

Hunter College
History 38267: War and Society in Twentieth-Century America
(Spring 2021)

Professor Jonathan Rosenberg
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Office Hours: TBA

This discussion-based class examines the impact war has had on twentieth-century American society and culture. In exploring the subject, the class will focus on four conflicts: World Wars I and II, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War. Among the subjects the class will consider are these: In what ways has war intersected with questions of race relations, ethnicity, family life, the arts, and gender and sexuality? We will also consider the link between war and politics. While the continental United States experienced no battles in the twentieth century, this course points to the idea that, in myriad ways, war has had a crucial and perhaps a transformative impact upon the country's social, cultural, and political life.

Course Requirements

There will be **two classes** each week. The Tuesday class, which is asynchronous, will comprise a mixture of pre-recorded lectures, films, and required readings. These various activities should be completed prior to the Thursday meeting. On Thursdays, we will meet on Zoom in real time, from 5:35 to 6:50 pm. Readings for the Tuesday and Thursday classes should be completed prior to our Thursday Zoom meeting. **Note: To access the pre-recorded lectures for the course, go to: link TBA.**

In addition to completing the readings and watching the films and recorded lectures, you will be required to write **two papers** based on the various activities we have engaged in throughout the semester (readings, discussions, lectures, and films). Note that no additional reading will be required to write the three papers; that is, all papers will draw on material you have encountered in class. **The first paper (approx. 4-5 pages) is worth 35% of your grade; the second paper (approx. 6-7 pages) is worth 65% of your grade. To pass the course, students must submit both papers. If a student does not submit the two papers, it will not be possible to pass the course. Papers submitted after the due date and time will be penalized 5 points per day.**

Course Learning Outcomes

- > Students will be expected to understand the history of war's impact on life in twentieth-century America.
- > Students will learn how to read, understand, and evaluate secondary sources.
- > Students will learn how to read and interpret primary sources.
- > Students will learn how to utilize primary and secondary sources to write clear, persuasive, and grammatically correct essays. In so doing, students will focus on the keys to good academic writing: framing a sound historical question; composing a clear introduction that includes an effective thesis statement; building an effective argument in the body of the essay; and writing a convincing conclusion.

Note on the availability of course readings: All readings will be available electronically. Readings marked with an * are accessible through the Hunter Library. We will discuss how to access the other readings.

Class Schedule

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| February 2 | Read: *Susan Brewer, <i>Why America Fights: Patriotism and War Propaganda from the Philippines to Iraq</i> , 46-86.
(We will discuss this reading on February 11.) |
| February 4
ZOOM | Introduction: Course themes and requirements.
Discussion: Why study history? War and society in twentieth-century America. |

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WORLD WAR I

- February 9 Watch recorded lecture: Wilson and the Road to War
Read: *Ronald Schaffer, *America in the Great War: The Rise of the War Welfare State*, 3-30, 75-95.
*Jonathan Rosenberg, "For Democracy, Not Hypocrisy: World War and Race Relations in the United States, 1914-1919," *International History Review XXI* (September 1999): 592-625 (JStor).
Two primary sources.
- February 11 Home Front Developments and Race Relations
Discuss: Brewer, Schaffer, Rosenberg, primary sources.
- February 16 Watch recorded lecture: Wilson and the Peace Settlement
Read: Jonathan Rosenberg, *Dangerous Melodies: Classical Music in America from the Great War through the Cold War*, 3-85.
Two primary sources.
- February 18 Xenophobia – Anti-Germanism
ZOOM Discuss: Rosenberg, *Dangerous Melodies* and primary sources.
- February 23 Professors and Painters
Read: *Schaffer, 127-148.
*David M. Lubin, *Grand Illusions: American Art and the First World War*, 1-104.
- February 25 Discuss: Schaffer and Lubin.
ZOOM

WORLD WAR II

- March 2 Watch recorded lecture: FDR and the Road to War
Read: *Brewer, 87-140.
*William Tuttle, *Daddy's Gone to War: The Second World War in the Lives of America's Children*, pp. 3-48, 69-90, 148-161.
*Elaine Tyler May, "Rosie the Riveter Gets Married" (on e-reserve).
https://libguides.library.hunter.cuny.edu/er.php?course_id=72153
Password: rosenberg382.
- March 4 Women, Children, and the Family
ZOOM Discuss: Brewer, Tuttle, May.
Paper # 1 questions circulated

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- March 9 Watch recorded lecture: The American Home Front in World War II
Read: *David Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945*, pp. 746-797.
*PrimarySources
e-reserve: https://libguides.library.hunter.cuny.edu/er.php?course_id=72153
Password: rosenberg382.
- March 11 Japanese Internment
ZOOM Discuss: Kennedy and primary sources.
- March 16 “The War of Machines”
Read: *Kennedy, pp. 615-668.
*Primary Sources (e-reserve: Password: rosenberg382).
- March 18 African Americans and American Women
ZOOM Discuss: primary sources (on e-reserve as above).

THE COLD WAR

- March 23 Watch recorded lectures: The Origins of the Cold War and The Second Red Scare.
Read Richard Hofstadter, “The Paranoid Style in American Politics.”
Rosenberg, *Dangerous Melodies*, 277-319.
Joseph McCarthy speech, February 8, 1950.
Paper # 1 Due at 12:00 noon (via e-mail)
- March 25 Discuss: The Second Red Scare
ZOOM Hofstadter, Rosenberg, McCarthy speech.
- March 27 Spring break
– April 4 Over spring break, read *Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy*, pp. 3-151.
- April 6 Watch recorded lecture: Civil Rights
Continue reading *Cold War Civil Rights*
- April 8 The Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement
ZOOM Discussion: *Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights*
- April 13 Cold War Patriotism
Read: *Richard Fried, *The Russians are Coming! The Russians are Coming!*, pp. 1-117.
- April 15 Cold War Patriotism
ZOOM Discussion: *Fried, *The Russians are Coming!*

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- April 20 Watch film: "The Day After."
The Cold War Family
Read: *Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era*, pp. TBA.
- April 22 The Cold War Family
ZOOM Discussion: *May, *Homeward Bound*.

THE VIETNAM WAR

- April 27 Watch recorded lecture: America and the Vietnam War
Read: *Brewer, 179-229.
Essays by Small and DeBenedetti.
- April 29 The Antiwar Movement
ZOOM Discussion: *Brewer and 2 essays.
Paper # 2 question circulated
- May 4 The Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War
Watch recorded lecture: Civil Rights and the Vietnam War.
Read and listen to Martin Luther King's Riverside Church speech (April 4, 1967).
Primary Sources.
- May 6 Discussion: King speech and primary sources.
ZOOM
- May 11 The Vietnam War in America
Read: Primary Sources.
Continue working on final papers (we will discuss the papers on May 13).
- May 13 Last Class – Discussion: primary sources and the final paper
ZOOM
- May 17 Paper # 2 due by 5:00 pm (via email)**
Monday

Policies on Accommodations, Academic Integrity/Plagiarism, and Sexual Misconduct

1. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: "In compliance with the ADA and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational access and accommodations for all its registered students. Hunter College's students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation. For information and an appointment contact the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, or call (212) 772-4857 or (212) 650-3230."

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E-mail: AccessABILITY@hunter.cuny.edu Web: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/student-services/access>

2. Hunter College/CUNY and the History Department's Statement on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: "Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

Note: Any student in this course who is found to have plagiarized a paper will receive an F for the course.

"Plagiarism is a very serious academic offense which will result in penalties ranging from reduction of class grade to failure in the course. Plagiarism occurs when the ideas and words, published or unpublished, of others are presented as one's own without citing the original source. Plagiarism also occurs when the papers, research, or works of another person are presented as one's own work."

Please see the full Statement on Plagiarism on the Department's website:
<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/history/departmental-policy-on-plagiarism/>

The CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity can be found here:

<http://catalog.hunter.cuny.edu/content.php?catoid=32&navoid=7677>

Please see the RWC explanation of Documentation Citation and Plagiarism:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/rwc/repository/files/the-documented-essay/guides-to-research-and-writing-from-sources/Quotation-Paraphrase-Plagiarism.pdf>

3. Hunter College's Policy on Sexual Misconduct: "In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

- a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).
- b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

The CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct can be found here:
<http://catalog.hunter.cuny.edu/content.php?catoid=32&navoid=7602>