

## **HIS 361W/461 America and the World II**

Spring 2019

M 2:00-4:40pm

**Instructor:** Brianna Theobald

**Contact Info:** brianna.theobald@rochester.edu

454 Rush Rhees Library

**Office Hours:** W 1:30-2:30pm and by appointment

This reading seminar explores modern U.S. history within a global context. Through readings and discussions, we will consider two central questions: How has the United States shaped the world, and how has the world shaped the United States? The course is open to advanced undergraduate students and graduate students. PhD students who plan to take the exam for the US II teaching field will find this course especially valuable, as most of the assigned readings are on my US II reading list.

### **Course Requirements:**

Reading: Students are expected to read the assigned text(s) for each class session. In order to be adequately prepared for class, you must have spent time thinking seriously about the required reading. As we move through the semester, your engagement with weekly reading should also include a consideration of how a given text relates to and/or diverges from previous readings.

Class Discussions: Students are expected to attend every class, and absences will be excused only in exceptional circumstances. A significant portion of your grade will derive from my assessment of your participation in class discussions. Plan to participate actively and thoughtfully in every class session. One student will assume the responsibility for leading the discussion in any given week; each of you will do so multiple times throughout the semester. Generally speaking, class discussions work best when students take the initiative and engage with one another, and my involvement remains minimal.

Written Work: Students will submit two written assignments for this course. The first—due via email on Friday, March 8 at 5pm—is an 8- to 10-page historiographical essay that explores a theme that you have identified in the assigned reading for weeks 1 through 7. If you are enrolled in HIS 361W, the W requires that at least one written assignment includes a revision process. I will provide feedback on your first essay by Monday, March 11, and your revised essay will be due by noon the Friday after spring break (3/22).

The second written assignment—due via email on Friday, May 3 at 5pm—is a 10- to 12-page essay that responds to a prompt that I will distribute to you via email immediately following the conclusion of class April 22 (week 14). This essay will be cumulative; I'll expect you to engage with a significant number of our readings throughout the semester.

### **Course Policies:**

Late work will be accepted only in the rarest of circumstances.

I'm happy to make accommodations as recommended by UR Disability Services. Should you require accommodations, I encourage you to make these arrangements sooner rather than later.

All students are expected to demonstrate academic integrity. My plagiarism policy is simple: don't do it. There is no quicker way to earn my ire, and I will report all suspected cases to the University's Board on Academic Honesty. That said, I am happy to discuss any and all questions you may have about what does and does not constitute plagiarism, provided this conversation occurs *before* you submit the assignment.

**Course Schedule:**

Week 1 (January 21):

NO CLASS—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Please read: Matthew Karp, *This Vast Southern Empire: Slaveholders at the Helm of American Foreign Policy* (Harvard, 2016), intro & epilogue

Week 2 (January 28):

Heather Cox Richardson, *West from Appomattox: The Reconstruction of America After the Civil War* (Yale, 2007)

Week 3 (February 4):

Allison Sneider, *Suffrage in an Imperial Age: U.S. Expansion and the Woman Question, 1870-1929* (Oxford, 2008)

Week 4 (February 11):

Daniel Rodgers, *Atlantic Crossings: Social Politics in a Progressive Age* (Harvard, 1998)

Week 5 (February 18):

David Kennedy, *Over Here: The First World War and American Society* (Oxford, 2004 [1980])

Week 6 (February 25):

Ira Katznelson, *Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time* (Liveright Publishing Co., 2013)

Week 7 (March 4):

Connie Chiang, *Nature Behind Barbed Wire: An Environmental History of the Japanese American Incarceration* (Oxford, 2018)

**Paper 1 due via email Friday 3/8 at 5pm.**

Week 8 (March 11):

SPRING BREAK—No class.

Week 9 (March 18):

Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (Princeton, 2004)

Week 10 (March 25):

Keisha Blain, *Set the World on Fire: Black Nationalist Women and the Global Struggle for Freedom* (Penn, 2018)

Week 11 (April 1):

Daniel Cobb, *Native Activism in Cold War America: The Struggle for Sovereignty* (Kansas, 2008)

Week 12 (April 8):

Michelle Nickerson, *Mothers of Conservatism: Women and the Postwar Right* (Princeton, 2012)

Week 13 (April 15):

Jeremi Suri, *Power and Protest: Global Revolution and the Rise of Détente* (Harvard, 2003)

Week 14 (April 22):

Sean Wilentz, *The Age of Reagan: A History, 1974-2008* (HarperCollins, 2008)

Week 15 (April 29):

NO CLASS MEETING.

**Final papers due via email Friday 5/3 at 5pm.**