

HISTORY 118

Dickinson College // Spring 2023
Tue / Thu 9am
Classroom: Denny 211
URL: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/hist-118pinsker>

US Since 1877

Matthew Pinsker
Office: 61 N. West Street
Hours: Wed. 9am to noon
Email: pinskerm@dickinson.edu

"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)

Additional Readings

- Gary Gerstle, "Theodore Roosevelt and the Divided Character of American Nationalism." *Journal of American History* 86 (Dec. 1999): 1280-1307 [JSTOR]
- History 118 Oral History Projects –Long Bui // Sarah Cayouette-Gluckman // Ryan Cohane // Matthew Ferry // Jordan Forry // Heidi Kim // Miles Krein // Dana Marecheau // Abby Marthins // Patrick Meier // Max Menkes // Matt Pasquali // Mitchell Snyder
- House Divided Project exhibits – Dickinson & Slavery // Prince of Emancipation
- Joseph Locke and Ben Wright, eds., *American Yawp*, 2022-23 ed., [WEB]
- Esther Popel, *Personal Adventures in Race Relations* (1948) [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 –Reconstructing America

On **Monday, February 20**, students will submit a 3-5 page typed, double-spaced essay on a topic covering post-Civil War American life that will be provided to them in class on Thursday, March 2. 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 –Cold War America

On **Monday, March 27**, students will submit a 3-5 page typed, double-spaced essay on a topic covering Cold War American life provided to them in class on Thursday, March 23. 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 **Monday, April 24**, 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 **Monday, May 8**, 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 (1200-1500 words) 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 –Reconstructing America	25 percent
Essay 2 –Cold War America	25 percent
Oral history project	30 percent

Day	Date	Discussion Topic	Reading Assignment
Tuesday	1/24	Methods & Expectations	---
Thursday	1/26	Reconstruction	Prince exhibit
Tuesday	1/31	Second Founding	Yawp, chap. 15
Thursday	2/2	Jim Crow	Dickinson & Slavery exhibit
Tuesday	2/7	American West	Yawp, chap. 17
Thursday	2/9	American Cities	Yawp, chap. 18
Tuesday	2/14	Imperial Era	Yawp, chap. 19
Wednesday	2/15	LECTURE: Erica Armstrong Dunbar	7pm, ATS
Thursday	2/16	Melting Pot	Gerstle article
Monday	2/20	Reconstructing America essay due	By 5pm via email
Tuesday	2/21	Progressive Era	Yawp, chap. 20
Thursday	2/23	Homefront in WWI	Yawp, chap. 21
Tuesday	2/28	1920s	Yawp, chap. 22
Thursday	3/2	Great Depression	Yawp, chap. 23
Tuesday	3/7	Homefront in WWII	Yawp, chap. 24 + Popel
Thursday	3/9	1945	Brands, chap 1 + Marthins
Tuesday	3/14	NO CLASS (Spring Break)	
Thursday	3/16	NO CLASS (Spring Break)	
Tuesday	3/21	Late 1940s –Toward Cold War	Brands, chap 2 + Forry
Thursday	3/23	Early 1950s --McCarthyism	Brands, chap 3 + Meier
Monday	3/27	Cold War America essay due	By 5pm, via email
Tuesday	3/28	Late 1950s --Suburbs	Brands, chap 4 + Menkes
Thursday	3/30	Early 1960s –Civil Rights	Brands, chap 5 + Ferry
Tuesday	4/4	Late 1960s –Vietnam War	Brands, chap 6 + Bui
Thursday	4/6	Early 1970s –Social revolutions	Brands, ch 7 + Cayouette, Pasquali
Tuesday	4/11	Late 1970s –Energy Crisis	Brands, chap 8
Thursday	4/13	Early 1980s –Political realignment	Brands, chap 9 + Snyder
Tuesday	4/18	NO CLASS	
Thursday	4/20	Mid-1980s –Return of Cold War	Brands, chap 10 + Krein, Marecheau
Monday	4/24	Oral history interviews due	By 5pm via post at course site
Tuesday	4/25	Late 1980s – CNN Effect	Brands, chap 11 + Cohane
Thursday	4/27	Early 1990s -- Polarization	Brands, chaps 12 + Kim
Tuesday	5/2	Late 1990s –Culture Wars	Brands, chaps 13
Thursday	5/4	2000s –Toward Obama	Brands, chaps. 14-15
Monday	5/8	Oral history projects due	By 5pm via post at course site