

HISTORY 374
AMERICA IN DEPRESSION AND WAR

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Fall 2011, Th 17:30-21:10
Abby C1423

Prerequisites: HIST 242 or HIST 243; and either six additional credits of lower-level history or 42 additional university-level credits.

Content: This course will examine Americans' responses to the Great Depression and World War II, and the transformative impact that these crises had on American society. We will explore the New Deal's assertion of state responsibility for the economic welfare of citizens, the contested nature of that fundamental shift in American political culture, and some of the main areas of policy intervention (including agricultural reforms and public works). In the second half of the semester we will turn to America's early response to the world conflict, then to the full-scale engagement that followed the attack on Pearl Harbor. Special attention will be given to mobilization for war; the experiences of women, racial and religious minorities, and conscientious objectors; and the perspective of soldiers at the front. The course will conclude with an examination of wartime visions of the postwar world.

Format: This course will combine lectures with students' discussion of assigned readings. Laptops will not be allowed while class is in session.

Main texts:

Polenberg, Richard. *The Era of Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933-1945: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford Series in History & Culture). Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000.

Winkler, Allan M. *Home Front U.S.A.: America during World War II*, Second Edition. Wheeling, Illinois: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 2000.

Hess, Gary R. *The United States at War, 1941-1945* (The American History Series), Third Edition. Wheeling, Illinois: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 2011.

Murray, Sylvie (with commentary by Robert D. Johnston). *Writing World War II: A Student's Guide*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2011.

Select articles, essays, and two monographs.

Assignments:

Participation in class discussion	10%
Commentaries on assigned readings	25%
Essay based on primary documents	20%
Book review I	20%
Book review II	25%