

HISTORY 118

Dickinson College // Spring 2025
Tue / Thu 1030am
Classroom: Denny 317
URL: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/hist-118pinsker>

US Since 1877

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Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles.

--Emma Lazarus, "The New Colossus" (1883)

Required Text

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

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 –Clara Blackwell // Long Bui // Sarah Cayouette-Gluckman // Ryan Cohane // Matthew Ferry // Jordan Forry // Miles Krein // Abby Marthins // Max Menkes // Martin Vatanka
- History 204 Dickinson Biography Projects – Max Emery Baum // Shayna Herzfeld
- House Divided Project – Dickinson & Slavery // Prince of Emancipation
- Jonathan Katz, "Birth of a Birthright," *Politico*, October 31, 2018 [WEB]
- Joseph Locke and Ben Wright, eds., *American Yawp*, 2022-23 ed., [WEB]
- Margaret MacMillan, *The Rhyme of History: Lessons of the Great War*, Brookings (2013) [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 learning objectives, please consult the course website: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/hist-118pinsker/course-policies>

First Essay – Industrial America

On **Monday, Feb. 17**, students will submit a 3-5 page typed, double-spaced essay on a topic covering how American life changed during the industrial revolution of the late nineteenth century. Questions on that topic will be provided in class on Thursday, Feb. 13. All essays must include material from sources on the syllabus 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 –Global America

On **Monday, March 24**, students will submit a 3-5 page typed, double-spaced essay on a topic covering how American life changed between World War I and II. Questions on that topic will be provided in class on Thursday, March 20. All essays must include material from sources on the syllabus 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, April 14**, 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 **Thursday, 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 –Industrial America	25 percent
Essay 2 –Global America	25 percent
Oral history project	30 percent

Day	Date	Discussion Topic	Reading Assignment
Tuesday	1/21	Methods & Expectations	---
Thursday	1/23	Reconstruction	Prince of Emancipation exhibit
Tuesday	1/28	Industrial Capitalism	Yawp, chap. 16
Thursday	1/30	American West	Yawp, chap. 17
Tuesday	2/4	Cultural Changes	Yawp, chap 18
Thursday	2/6	Imperial Era	Yawp, chap. 19 + Katz article
Tuesday	2/11	Nationalism and Assimilation	Gerstle article
Thursday	2/13	Through a Dickinson Lens	Dickinson & Slavery + Baum project
Monday	2/17	Industrial America essay due	By 5pm via email
Tuesday	2/18	Progressive Era	Yawp, chap. 20
Thursday	2/20	WWI Homefront	Yawp, chap. 21
Tuesday	2/25	WWI and Wilsonianism	Macmillan essay
Thursday	2/27	1920s	Yawp, chap. 22
Tuesday	3/4	Great Depression	Yawp, chap 23
Thursday	3/6	WWII	Yawp, chap. 24 (Sec. I - VI)
Tuesday	3/11	NO CLASS (Spring Break)	
Thursday	3/13	NO CLASS (Spring Break)	
Tuesday	3/18	Homefront in WWII	Yawp, chap. 24 (Sec. VII – XI) + Popel
Thursday	3/20	Birth of Atomic Age	Brands, chap. 1 + Marthins
Monday	3/24	Global America essay due	By 5pm, via email
Tuesday	3/25	Late 1940s –Toward Cold War	Brands, chap. 2 + Forry
Tuesday	3/25	Wert Lecture (required)	ATS, 7pm
Thursday	3/27	Early 1950s –McCarthyism	Brands, chap. 3 + Herzfeld
Tuesday	4/1	Late 1950s –Suburbs	Brands, chap. 4 + Menkes
Thursday	4/3	Early 1960s –Civil Rights	Brands, chap. 5 + Ferry
Tuesday	4/8	Late 1960s –Vietnam War	Brands, chap. 6 + Bui
Thursday	4/10	Early 1970s –Time of Change	Brands, chap. 7 + Cayouette
Monday	4/14	Oral history interviews due	By 5pm via post at course site
Tuesday	4/15	Late 1970s –Global Energy Crisis	Brands, chap. 8 + Vatanka
Thursday	4/17	Early 1980s –Political realignment	Brands, chap. 9 + Blackwell
Tuesday	4/22	Mid 1980s –Return of Cold War	Brands, chap. 10 + Krein
Thursday	4/24	Late 1980s – End of Cold War	Brands, chap. 11 + Cohane
Tuesday	4/29	1990s –Polarization	Brands, chaps, 12-13
Thursday	5/1	2000s –9/11 and beyond	Brands, chaps. 14-15
Thursday	5/8	Oral history projects due	By 5pm via post at course site