

Themes in American History since 1865
Fighting for Our Rights Cluster, Fall 2015
Course number: ssh102.LC30 CUNYfirst code: 49135
Tues. 10:30 to 12:45 pm and Thurs. 10:30 to 11:30 pm
room c-714

Professor: Dr. Karen Miller
Office: C-459, room EE
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Office Hours: Tues. 3:15-4:15 and by
appointment

Course Description:

This course will examine United States history from the end of the Civil War (1865) to the present with a focus on struggles for justice. In other words, as we explore change over time, we will consider how fights for the expansion of civil, economic, political, social, and cultural rights have helped shape the terrain of the country. We will also examine how questions about race, class, gender, sexuality, nationality and other vectors of difference have contributed to these changes. Geographically, we will conceive of US history broadly. In other words, we will examine developments within the continental boundaries of the United States and within US held territories, as well as struggles over the role of the US in the world.

This course is designed around a series of readings, each of which will provide students with a snapshot of some important issues during a particular period of time. Students will not be asked to memorize facts or dates. Instead, they will be asked to analyze and interpret historical phenomenon and examine change over time. To that end, all of the course assignments are take-home. There will be no in-class exams. Students must complete all assignments to receive a grade in the course.

This course should help to improve the knowledge, critical thinking, and writing skills of each student. The course will largely be based on in-class discussions and occasional audio/visual presentations. Students are strongly encouraged to participate. Questions are always welcome. This course is an honors course. To that end, we will be paying particular attention to the practice and writing of history, as well as the content of the course.

Course Reading:

Reading all of the assigned materials for the class is essential. Class discussions will be based on the readings. Always bring the assigned readings to class.

The reading is college-level, and may require you to use a dictionary. Please do not feel frustrated if you do not already know every word or concept you encounter in the readings. Be patient and allow yourself time to read and re-read. You will be responsible for about 20-25 pages of reading a week. Please allow yourself enough time outside of class to read the material.

All readings will be available in a coursepack which you can buy at the Neko Copy Shop in the basement of the B building, 30-20 Thomson Ave. Ask for the **CLUSTER** packet for Professor Miller's SSH 102 class.

Course Assignments:

In order to receive a grade in the class, you must turn in **ALL** of the assignments. Late assignments will be marked down significantly. All papers must be typed, or they will not be accepted.

Attendance & Participation: 20%

Writing:

First paper	20%
Midterm paper	25%
Final paper	25%
Cluster Research Paper	10%

Class behavior, Attendance, and Participation:

Attendance is mandatory. If you miss more than 2 classes, it will count against you. If you miss more than 6 classes, you will fail. Do not look at your cell phones or write text messages during class. Laptops are not allowed for class use. Please take notes on paper.

Readings and Assignments:

Please come to class prepared, having done the readings assigned for the day.

Week 1 (Sept. 8 & 10): Emancipation and the Struggle for Freedom

1. James Loewen, *Lies Across America* (excerpt).
2. Gregory P. Downs, "Vulnerable at the Circumference: Demobilization and the Limits of the Freedman's Bureau" in *Declarations of Dependence: The Long Reconstruction of Popular Politics in the South*, pages 75-87.

Week 2 (Sept. 17): Reconstruction and Exclusion

3. Kidada E. Williams, "A Long Series of Oppression, Injustice, and Violence: The Purgatory of Sectional Reconciliation" in *They Left Great Marks on Me: African American Testimonies of Racial Violence from Emancipation to World War I* (New York University Press, 2012), pages 55-69.

Week 3 (Sept. 24):

4. Andrew Gyory, "A Mere Question of Expediency: The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882," in *Closing the Gate: Race, Politics, And the Chinese Exclusion Act* (University of North Carolina Press, 1998), pages 242-254.

Week 4 (Sept. 29 & Oct. 1):

5. Jeffrey Ostler, "The Most Serious Indian War of Our History" in *The Plains Sioux and U.S. Colonialism from Lewis and Clark to Wounded Knee* (Cambridge University Press, 2004), pages 289-303.
6. Sven Beckert, "The Rights of Labor The Rights of Property," in *The Monied Metropolis: New York City And the Consolidation of the American Bourgeoisie, 1850-1896* (Cambridge University Press, 2001), pages 273-286.

First paper due Thursday, October 1 in class.

Week 5 (Oct. 6 & 8): Imperialism in the Philippines and the Panama Canal

7. Kristin Hoganson, "The Problem of Male Degeneracy and the Allure of the Philippines," in *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American wars* (Yale, 1998), pages 133-145.
8. Julie Greene, "The Riots of Cocoa Grove," in *The Canal Builders: Making America's Empire at the Panama Canal* (Penguin Press, 2009), pages 303-316.

Week 6 (Oct. 13 & 15): World War I

9. Seema Sohi, *Echoes of Mutiny: Race, Surveillance, and Indian Anticolonialism in North America* (Oxford University Press, 2014), pages Honors: 82-104, Cluster: 82-96.
10. David F. Krugler, "Fighting a Mob in Uniform: Armed Resistance in Washington DC," in *1919, The Year of Racial Violence: How African Americans Fought Back* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), pages 66-81.

Primary Source Description due, Thursday, October 15 in class.

Week 7 (Oct 20 & 22): Around World War II & Postwar Immigration Policies

11. Mae Ngai, "From Colonial Subject to Undesirable Alien: Filipino Migration and the Invisible Empire," in *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (Princeton University Press, 2004), pages 96-109.
12. Libby Garland, "Abolishing the Quotas," in *After They Closed the Gates: Jewish Illegal Immigration to the United States, 1921-1965* (University of Chicago Press, 2014), pages 177-183 and 205-212.

Week 8 (Oct. 27 & 29): Vietnam in the Early 1960s and Civil Rights Struggles

13. Mark Philip Bradley, *Vietnam at War* (Oxford University Press, 2009), "The Coming of the American War," pages 77-89.
14. Sonia Song-Ha Lee, "If You Have a Black Numero Uno, Let's Have a Puerto Rican Numero Dos: Building Puerto Rican and Black Political Power through the War on Poverty," in *Building a Latino Civil Rights Movement: Puerto Ricans, African Americans, and the Pursuit of Racial Justice in New York City* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014), pages 131-145.

Midterm Paper due on Thursday, Oct. 29

Week 9 (Nov. 3 & 5): The Black Panther Party & Puerto Rico in the Cold War

15. Donna Murch, *Living for the City: Migration, Education, and the Rise of the Black Panther Party in Oakland, California* (University of North Carolina Press, 2010), pages 119-131.

16. Andrea Friedman, "A Dependent Independence and a Dominated Dominion," in *Citizenship in Cold War America: The National Security State and the Possibilities of Dissent* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2014) pages 119-131.

Week 10 (Nov. 10 & 12): Sexuality and the Late Twentieth Century

17. Beth Bailey, "Prescribing the Pill," in *Sex in the Heartland* (Harvard University Press, 1999), pages 105-115.
18. Christina Hanhardt, "Butterflies, Whistles, and Fists: Safe Streets Patrols and Militant Gay Liberalism in the 1970s," in *Safe Space: Gay Neighborhood History and the Politics of Violence* (Duke University Press, 2013), pages 81-94.

Thursday, Nov. 6: Secondary Source Analysis Due

Week 11 (Nov. 17 & 19): The "Tough on Crime" 1980s

19. Naomi Murakawa, "The Era of Big Punishment: Mandatory Minimums, Community Policing, and Death Penalty Bidding Wars," in *The First Civil Right: How Liberals Built Prison America* pages 113-125.
20. Doug Rossinow, "The Election of Willie Horton," in *The Reagan Era: A History of the 1980s* (Columbia University Press, 2015), pages 241-254.

Week 12 (Nov. 24):

21. Daniel HoSang, "'Special Interests Hijacked the Civil Rights Movement': Affirmative Action and Bilingual Education on the Ballot, 1996-2000," in *Racial Propositions: Ballot Initiatives And the Making of Postwar California* (University of California 2010) pages 160-174.

Week 13 (Dec. 1 & 3): Early 21st C.: Transformation of the American South & the Iraq War

22. Mary E. Frederickson, "Transformation and Resistance in the Nueva New South," in *Looking South: Race, Gender, and the Transformation of Labor from Reconstruction to Globalization* (University Press of Florida, 2011), pages 183-195.
23. Michael MacDonald, *Overreach: Delusions of Regime Change in Iraq* (Harvard University Press, 2014), 183-196.

Integrated Research Paper due on Thursday, December 3

Week 14 (Dec. 8):

24. Rose George, *Ninety Percent of Everything: Inside Shipping, the Invisible Industry That Puts Clothes on Your Back, Gas in Your Car, and Food on Your Plate* (Macmillan, 2013), Introduction and chapter 1, pages 1-13.

Friday, December 11: Final Paper due – please put a hard copy in my mailbox