week 2: September 4 – Labor Day holiday, No Class
Continue reading Dumenil, *Modern Temper* and Pells, *Radical Visions and American Dreams*.
Begin thinking of a paper topic.

Week 3: September 11
Library Tour: Meet in the lobby of the Merrill-Cazier Library
After a tour of Special Collections, we will discuss your interests and tentative topics; be prepared to speak about the topic you are considering.
Class discussion of Dumenil, Introduction - Ch. 3

Week 4: September 18
PROSPECTUS DUE to your peer reviewer and Professor Grieve; be prepared to give a progress report.
Class discussion of Dumenil, Ch. 4 – Epilogue.

Week 5: September 25
BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE to your peer reviewer and Professor Grieve. List primary and secondary sources you plan to use to research your topic; all sources must adhere to the Chicago Documentation Style (see Kirszner 178). Prospectus returned from Professor Grieve and peer reviewer in class.
Class discussion of Pells, Prologue – Section III.

Week 6: October 2
Report on progress of your papers; Bibliography returned in class.
OUTLINE DUE to your peer reviewer and Professor Grieve: 2-3 page explanation of the paper's basic thesis, methods, and the components of your arguments.
Class Discussion of Pells, Sections IV – VI.

Week 7: October 9
Report on progress of your papers; Outlines returned from Professor Grieve and peer reviewer; class discussion of Pells, Sections VII and VIII.

Week 8: October 16
No scheduled class meeting; Visit with Professor Grieve

Week 9: October 23
Report on progress of your papers; Visit with Professor Grieve

Week 10: October 30
No class meeting; Visit with Professor Grieve

Week 11: November 6
No class meeting; **ROUGH DRAFT DUE** to your peer reviewer and to Professor Grieve via email. Paper must be submitted by 4:30pm.

Week 12: November 13
Report on progress of papers; Comments on rough drafts from Professor Grieve and peer reviewer returned in class; Copy of peer reviewer comments due to Professor Grieve.

Week 13: November 20
No scheduled class meeting.

Week 14: November 27
No scheduled class meeting.

Week 15: December 4
No scheduled class meeting; **PAPERS DUE** by 10am (both electronic and hard copy versions)

Ten-minute presentations of your paper to the class will be scheduled during the time scheduled for our final exam.

Two versions of your paper are due. Email the electronic version to Professor Grieve at vgrieve@hass.usu.edu. The time stamp on the email must be no later than 10am. Drop off the hard copy version of the paper to the History Department, Old Main 323. The staff will time stamp your paper. The deadline is 10am.

Penalties for papers submitted late are as follows:
10:01am – 4pm on Monday – one full letter grade deduction
4:01pm Monday – 4:00 pm Tuesday – two full letter grades
4:01pm Tuesday – 4:00 pm Wednesday – three letter grades
4:01pm Wednesday – 4:00 pm Thursday – four full letter grades
No papers will be accepted after 4pm on Thursday, December 7.

Evaluation of the final paper:

- 1.) Opening paragraphs – strong, clear, precise statement of thesis; clear preview of the argument that will follow in the body of the paper
- 2.) Main argument – well organized, coherent, logical sequence of points, plausible interpretation of sources, reasonable claims, significance and persuasiveness of arguments
- 3.) Primary sources – range, relevance, use, strength
- 4.) Citations – proper use and format
- 5.) Mechanics – spelling, punctuation, grammar, sentence and paragraph structure

Components of the Final Grade:

Your final grade will be based on Professor Grieve's evaluation of:

- Attendance and class participation – 10 points
- Topic (Originality, depth, complexity) – 5 points
- Bibliography (Breadth, use of primary sources, style) – 5 points
- Outline (Clarity of objectives, methods) – 10 points
- Comments as a peer reviewer on rough draft (Thoughtfulness, depth) – 10 points
- Final paper – 50 points
- Presentation of paper – 10 points

Total = 100 points