

HISTORY 118

Dickinson College // Fall 2023
Tue / Thu 9am
Classroom: Denny 317
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

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) [LIBRARY RESERVE]

Additional Readings

- Amanda Frost, “Everyone Born in the United States is a U.S. Citizen. Here’s Why.” *Washington Post*, March 28, 2023
- History 118 Oral History Projects –Clara Blackwell // Long Bui // Sarah Cayouette-Gluckman // Ryan Cohane // Matthew Ferry // Jordan Forry // Heidi Kim // Miles Krein // Abby Marthins // Patrick Meier // Max Menkes // Martin Vatanka
- History 204 Dickinson Biography Projects –Max Emery Baum // Shayna Herzfeld
- House Divided Project – Dickinson & Slavery // Prince of Emancipation
- Joseph Locke and Ben Wright, eds., *American Yawp*, 2022-23 ed., [WEB]
- Esther Popel Shaw, *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, October 2**, 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, Sep. 28. All essays must include information and quotations from the *American Yawp* online textbook, properly cited with 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, November 6**, 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, Nov. 2. All essays must include material from H.W. Brands’ *American Dreams* properly cited with 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, November 27**, students should post an annotated transcript (at least 500 words) from their initial interview(s) at the course website, including a list of a half a dozen other sources for further research. These transcripts and bibliographies will receive comments but not grades. By **Monday, December 11**, 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	8/29	Methods & Expectations	---
Thursday	8/31	Second Founding	Yawp, chap. 15
Tuesday	9/5	Reconstruction	Prince of Emancipation exhibit
Thursday	9/7	Industrial Capitalism	Yawp, chap. 16
Tuesday	9/12	American West	Yawp, chap. 17
Thursday	9/14	Cultural Changes	Yawp, chap 18
Tuesday	9/19	Imperial Era	Yawp, chap. 19
Thursday	9/21	Through a Dickinson Lens	Dickinson & Slavery report + exhibit + Emery Baum
Tuesday	9/26	Progressive Era	Yawp, chap. 20 + Frost op-ed
Tuesday	9/26	REQUIRED: Constitution Day event	ATS, 7pm
Thursday	9/28	WWI and Wilsonianism	Yawp, chap. 21
Monday	10/2	Reconstructing America essay due	By 5pm via email
Tuesday	10/3	1920s	Yawp, chap. 22
Thursday	10/5	Great Depression	Yawp, chap 23
Tuesday	10/10	WWII	Yawp, chap. 24 (Sec. I - VI)
Thursday	10/12	Homefront in WWII	Yawp, chap. 24 (Sec. VII – XI)
Tuesday	10/17	NO CLASS (Fall Break)	
Thursday	10/19	1945	Brands, chap. 1 + Marthins
Tuesday	10/24	Late 1940s –Toward Cold War	Brands, chap. 2 + Forry
Thursday	10/26	Early 1950s --McCarthyism	Brands, chap. 3 + Meier + Herzfeld
Tuesday	10/31	Late 1950s --Suburbs	Brands, chap. 4 + Menkes
Thursday	11/2	Early 1960s –Civil Rights	Brands, chap. 5 + Ferry
Monday	11/6	Cold War America essay due	By 5pm, via email
Tuesday	11/7	Late 1960s –Vietnam War	Brands, chap. 6 + Bui
Thursday	11/9	Early 1970s –Time of Change	Brands, chap. 7 + Cayouette
Tuesday	11/14	Late 1970s –Global Energy Crisis	Brands, chap. 8 + Vatanka
Thursday	11/16	Early 1980s –Political realignment	Brands, chap. 9 + Blackwell
Tuesday	11/21	Mid 1980s –Return of Cold War	Brands, chap. 10 + Krein
Thursday	11/23	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)	
Monday	11/27	Oral history interviews due	By 5pm via post at course site
Tuesday	11/28	Late 1980s – CNN Effect	Brands, chap. 11 + Cohane
Thursday	11/30	Early 1990s – Polarization	Brands, chap. 12 + Kim
Tuesday	12/5	Late 1990s –Culture Wars	Brands, chap, 13
Thursday	12/7	2000s –9/11 and Beyond	Brands, chaps. 14-15
Monday	12/11	Oral history projects due	By 5pm via post at course site