

AMERICAN RADICALISM*

***Note: this is a tentative syllabus subject to slight modifications – class meeting time may also be altered if enough students prefer another time**

The course will cover a number of radical social, political, and artistic movements in Twentieth Century America. A focus on the first two decades of the century will center around the poet, journalist, and revolutionary, John Reed, and his circle in Greenwich Village. Topics will include his and their involvements with artistic experimentation, the Industrial Workers of the World, the Mexican Revolution, the Russian Revolution, and the movements for birth control and against American involvement in World War. Other areas of concentration will be Great Depression of the thirties, with its leftist political and labor actions, and the free wheeling radicalism of the sixties, including the anti Viet Nam protests, Students for a Democratic Society, and the ethnic struggles for social and political equality.

Readings:

Bookstore:

Robert A. Rosenstone, *Romantic Revolutionary: A Biography of John Reed*
Timothy P. McCarthy and John McWilliams, *The Radical Reader*
Edward P. Morgan, *The 60s Experience*

On Reserve:

Milton Cantor, *The Divided Left*
John P. Diggins, *The American Left in the Twentieth Century*
John Reed, *The Collected Works of John Reed*

Website:

Many essays, articles, and chapters from books will be posted on the course website. Please check it regularly.

Requirements:

1. Attendance and participation in class discussions. 20 percent of grade.
2. A short (500 word) paper before midterm. This is essentially a proposal for your final paper, and should outline your subject and your approach, and include a bibliography. 10 percent of grade.
3. 3500-4000 word term paper on a topic you choose - and approved by instructor. 50 percent of grade.
4. Oral presentation to the class of your paper. 20 percent of grade.

Weekly Schedule:

April 2: Organization meeting

THE ROOTS OF RADICALISM

9: *19th Century Utopians, Abolitionists, Populists, Socialists, Anarchists etc*

Read: *Radical Reader*, pages tba

LYRICAL RADICALS, WORLD WAR, REVOLUTION

16: *Counter Culture, Labor Unions, World War*

Read: Rosenstone, *Romantic Revolutionary*, 1-200; *Radical Reader*, 281-313;

Reed, "The Capitalist," "Where the Heart Is," "A Taste of Justice,"

"Mac-American," "A Trader's War"

Suggested: Diggins, *American Left*, 39-80

23: *Emma Goldman and the Anarchist Critique*

Read: Emma Goldman, "What I Believe," "Marriage and Love," "Outrage at San Diego," "There is No Communism in Russia."

Screen: *Emma Goldman: An Exceedingly Dangerous Woman*

Suggested: Dubofksy, "The Radicalism of the Dispossessed"

30: *Russian Revolution and US Repression*

Read: Rosenstone, *Romantic Revolutionary*, 201- 389; "Reds as History," and

Chapter 5, "Telling Lives," from *History on Film / Film on History*

Screen: sections from *Reds*

27: 5 P.M. BRIEF PAPER DUE

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THE THIRTIES: DEPRESSION DECADE

May 7: *The Old Left*

Read: Diggins, *American Left*, 107-152; Cantor, *Divided Left*, 97-149; Kempton, *Part of Our Time*, chapters 3 and 9;

May 14: ***The Spanish Civil War***
Screen: *The Good Fight*
Read: Rosenstone, *Crusade of the Left*, chapters 2-5, 12, 16-17
Student presentations

THE SIXTIES EXPERIENCE:

May 21: ***Students, Blacks, Vietnam***
Read: Morgan, *60s Experience*, 1-167; *Radical Reader*, 352-400, 463-514
Suggested: Diggins, *American Left*, 155-94
Student presentations

28: ***Counter Culture, Feminism***
Read: Morgan, *60s Experience*, 168-286; *Radical Reader*, 421-461
Student presentations

June 4: NOON - FINAL PAPER DUE