

Professor: Angus Burgin (burgin@jhu.edu)

MAKING AMERICA:
POLITICS AND SOCIETY SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Overview:

This course surveys the history of the United States since 1929. Topics will include the social effects of technological change, tensions between individualism and community, conflicting understandings of the rights and responsibilities associated with citizenship, shifting visions of America's role in the world, and the interplay between progressivism and conservatism in domestic political debates.

Assignments and Grading:

25%: Class Participation (including Blackboard postings)
10%: First Essay: 4–5 pages.
15%: Midterm
20%: Second Essay: 6–7 pages.
30%: Final Exam

Message board: Each week the teaching assistants will distribute questions based on that week's readings. Students are expected to post a response to one of those questions on Blackboard five times during the semester (once for each of the books read in the course).

Late papers: The grades of late papers will be lowered one level for each day they are late (e.g., a grade of B becomes a B- if one day late, a C+ if two days late, etc.).

Absences: If advance notice is provided to the teaching assistant, students who need to miss section can make up for the absence by writing a 2–3 page response paper on that week's assigned readings, due in section the following week. No more than two absences will be excused in this manner.

Ethics: The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. Report any violations you witness to the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of student affairs and/or the chairman of the Ethics Board beforehand.

Disabilities: Any student with a disability who may need accommodations in this class must obtain an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services, 385 Garland, (410) 516-4720, studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu. Please notify the professor and your TA of any requirements during the first week of the semester.

Texts: A number of the readings from the course (denoted with an * in the syllabus) will be available on electronic reserve from the course's blackboard website. The other readings, listed below, are available at the bookstore:

- Thomas Borstelmann, *The 1970s: A New Global History from Civil Rights to Economic Inequality* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012), ISBN #9780691141565.
- Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform: New Deal Liberalism in Recession and War* (New York: Vintage, 1996), ISBN #9780679753148.
- Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era* (New York: Basic, 2008), ISBN #9780465010202.
- Daniel Rodgers, *Age of Fracture* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2011), ISBN #9780674064362.
- Thomas Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, rev. ed., 2005), ISBN #9780691121864.

Teaching Assistants:

- Morgan Shahan: morganjshahan@gmail.com
- Sarah Templier: sarah.templier@jhu.edu
- Tara Tran: taraktran@jhu.edu

Office Hours:

- *Angus Burgin:* Monday from 11:00am–1:00pm in Gilman 338f. Sign up at the following link: <http://doodle.com/85bumvhig6a9e45n>. Also available by appointment on Wednesday afternoons.
- *Morgan Shahan:* Friday from 1:00pm–2:00pm in Mudd Hall atrium.
- *Sarah Templier:* Monday from 11:00am–1:00pm in Gilman atrium.
- *Tara Tran:* Thursday from 10:00am–12:00pm in Mudd Hall atrium.

INTRODUCTION

Monday, January 26: The United States in 1929

No Readings

I. MARKET SOCIETY IN DEPRESSION AND WAR

Wednesday, January 28: Radicalism and Conservatism in the Early New Deal

Primary Readings:

- Franklin Roosevelt, “First Inaugural Address” (4 March 1933) <<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=14473&st=&st1=>>>; “Annual Message to the Congress” (4 January 1935) <<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=14890>>>; “Annual Message to the Congress” (6 January 1941) <<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=16092&st=&st1=>>>.

Secondary Readings:

- Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform*, pp. 3–47.

Monday, February 2: Keynesian Persuasions

Primary Readings:

- *John Steinbeck, “Dubious Battle in California,” *Nation*, September 12, 1936, pp. 302–304.
- *Walter Lippmann, “The American Destiny,” *Life*, June 5, 1939, pp. 47, 72–73.

Secondary Readings:

- Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform*, pp. 48–105.

Wednesday, February 4: Mobilization and War

Primary Readings:

- *Henry Luce, “The American Century,” *Life*, Feb. 17 1941, pp. 61–65.
- “Korematsu v. United States,” December 18, 1944: <<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?court=us&vol=323&invol=214>>.

Secondary Readings:

- Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform*, pp. 137–174.

Monday, February 9: The Beginning of the Nuclear Era

Primary Readings:

- *John Hersey, “Hiroshima” in *The New Yorker*, August 31, 1946, selections.

Secondary Readings:

- Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform*, pp. 227–271.

II: THE CULTURAL POLITICS OF THE COLD WAR

Wednesday, February 11: The Origins of the Cold War

Primary Readings:

- *X (George Kennan), “The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” *Foreign Affairs* 25 (4), July 1947, pp. 566–582.
- *Leo Cherne, “How to Spot a Communist,” *Look*, March 4, 1947, Volume 11, No. 5, pp. 21–25.

Secondary Readings:

- Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound*, pp. 1–38.

Monday, February 16: McCarthy and the Postwar Right

Primary Readings:

- *Joseph McCarthy, “Speech in Wheeling, West Virginia,” 9 February 1950, in *The Age of McCarthyism*, ed. Ellen Schrecker (New York: Bedford, 2002), pp. 238–239.
- **“Publisher’s Statement” and “Credenda,” *National Review*, 19 November 1955.

- *Richard Hofstadter, “The Pseudoconservative Revolt,” *The American Scholar* 24 (Winter 1954–1955), pp. 9–27.

Secondary Readings:

- Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound*, pp. 58–108.

Wednesday, February 18: Conformity and Autonomy in the 1950s

Primary Readings:

- *William Whyte, “Introduction” and “Conclusion,” from *The Organization Man* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002), pp. 3–14, 392–404.
- *Robert Lowell, “For the Union Dead,” in *Life Studies and For the Union Dead* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007) <<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/for-the-union-dead/>>.

Secondary Readings:

- Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound*, pp. 109–152.

*** Friday, February 20: FIRST PAPER DUE ***

Monday, February 23: Toward a Consumer’s Republic

Primary Readings:

- *Randall Jarrell, “A Sad Heart at the Supermarket,” *Daedalus* 89 (Spring 1960), pp. 359–372.
- *Allen Ginsburg, “A Supermarket in California” <<http://www.poetryarchive.org/poetryarchive/singlePoem.do?poemId=1549>>.

Secondary Readings:

- Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound*, pp. 153–216.

III. RACE AND CLASS IN THE AFFLUENT SOCIETY

Wednesday, February 25: Cold War Civil Rights (Lecturer: Morgan Shahan)

Primary Readings:

- *States Rights Democratic Party Platform, 1948 <<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=25851>>.
- *Martin Luther King, Jr., “The Power of Nonviolence,” in *Takin’ it to the Streets: A Sixties Reader*, ed. Alexander Bloom and Wini Breines (New York: Oxford, 2003), pp. 15–18.

Secondary Readings:

- Thomas Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis*, pp. 3–31.

Monday, March 2: Segregation and Desegregation after *Brown*

Primary Readings:

- *Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullet,” in *The Sixties Papers: Documents of a Rebellious Decade*, ed. Judith Clavir Albert and Stewart Edward Albert (New York: Praeger, 1984), pp. 126–132.

Secondary Readings:

- Thomas Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis*, pp. 33–88.

Wednesday, March 4: The Great Society

Primary Readings:

- *Lyndon Johnson, “Remarks at the University of Michigan,” 22 May 1964 <<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=26262&st=&st1=>>.
- *John Kenneth Galbraith, “The Position of Poverty,” in *The Affluent Society* (New York: Mariner, 1998), pp. 234–242.

Secondary Readings:

- Thomas Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis*, pp. 125–152.

Monday, March 9: The Transformation of the Built Environment

Primary Readings:

- *Jean-Paul Sartre, “American Cities,” *Literary and Philosophical Essays* (London: Rider, 1955), pp. 197–205.
- *Jane Jacobs, “Introduction,” *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (New York: Random House, 1961), pp. 3–25.

Secondary Readings:

- Thomas Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis*, pp. 181–229.

*** Wednesday, March 11: MIDTERM ***

Monday, March 23: The Urban Crisis

Primary Readings:

- *Stokely Carmichael, “What We Want,” in *The Sixties Papers: Documents of a Rebellious Decade*, pp. 137–144.
- *Amiri Baraka “Nationalism vs. PimpArt,” in *Raise Race Rays Raze: Essays since 1965* (New York: Random House, 1971), pp. 125–132.

Secondary Readings:

- Thomas Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis*, pp. 231–258.

IV. ORDER AND DISORDER IN AN AGE OF TRANSFORMATIONS

Wednesday, March 25: New Left, New Right

Primary Readings:

- *Students for a Democratic Society, "Port Huron Statement," in Peterman and Weschler, eds., *American Political Thought* (New York: Appleton, 1972), pp. 343–348.
- *Young Americans for Freedom, "The Sharon Statement" (1960).
- *Barry Goldwater, "The Conscience of a Conservative" and "The Perils of Power," from *The Conscience of a Conservative* (Shepherdsville, Ky: Victor, 1960), pp. 9–23.

Secondary Readings:

- Thomas Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis*, pp. 259–271.

Monday, March 30: Vietnam (Lecturer: Tara Tran)

Primary Readings:

- *Michael Herr, "Hell Sucks," *Esquire* (August 1968), pp. 66–69, 109–110.
- *David Halberstam, "The Very Expensive Education of McGeorge Bundy," *Harper's* (July 1969), pp. 21–41.

Secondary Readings:

- Thomas Borstelmann, *The 1970s*, pp. 1-36.

Wednesday, April 1: The Counterculture

Primary Readings:

- *Joan Didion, "Slouching Towards Bethlehem," in *Slouching Towards Bethlehem: Essays* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1968), pp. 84–130.

Secondary Readings:

- Thomas Borstelmann, *The 1970s*, pp. 36–72.

Monday, April 6: Second-Wave Feminism

Primary Readings:

- *Betty Friedan, "The Problem that Has No Name" in *The Feminine Mystique* (New York: Norton, 1997), pp. 57–78.
- *Casey Hayden and Mary King, "Sex and Caste: A Kind of Memo," in *The Sixties Papers: Documents of a Rebellious Decade*, pp. 133–136.
- *Gloria Steinem, "What Would It Be Like if Women Win," in *Takin' it to the Streets: A Sixties Reader*, pp. 399–404.

Secondary Readings:

- Thomas Borstelmann, *The 1970s*, pp. 72–121.

V. THE CONSERVATIVE ASCENDANCY

Wednesday, April 8: Richard Nixon and the Silent Majority

Primary Readings:

- *Hunter S. Thompson, "August," in *Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72*, selections.

Secondary Readings:

- Thomas Borstelmann, *The 1970s*, pp. 122–174.

Monday, April 13: The Environmental Crisis

Primary Readings:

- *Rachel Carson, "Silent Spring I," *The New Yorker*, June 16, 1962, selections.
- *Wendell Berry, "The Whole Horse," in *The Art of the Common-place: The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry* (Counterpoint, 2002), pp. 236–248.

Secondary Readings:

- Thomas Borstelmann, *The 1970s*, pp. 231–247.

Wednesday, April 15: The Culture of Narcissism

Primary Readings:

- *Tom Wolfe, "The 'Me' Decade and the Third Great Awakening," *New York*, 23 August 1976, pp. 26–40.

Secondary Readings:

- Thomas Borstelmann, *The 1970s*, pp. 175–186, 201–208, 270–277, 312–317.

*** Friday, April 17: SECOND PAPER DUE ***

Monday, April 20: The Reagan Revolution

Primary Readings:

- *Milton Friedman, "The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase its Profits," *New York Times Magazine*, 13 September 1970, pp. 32–33, 122–126.
- Ronald Reagan, "A Time for Choosing," 27 October 1964 <<http://www.nationalcenter.org/ReaganChoosing1964.html>>.
- Ronald Reagan, "Remarks at the Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals in Orlando, Florida," 8 March 1983 <<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=41023&st=&st1=>>.

Secondary Readings:

- Daniel Rodgers, *Age of Fracture*, pp. 1–14, 41–76.

VI. THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION AND THE NEW ECONOMY

Wednesday, April 22: After the End of History

Primary Readings:

- *Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History,” *National Interest* (Summer 1989), pp. 3–18.

Secondary Readings:

- Daniel Rodgers, *Age of Fracture*, pp. 15–40.

Monday, April 27: Liberal Democracy and its Discontents

Primary Readings:

- *Robert Putnam, “Bowling Alone,” *Journal of Democracy* 6 (1995), pp. 65–78.
- *David Samuels, “Rock is Dead: Sex, Drugs, and Raw Sewage at Woodstock 99,” *Harper’s* (November 1999), pp. 69–82.

Secondary Readings:

- Daniel Rodgers, *Age of Fracture*, pp. 180–220.

Wednesday, April 29: The World after September 11th

Primary Readings:

- *Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations,” *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993), pp. 22–49.
- *Susan Sontag, in “The Talk of the Town,” *New Yorker*, 24 September 2001 <<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2001/09/24/1256341>>.

Secondary Readings:

- Daniel Rodgers, *Age of Fracture*, pp. 252–272.

***Monday, May 11, 9am–12pm: FINAL EXAM ***