This course is designed for declared history majors with junior standing, and is limited to those history juniors (or declared American Studies juniors with a history concentration) who have completed two previous courses in history at Reed College.

The Great Depression (1929-1941) was a watershed event of the twentieth century. Students will explore a range of secondary texts and primary documents that focus on key events and different historical approaches to the study of this era. Topics include the expansion of executive power under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the establishment of federal programs and agencies to deal with the effects of the Depression (commonly known as "the New Deal") and the growth of labor unions. We will also examine political and popular culture in this period, including documentary photography produced under the auspices of federal programs, commercial radio, and Hollywood movies.

The main task of students in this seminar is to pay close attention to how the authors employ various sources, including census data, letters and diaries, oral history testimony, social scientific surveys, to support their arguments. The readings, library seminars, Junior Seminar Web site and
tutorial, and my occasional lectures, are meant to prepare students to design and research a topic, compose a selected bibliography and review essay, and write and revise a thirty (30)-page research paper by the end of this term. You will read course material and undertake their own research for the first eight weeks of the course, then spend the remaining weeks writing, revising and presenting your research at different stages. You will be graded on your participation in discussions, bibliography and historiographical review essay, and final paper. Class participation will include serving as editor for one of your classmates' rough drafts, and your short oral presentation on your argument to be scheduled for the final weeks of the course.

Course deadlines:
Friday, September 15 ONE PAGE DESCRIPTION OF PAPER TOPIC DUE
Friday, October 6 HISTORIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW ESSAY DUE (TWO COPIES)
Wednesday, November 15 ROUGH DRAFTS DUE--ONE COPY EACH TO PROFESSOR AND STUDENT EDITORS
Tuesday, November 21 ROUGH DRAFTS, WITH COMMENTS, TO BE RETURNED TO STUDENTS BY ALL EDITORS IN CLASS BY THIS DATE
REVISED FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

Please note that this course is part of the Mellon Library Research Project, which is a collaborative effort between members of the History and Social Sciences faculty and the Reed College Library. This project is designed to familiarize Reed students with library research methods and sources in preparation for thesis research during the senior year. As a part of this project, a series of four workshops on library research have been incorporated into this course, and a web site has been created to assist students in researching and writing the History junior seminar paper. The intent of the project is not to add to the already considerable academic requirements of the History junior seminar, but to help students who are writing the seminar paper to locate and access needed research materials in an effective and timely manner.

Course books (available on library reserve and for purchase at the Reed bookstore):

Cheryl Greenberg, "Or Does It Explode?: Black Harlem in the Great Depression" (1991)

**Week One**
Tuesday, August 29
Introductory Lecture: Why Do We Read and Write About History?

Required reading:


Suggested for further reading:
"The Great Depression," (1993) PBS documentaries (seven parts) [In Reed IMC]
Richard Pells, *Radical Visions and American Dreams: Culture and Social Thought in the Depression Years* (1973)
Alan Brinkley, *Voices of Protest: Huey Long, Father Coughlin, and the Great Depression*
American Social History Project,*Who Built America? Volume Two* (Pantheon, 1992)

Origins and Comparisons: Overview of the Period
Thursday, August 31

Begin required reading:

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Week Two
September 5

Required reading:
Finish Edsforth, *The New Deal: America's Response to the Great Depression*

September 7
Required Library Seminar.
Meet in the Library Seminar Room (L221, the second floor room above the entrance to the library) at the regularly scheduled class time. The librarians will provide research strategies to help you define a topic for your research paper.

Week Three
The Rise of Organized Industrial Labor
September 12 & 14

Required reading:
Lizabeth Cohen *Making A New Deal: Industrial Workers in Chicago*, 1919-1939

ONE PAGE DESCRIPTION OF PAPER TOPIC DUE Friday, September 15

Suggested for further study:

Week Four
Farm Workers and the Depression

September 19
Required Library Seminar.
Meet in the library computer lab (Room L18, across the hall from the IRCs) at class time.

Begin required reading:
Suggested for further study:
Donald H. Grubbs, *Cry From the Cotton: The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union and the New Deal* (University of Arkansas Press, 1971)

September 21
Finish Weber, *Dark Sweat, White Gold*
Devra Weber, "Raiz Fuerte: Oral History and Mexicana Farmworkers,"

Week Five
Representing The Thirties: Official Culture
September 26 & 28

Required reading:
Paula Rabinowitz, *They Too Must Be Represented: The Politics of Documentary*
Introduction, Chapters 2, 3 & 4

Note:
The History Matters Web site [http://historymatters.gmu.edu](http://historymatters.gmu.edu) "Under the Magnifying Glass" which features a discussion of the problem of using photographs as historical evidence. This prototype uses Farm Security Administration photos of the 1930s as an example. Students should make sure to look at this site while reading Rabinowitz.

Suggestions for further reading:
Lawrence Levine. "The Historian and the Icon: Photography and the History of the American People in the 1930s & 1940s," in *The Unpredictable Past*
Barbara Melosh, *Engendering Culture: Manhood and Womanhood in New Deal Public Art and Culture* (Smithsonian Institution, 1991)
Richard Wright and Edwin Rosskam, *12 Million Black Voices* (Viking, 1941)
Week Six
Women and Gender in the 1930s
October 3

Required reading:
19-54.
[Note: Students should download this article from JSTOR-see a librarian if you have not yet done this.]
OR Click on this link to find the JStor Database:
http://simeon.library.reed.edu/resources/ejrn1l_collections.html

October 5
Required Library Seminar.
Meet in the Library Seminar Room (L221, the second floor room above the entrance to the library) at the regularly scheduled class time.

Suggested for further study:
Susan Ware, Beyond Suffrage: Women in the New Deal (Cambridge, MA, 1981)
Susan Ware, Holding Their Own: American Women in the 1930s (Twayne, 1982)
Lois Scharf, To Work & To Wed: Female Employment, Feminism & the Great Depression
History as Women's History (1998): 87-106.
Suzanne Mettler, Dividing Citizens: Gender and Federalism in New Deal Public Policy
(Cornell University Press, 1998)

Friday, October 6
HISTORIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW ESSAY DUE (TWO COPIES)

Week Seven
Media and Popular Culture in the 1930s: Film and Radio
October 10

Required article:

Required film:
"The Grapes of Wrath" [U.S., 1940. Dir. John Ford. 129 min., b/w. 20th Century Fox.]
[We will screen this outside of class, or students may watch it on their own. Note that the film will be the topic of today's discussion.]
Suggested films:
"City Lights" [U.S., 1931. Dir. Charles Chaplin. 87 min., b/w. United Artists]
"Gone With the Wind" [U.S., 1939. Dir. Victor Fleming. 217 min. color, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer]
"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" [U.S., 1939. Dir. Frank Capra. 126 min., b/w. Columbia Pictures.]

A fourth, required library seminar will meet on this day, outside of class time. One of the librarians will have looked over copies of your HISTORIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW ESSAY and will provide strategies to help you find additional material.

October 12

Required article:
Margaret McFadden, "'America's Boyfriend Who Can't Get a Date': Gender, Race and the Cultural Work of the Jack Benny Program, 1932-1946," Journal of American History 77:1 (September 1990): 596-608. [Note: Students should download this article from JSTOR.]
Suggested for further study:
Richard Pells, *Radical Visions and American Dreams: Culture and Social Thought in the Depression Years* (Wesleyan University Press, 1973)
Warren Susman, "The Culture of the Thirties" and "Culture and Commitment" in *Culture As History* (Pantheon, 1984)

A third required library seminar will meet this week, outside of class time. One of the librarians will have looked over copies of your HISTORIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW ESSAY and will provide strategies to help you find additional material.

FALL BREAK--OCTOBER 14-22

*Week Eight*
October 24 & 26
Required reading:
Cheryl Greenberg, *"Or Does It Explode?": Black Harlem in the Great Depression*

Suggestions for further reading:
Mark Naison, *Communists in Harlem During the Depression* (University of Illinois Press, 1983)

*Week Nine*
Assessing the Depression and New Deal
October 31 & November 2

Required reading:

Suggestions for further reading:

**Week Ten**
November 7 & 9
CLASS WILL NOT MEET--WORK ON YOUR ROUGH DRAFTS
(I will hold office hours for Junior Seminar students during the regular course meeting time.)

**Week Eleven**
November 14 & 16
CLASS WILL NOT MEET--ROUGH DRAFTS DUE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15.
One copy of the paper should be delivered to my office; you are responsible for getting copies to your assigned student editors by November 15. Your required assignment this week is to read and comment on your colleagues' papers.

Friday, November 17 TBA
Professor Linda Gordon of NYU will meet with interested history juniors and seniors.

**Week Twelve**
Tuesday, November 21
Class will meet--attendance is required--lottery for presentations to be held.
ROUGH DRAFTS, WITH COMMENTS, TO BE RETURNED TO STUDENTS BY ALL EDITORS IN CLASS BY THIS DATE.

Class will not meet on Thursday, November 23--Thanksgiving

**Week Thirteen**
November 28 & 30
Students (chosen by lottery) will begin presentations of their arguments

Last Class meeting: Tuesday, December 5
Students (chosen by lottery) will finish presentations of their argument

REVISED FINAL PAPERS DUE MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

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