

DRAFT SYLLABUS

HIST 93
The New Deal's Global History

Department of History
Tufts University
Spring 2010

Wednesday, 1:30-4:00 PM

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INTRODUCTION

This foundation seminar introduces historiography and historical writing through an exploration of the complicated and contested evolution of the New Deal. While it has remained a byword for reform in U.S. public life, its broader international origins, connections, and missions largely have been forgotten or ignored. By reading and critically evaluating works of history on these diverse facets, students will see there was not one New Deal but many, with numerous legacies, including those that continue to be debated today. We will explore how different styles and methods of writing history and a variety of perspectives lead to very different histories of one particular historical issue. We will also critically discuss how historical research supports different assertions. Beyond basics of craft, a goal of the course is to expose them to the plural nature of history and historical debate.

READINGS:

All books are available at the Tufts University bookstore for purchase. Students are also encouraged to utilize online booksellers. All books and other required readings (see synopsis) are on reserve at Tisch Library. Students are encouraged to utilize the recommended readings (on reserve in Tisch) to provide background and insight into a complicated historical issue.

Required

Anthony Badger, *The New Deal: The Depression Years, 1933-1940*
Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *Three New Deals*
Daniel Rodgers, *Atlantic Crossings*
Ira Katznelson, *When Affirmative Action Was White*
Elizabeth Borgwardt, *A New Deal for the World*

Amity Shlaes, *The Forgotten Man*

Suggested

Piers Brendon, *The Dark Valley: A Panorama of the 1930s*

Patricia Clavin, *The Great Depression in Europe, 1929-1939*

David Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945*

David E. Kyvig, *Daily Life in the United States, 1920-1940*

ASSIGNMENTS

Critical Reaction Papers (6): These 2-3 page essays are due when we introduce a new reading. They are to provide a thoughtful review of each reading in context with issues and ideas raised in the course or in other readings.

Research Review Papers (6): These 1-2 page essays are due when we critically discuss a particular work. In these you take a critical perspective brought by the author and interrogate it by reviewing sources (preferably primary) used by the historian to buttress their argument.

Course Presentation: Each week a student (or set of students) must start discussion by reviewing and offering their own perspectives on the week's reading and topic.

Class Discussion/Participation: This is the most important components of the course. All students should be active, energetic participants in our discussions. This means being present in body and spirit at all class meetings.

Class discussion itself will be broken in two parts. Each reading will be discussed over two class meetings. The first meeting will focus on how an author (or authors) represent and argue a particular view of a historical issue. The second meeting will focus on the mechanics of how that argument was made and supported.

Critical Reaction Papers	30%
Research Reviews	30%
Presentation	15%
Discussion/Participation	25%

COURSE SYNOPSIS

Week 1

January 27

Course Introduction: Let's Make a Deal

Watch: *The Grapes of Wrath* (selections, in class)

Week 2

February 3

What's the (New) Deal?

Read: Badger

Week 3

February 10

Dealing with Depression

Critical Discussion of Badger

Week 4

February 17

Was the New Deal New? Global origins and influences

Read Rodgers

Week 5

February 24

New Worlds, New Deals: Other very different and not so different options for reform

Critical Discussion of Rodgers

Week 6

March 3

A Few Deals?

Read Schivelbusch,

Week 7

March 10

A Deal Among Deals.

Critical Discussion of Schivelbusch

Week 8

March 17

A New Deal for Some? Race and Reform

Read Katznelson

Week 9

March 24

SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS

Week 10

March 31

A Raw Deal for Others?

Critical Discussion of Katznelson

Week 11

April 7

A Big Deal: The New Deal as human rights, justice, and global order

Read Borgwardt

Week 12

April 14

The New Deal at Large

Critical Discussion of Borgwardt

Week 13

April 21

Reshuffling the New Deal? Arguing the New Deal(s)

Read Shlaes

“Scholarly Controversy: Rethinking the Place of the New Deal in American History,” *International Labor and Working Class History* (Fall 2008). Journal available online.

Week 14

April 24

Conclusion: What was the big Deal? Or the New Deals' Legacy

Critical Discussion of Shlaes, *ILWCH*, and the concept of New Deal reform