

HISTORY 118

Dickinson College // Spring 2022
Tue / Thu 1030 am
Classroom: Denny 211
URL: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/hist-118pinsker>

US Since 1877

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"I happen temporarily to occupy this big White House. I am a living witness that any one of your children may look to come here as my father's child has."
--Abraham Lincoln, August 22, 1864

We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president, only to find herself reciting for one.
--Amanda Gorman, The Hill We Climb, January 20, 2021

Required Text

- H.W. Brands, *American Dreams: The United States Since 1945* (New York: Penguin, 2010) [RESERVE]

Additional Readings

- David W. Blight, "For Something beyond the Battlefield": Frederick Douglass and the Struggle for the Memory of the Civil War," *Journal of American History* 75 (March 1989): 1156-1178 [JSTOR]
- History 118 Oral History Projects –Ryan Cohane // Sam Drabkin // Matthew Ferry // Jordan Forry // Rachel Glick // Sarah Goldberg // Dane Huber // Heidi Kim // Caly McCarthy // Patrick Meier // Max Menkes // Matt Pasquali // Mitchell Snyder // Troy Thornton // Sam Weisman
- House Divided Project exhibits – Dickinson & Slavery // Prince of Emancipation
- Joseph Locke and Ben Wright, eds., *American Yawp*, 2020-21 ed., [WEB]

Course Policies

For details on course policies, especially those regarding attendance, participation, accommodations for disabilities, plagiarism and general learning objectives, please consult the course website: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/hist-118pinsker/course-policies>

First Essay –Nineteenth Century

On **Friday, February 25**, students will submit a 3-5 page typed, double-spaced essay on a nineteenth-century topic provided to them near the beginning of that week. All essays must include both primary and secondary source material from the assigned readings properly cited using Chicago-style footnotes. Outside research is allowed but not required. Additional information will be available on the annotated assignment guidelines at the course site. Essays will be graded on depth of analysis, use of evidence, and quality of prose. Late essays will be penalized up to 5 points each day.

Second Essay –Twentieth Century

On **Friday, April 1**, students will submit a 3-5 page typed, double-spaced essay on a twentieth-century topic provided to them near the beginning of that week. All essays must include both primary and secondary source material from the assigned readings properly cited using Chicago-style footnotes. Outside research is allowed but not required. Additional information will be available on the annotated assignment guidelines at the course site. Essays will be graded on depth of analysis, use of evidence, and quality of prose. Late essays will be penalized up to 5 points each day.

Oral History Project

The highlight of this semester will be a multi-media oral history project that students will undertake to illustrate an important episode or trend covered in H.W. Brands' *American Dreams*. By **Friday, April 29**, students should post an annotated transcript (at least 500 words) from their initial interview(s) at the course website, including a list of sources for further research. These transcripts will receive comments but not grades. By **Thursday, May 12**, students should post a full oral history essay that successfully incorporates quoted material from their interview(s) while also putting them into thoughtful historical context using not only *American Dreams*, but also other relevant primary and secondary sources. Essays should cover about 4-6 pages and should include Chicago-style footnotes. All essay posts should include at least 3 to 4 images, properly credited and captioned. Students must also embed a short video documentary (about 1 to 2 minutes) incorporating either audio or video clips from (or about) their oral history interviews. Additional information will be available on the annotated assignment guidelines at the course site. Projects will be graded on depth of analysis, research and design effort, and quality of prose. Late submissions will be penalized 5 points per day.

Grade Distribution

Class Participation	20 percent
Essay 1 –19 th century	25 percent
Essay 2 –20 th century	25 percent
Oral history project	30 percent

Day	Date	Discussion Topic	Reading Assignment
Tuesday	1/25	Methods & Expectations	---
Thursday	1/27	Reconstruction	Prince exhibit
Tuesday	2/1	Second Founding	Dickinson & Slavery exhibit
Thursday	2/3	Jim Crow	Blight article
Tuesday	2/8	Gilded Age	Yawp, chap. 16
Thursday	2/10	American West	Yawp, chap. 17
Tuesday	2/15	Urbanization	Yawp, chap. 18
Thursday	2/17	Imperialism	Yawp, chap. 19
Tuesday	2/22	Progressive Era	Yawp, chap. 20
Thursday	2/24	World War I	Yawp, chap. 21
Friday	2/25	First essay due	By 5pm via email
Tuesday	3/1	1920s	Yawp, chap. 22
Thursday	3/3	Great Depression	Yawp, chap. 23
Tuesday	3/8	World War II	Yawp, chap. 24
Thursday	3/10	1945	Brands, chap 1
Tuesday	3/15	NO CLASS (Spring Break)	
Thursday	3/17	NO CLASS (Spring Break)	
Tuesday	3/22	Early Cold War	Brands, chap 2 + Forry
Thursday	3/24	Anti-Communism	Brands, chap 3 + Meier
Tuesday	3/29	1950s	Brands, chap 4 + Menkes
Thursday	3/31	Civil Rights	Brands, chap 5 + Glick
Friday	4/1	Second essay due	By 5pm via email
Tuesday	4/5	Vietnam War	Brands, chap 6 + Thornton + Ferry + Huber
Thursday	4/7	Watergate	Brands, chap 7 + McCarthy + Goldberg + Pasquali
Tuesday	4/12	1970s	Brands, chap 8 + Weisman
Thursday	4/14	Reagan Realignment	Brands, chap 9 + Snyder
Tuesday	4/19	1980s	Brands, chap 10 + Drabkin
Thursday	4/21	End of Cold War	Brands, chap 11 + Cohane
Tuesday	4/26	1990s	Brands, chaps 12 + Kim
Thursday	4/28	Culture Wars	Brands, chaps 13
Friday	4/29	Oral history interviews due	By 5pm via post at course site
Tuesday	5/3	9-11 and beyond	Brands, chaps. 14-15
Thursday	5/5	Lessons & Legacies	
Thursday	5/12	Oral history projects due	By 5pm via post at course site