



Interwar America, 1918-1939

Department of History

College of Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences

HIST 4133

MWF: 11:00-11:50

PY 202

Fall 2021

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Whitney Snow

Office: OD 223

Office hours: Wednesdays from 12:00-1:00 P.M.; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00-4:00 P.M.; and by appointment

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Course Description

This course will explore the Interwar Period, specifically American life from the eve of World War I to the dawn of World War II. Spanning from 1918 to 1939, it places emphasis on the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and the New Deal. The primary goal is to provide students with contextualization, specifically as it relates to race, class, and gender. Subjects discussed include but are not limited to segregation, the Harlem Renaissance, flappers, the Equal Rights Amendment, organized labor, and nativism. By semester's end, students will have a solid grasp of the social, economic, political, philosophical, and cultural ramifications of the myriad events, many that have ramifications spanning to the present, which transpired between the world wars.

Course Objectives

By semester's end, undergraduate students will be able to:

- *Illustrate their mastery of the course material by writing a 10-page research paper based on primary and secondary sources.
- *Hone critical thinking skills by reading assigned books and writing a 2-3-page book review on three books.
- *Exhibit analytical skills by watching assigned movies and then assessing the historical accuracy of each in two 5-6-page essays.
- *Display time management by completing two exams, each with six identification terms and one essay, in a set period of time.

Required Books

Chapman, Erin D. *Prove It On Me: New Negroes, Sex, and Popular Culture in the 1920s*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Davies, Philip John and Iwan Morgan, ed. *Hollywood and the Great Depression: American Film, Politics and Society in the 1930s*.

Ganz, Cheryl R. *The 1933 Chicago World's Fair: A Century of Progress*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2012.

Godden, Richard and Martin Crawford, ed. *Reading Southern Poverty between the Wars, 1918-1939*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2006.

Goldberg, Ronald. *America in the Twenties*. Syracuse University Press, 2003.

Gordon, Colin. *Major Problems in American History, 1920-1945*. Cengage Learning, 2010.

Mappen, Marc. *Prohibition Gangsters: The Rise and Fall of a Bad Generation*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2013.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Grading

Assignments	Points
Book Review #1	10%
Book Review #2	10%
Book Review #3	10%
Movie Review #1	10%
Movie Review #2	10%
Paper	20%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Exams

*This course includes two exams (a midterm and a final) which will consist of six identification terms and one essay.

*Students will take both the midterm and final exam via D2L. Follow these instructions:

1. Log onto D2L.
2. Click on the 9-block square at the top of the page and find our class. Click on it.
3. Once you are on our classroom dashboard, click on "Assessments" near the top of the page.
4. Under the drop-down list, click on "Assignments." You will see "Midterm" and "Final."
5. On the scheduled exam dates, please upload your word doc by 11:30 P.M.

Book Reviews

*Undergraduate students will be expected to write three book reviews, one on Ganz, and two others they will select from an approved list. (List visible on D2L dashboard.)

*The three book reviews must be typed, in 12-point font, Times New Roman, and double spaced. The margins should be 1 inch on the top and bottom and 1.25 inches on the left and right. Submit each of your book reviews via D2L. On our D2L class dashboard, click on "Assessments." Then click on "Assignments." You should see "Book Review 1"; "Book Review 2"; or "Book Review 3." You must submit your book reviews via D2L by 11:30 P.M. on the due dates. On the due dates, you may be expected to discuss your reviews in class.

*Sample book reviews are posted on D2L.

Movie Reviews

*Undergraduate students are expected to write two 5-6-page movie critiques. Students may select any two of the following movies: *Meet John Doe* (1941); *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town* (1939); *O' Brother, Where Art Thou* (2000); *Places in the Heart* (1984); *You Can't Take it With You* (1938); or *Some Like it Hot* (1959). Click on "Content" and then click on "Movie Review Instructions."

*Your essays must be typed, in 12-point font, Times New Roman and double spaced. The margins should be 1 inch on the top and bottom and 1.25 on the left and right. Submit your film critique via D2L. On our D2L class dashboard, click on "Assessments." Then click on "Assignments." You should see "movie reviews."

Term Paper

*Undergraduate students will be expected to write a 10-page research paper. They are permitted to select their topic, per approval of Dr. Snow. Your paper should be based on primary and secondary sources and must include a thesis (argument). Use at least 10 books (preferably those published by university presses). Use at least 4 peer-reviewed journal articles or book chapters. These can be found either in Moffett Library or in its online databases. **Helpful hint:** Less is not more—doing the bare minimum leaves much to be desired. Use footnotes (Chicago Manual of Style). Please include a bibliography at the end of your paper. Papers should be typed, double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font.

*The **Term Paper Abstract** is due on September 3. Your abstract should include a title and a minimum of 600 words detailing your approach to your term paper topic. If you already have a thesis, great! If not, that's ok given your project is just beginning. If you don't have a thesis, maybe include the question or questions you hope to answer. Please submit via D2L under "Assessments." On our D2L class dashboard, click on "Assessments." Then click on "Assignments." You should see "Term Paper Abstracts." You must submit your abstract by 11:30 P.M. on the due date.

*The **Term Paper Rough Draft** is due on October 22. Please submit via D2L. On our D2L class dashboard, click on "Assessments." Then click on "Assignments." You should see "Term Paper Rough Draft." You must submit your rough draft by 11:30 P.M. on the due date.

*The **Term Paper Final Draft** is due on November 12. Please submit via D2L. On our D2L class dashboard, click on "Assessments." Then click on "Assignments." You should see "Term Paper." You must submit your term paper by 11:30 P.M. on the due date. See D2L for further information on how to write a term paper. Undergrads will provide a brief, 5–6-minute summation of their findings on November 15.

Make Up Work/Tests

In cases of university-related excuses, doctor's excuse and/or a close family death, students will be able to make up exams, book reviews, and movie reviews.

Midterm Progress Report

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. All students will receive this midterm progress report. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript, nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with the instructor.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 23-26
Deadline to file for May graduation: October 4
Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" October 25

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

*While attendance is not part of your grade, it is nevertheless expected and will be taken into consideration if a student is close between letter grades. Official university absences will be excused. A student with excessive unexcused absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor.

*The instructor will not give out notes under any circumstances. Students are responsible for all missed information.

Instructor Class Policies

*Attendance requires more than being present in class. It means showing up prepared; contributing to class discussions; and exhibiting respect for classmates and the instructor. Each day's readings should be completed before stepping into the classroom.

*Cell phones should be on silent and put away during class.

*If seen wearing earbuds or headphones, students will be asked to remove them. Repeat offenders will be asked to leave the classroom.

*Laptops are a privilege and not a right. Students are welcome to use laptops to take notes. However, if they are seen using the laptop for a non-class-related purpose, students will be given a verbal warning. Repeat offenders will no longer be welcome to bring a laptop to class.

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed.

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule

Week or Module	Readings and other Assignments
Week 1 August 23 August 25 August 27	Class Introduction Goldberg, Chapters 1-2 Goldberg, Chapters 3-4; Term Paper Topic Selection
Week 2 August 30 September 1 September 3	Goldberg, Chapters 5-6 Gordon, Chapter 1 Goldberg, Chapters 7-9; Term Paper Abstracts Due
Week 3 September 6 September 8 September 10	LABOR DAY Gordon, Chapter 2 Chapman, Introduction; Movie Review #1 Due
Week 4 September 13 September 15 September 17	Chapman, Chapters 1-2 Gordon, Chapter 3 Chapman, Chapters 3-4; Book Review #1 Due
Week 5 September 20 September 22 September 24	Ganz, Intro and Chapters, 1-2 Gordon, Chapter 4 Ganz, Chapters 3-4
Week 6 September 27 September 29 October 1	Ganz, Chapters 5-6 Gordon, Chapter 5 Ganz, Chapters 7-8; Book Review #2 Due
Week 7 October 4 October 6 October 8	Mappen, Chapters 1-3 Gordon, Chapter 6 Mappen, Chapters 4-6
Week 8 October 11 October 13 October 15	Mappen, Chapters 7-9 Gordon, Chapter 7 Mappen, Chapters 10-12; Midterm (take via D2L)
Week 9 October 18 October 20 October 22	Godden, p.1-47 Gordon, Chapter 8 Godden, p.48-107; Term Paper Rough Draft Due (Submit via D2L)

Week or Module	Readings and other Assignments
Week 10 October 25 October 27 October 29	Godden, p.108-144 Gordon, Chapter 9 Godden, p.145-178; Book Review #3 Due
Week 11 November 1 November 3 November 5	Godden, 179-205 Gordon, Chapter 10 Godden, p.206-238; Movie Review #2 Due
Week 12 November 8 November 10 November 12	Morgan, Intro and Chapters 1-2 Gordon, Chapter 11 Term Papers Due ; grads will present to class
Week 13 November 15 November 17 November 19	Morgan, Chapters 3-4 Gordon, Chapter 12 Morgan, Chapters 5-6
Week 14 November 22 November 24 November 26	Gordon, Chapter 13 THANKSGIVING BREAK THANKSGIVING BREAK
Week 15 November 29 December 1 December 3	Morgan, Chapters 7-8 Morgan, Chapters 9-10 Morgan, Chapters 11-13

Final Exam: December 6 (take via D2L)