

History 175  
Fall 2014  
TT 2:45-4:00  
Humanities 105

Professor Liss  
Hum. 214, x73541  
Office Hours:  
T 4:15-5:30; W 10:30-12:00

### War, Empire, and Society in the U.S., 1898-Present

The United States is a country born of war, defined and remade by conflict. During the past century, as the United States developed as a world power and was transformed socially and economically, these conflicts also brought to the surface tensions between expansionism and democratic values in a heterogeneous society. This course will explore American political culture through an investigation of the roots and impact of war on American society from the so-called “Spanish-American” War to, roughly, the present. It will focus on domestic issues rather than foreign policy or military history *per se*. Of particular concern will be the relationship between war and American ideals and ideology, national security and civil liberties, reform and dissent, gender, sexuality, violence, racism, imperialism and national identity, nuclear culture, and the formation of a political culture through the memory of war.

This course fulfills the Scripps GE requirement in Gender and Women’s Studies. It employs feminist perspectives on power and focuses on gender and sexuality as central to the history of war, empire and social change.

The following books are available at Huntley Bookstore and are on reserve at Honnold Library:  
Do not buy ebooks for this course.

Christian Appy, Patriots: The Vietnam War Remembered from All Sides  
Christopher Capozzola, Uncle Sam Wants You: World War I and the Making of the Modern Citizen  
Robert Jay Lifton and Greg Mitchell, Hiroshima in America: Half Century of Denial  
Catherine Lutz, Homefront: A Military City and the American 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
Melani McAlister, Epic Encounters: Culture, Media & U.S. Interests in the Middle East since 1945 (*updated edition*)  
Studs Terkel, “The Good War”: An Oral History of World War Two

Other readings on the syllabus (marked with an asterisk \*) are available on Sakai in the Resources folder.

The following films will be screened outside of class (arrangements TBA):

“Prelude to War” (1943)  
“The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter” (1980)  
“Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story” (2000)  
“Atomic Café” (1982)  
“Hearts and Minds” (1974)  
“The War at Home” (1979)  
“The Invisible War” (2012)

Information on course learning objectives, requirements, grading policy and academic accommodations is on the next page.

**Course learning objectives:** In this course, students will

- become familiar with the importance of war and empire in modern U.S. history;
- understand how gender and sexuality in relationship to race and citizenship are central to this history;
- understand and develop historical arguments (class participation, written work);
- understand and interpret primary sources (class participation, written work)
- articulate historical arguments in a group discussion (class participation and Sakai postings);
- develop clear, analytical writing— in a synthetic essay (papers #1 and #2) and by using primary and secondary sources in an independent essay (paper #3);
- develop historical research skills (paper #3)

**Requirements and grades:**

Class participation, including attendances	20%
Sakai postings	10%
Presentation: sign ups TBA	10%
Paper #1 (5 pages) due Friday, Oct. 3, by 5 p.m	15%
Paper #2 (5 pages) due Friday, Nov. 21, by 5 p.m.	15%
Paper #3 (10 pp.) due on Dec. 19 by 12 p.m.	30%

**Participation:** The course is a seminar. This means that each class will consist of a discussion of the readings. Students should bring assigned readings to class and come prepared to participate in the discussion. Students should not bring laptops or other devices to class, except in the case of academic accommodations—see below.

**Sakai postings:** Once a week, every student is required to post questions, comments, or responses to the readings by 9 a.m. of the day of class in the forums tool on Sakai. The purpose of this assignment is to help focus and motivate our discussion and to demonstrate that you are prepared for class. These postings should be informal: the purpose is to provide you a space to share your views and queries and to focus our discussion. They should also be interesting: they should engage the reading and articulate an issue that you want to pursue.

**Presentation:** Each student is responsible for presenting material for one class discussion and, drawing on sakai postings of other students, providing questions for discussion.

**Paper #1:** A 5-page paper based on readings for weeks 1-5.

**Paper #2:** A 5-page paper based on readings for weeks 6-12

**Paper #3:** A 10-page research paper on a topic of the student's choice. Students will utilize historical documents in the Claremont Colleges Special Collections. More information to follow.

**Academic accommodations:** Scripps students seeking to receive academic accommodations must meet with Sonia De La Torre-Iniguez, [sdelator@scrippscollege.edu](mailto:sdelator@scrippscollege.edu), in the Dean of Students Office. Accommodations may not be provided for students who have not registered through the Dean of Students Office. Other students must contact their home college's disability coordinator to establish accommodations. CMC:

[julia.easley@claremontmckenna.edu](mailto:julia.easley@claremontmckenna.edu); Pitzer: [Jill\\_Hawthorne@pitzer.edu](mailto:Jill_Hawthorne@pitzer.edu);

Pomona: [Jan.Collins-Eaglin@pomona.edu](mailto:Jan.Collins-Eaglin@pomona.edu); Harvey Mudd: [nayers@hmc.edu](mailto:nayers@hmc.edu)

## **Week 1: Introduction**

**Sept. 2:** Introductory meeting  
Handouts: The course in the present moment

**Sept. 4:** \*Grandin, Empire's Workshop (2006), selections  
\*Enloe, "Being Curious about Our Lack of Feminist Curiosity" (2004)  
\*Lutz, "Making War at Home in the U.S." (2002)

## **Weeks 2-3: The "Spanish-American" War & the Problem of Empire**

**Sept. 9:** \*McKinley, war message (1898)  
\*Schurz, "American Imperialism" (1899) pp. 3-15  
\*Platform of the American Anti-Imperialist League (1899)  
\*Addams, "Democracy or Militarism" (1899)  
\*Aguinaldo's Case Against the U.S." (1899)

**Sept. 11:** \*Gatewood, Smoked Yankees (1898-1902), selections  
\*Newman, "Women's Rights, Race, and Imperialism" (2007)  
Library of Congress, "The Spanish American War in Motion Pictures"  
<http://www.loc.gov/collection/spanish-american-war-in-motion-pictures/about-this-collection/#overview>

**Sept. 16:** \*Beveridge, "In Support of American Empire" (1901)  
\*Hoganson, "Cosmopolitan Domesticity, Imperial Accessories" (2007)

**Sept. 18:** \*Briggs, Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science & U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico (2002), selections  
\*Renda, Taking Haiti (2001), selections

## **Weeks 4-5: The First World War: Citizenship, Rights and Dissent**

**Sept. 23:** Capozzola, Uncle Sam Wants You (2010), Intro, ch. 1-4  
\*Wilson, "Appeal for Neutrality" (1914) and "War Message" (1917)

**Sept. 25:** \*Du Bois, "World War and the Color Line" (1914); "Awake America" (1917)  
"Close Ranks" (1918); and "Returning Soldiers" (1919)  
\*Gompers, "American Labor's Position in Peace or War" (1917)  
\*World War I posters

**Sept. 30:** Capozzola, ch. 5-end

**Oct 2:** \*Schenck v. U.S. (1919)  
\*Addams, "Peace and Bread in Time of War" (1922)

**Oct. 3:** **Paper #1 due by noon**

## **Week 6: Militarization and the Making of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Oct. 7:** Lutz, Homefront (2001), Intro., ch. 1-3

**Oct. 9:** Lutz, ch. 4-end

## **Week 7: World War II: The War Over America**

**Oct. 14:** **Film: “Prelude to War,” (Frank Capra, dir., 1943)**

\*Roosevelt, war address (1941) (audio:

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/fdrpearlharbor.htm>)

\*Roosevelt, “The Four Freedoms” (1941) (audio:

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/fdrthefourfreedoms.htm>

\*Westbrook, “Fighting for the American Family” (2010)

**Oct. 16:** **Film: “The Life & Times of Rosie the Riveter,” (Connie Field, dir., 1980)**

\*Dailey, “The Sexual Politics of Race in World War II America” (2012)

\*Minear, Dr. Seuss Goes to War (1941-1943), selections

\* Randolph, “Call to Negro America” (1941)

\*Pittsburgh Courier, “Double V Campaign” (1942)

## **Weeks 8-9: The Contested “Good War” in Memory and Motive**

**Oct. 21:** **No class—fall break**

**Oct. 23:** Terkel, The “Good War” (1984), pp. 3-97, 135-185, 198-224, 558-573 (and browse)

\*Gregg, “Pacifist Program in Time of War” (1939)

\*Benedict, “Why We Refused to Register” (1941)

**Oct. 28:** **Film: “Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story,” (Eric Paul Fournier, dir., 2000)**

\*Ngai, ““An Ironic Testimony of the Value of American Democracy”” (2007)

\*Documents on Japanese internment

**Oct. 30:** \*Stimson, “Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb” (1947)

Lifton and Mitchell, Hiroshima in America (1996), Intro, Pt. I

## **Week 10: Living and Dying with the Bomb**

**Nov. 4:** **Film: “The Atomic Café,” (Jayne Loader, dir., 1982)**

Lifton and Mitchell, Hiroshima in America (1995), Pt. II, III, Pt. IV, Coda, Afterword, Appendix

**Nov. 6:** \*Canaday, The Straight State (2009), selections

\*May, Homeward Bound (1988), selections

\*Swerdlow, “Ladies’ Day at the Capitol: Women Strike for Peace” (1982)

\*Hoover, Testimony (1947)

\*Lardner, Testimony (1947)

### **Week 11: A Conspiracy So Immense: Anti-Communism and the Homefront**

- Nov. 11:** \*Dudziak, “*Brown* as a Cold War Case” (2004)  
\*Isserman and Schrecker, “‘Papers of a Dangerous Tendency’” (2006)  
\*Dennis v. U.S. (1951)  
\*Julius and Ethel Rosenberg v. U.S. (1951)

- Nov. 13:** **Film: “Hearts and Minds,” (Peter Davis, dir., 1974)**  
\*Appy and Bloom, “Vietnam War Mythology” (2001)  
\*Espiritu, “The ‘We-Win-Even-When-We-Lose’ Syndrome” (2006)

### **Week 12: Vietnam: Americanism at Home and Abroad**

- Nov. 18:** Appy, *Patriots* (2003), Preface, pp. 3-31, 200-220, 238-261, 285-327, 343-376; pp. 142-155, 262-278, 328-342 [377-429, 515-549]

- Nov. 20:** **Film: “The War at Home,” (Glen Silber, dir., 1979)**  
\*King, “Beyond Vietnam—A Time to Break the Silence” (1967) (audio:  
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkatimetobreaksilence.htm>)  
\*Mariscal, *Aztlan and Viet Nam* (1999), selections  
\*Gitlin, “Achievement of the Anti-War Movement” (1989)

- Nov. 21:** **Paper #2 due by 3 p.m.**

### **Week 13: Watergate and Its Legacies: “The Most Dangerous Man in America”**

- Nov. 25:** \*Readings on Watergate and the National Security State  
\*Potter, “Queer Hoover: Sex, Lies, and Political History” (2006)

- Nov. 27:** **No class: Final paper prospectuses due before Thanksgiving**

### **Weeks 14-15: History in/and the Present**

- Dec. 2:** McAlister, *Epic Encounters* (2005), Prefaces (both), Intro., ch. 2, 4  
\*Bush, George H.W., “Address to the Nation on Invasion of Iraq” (1991) (audio:  
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/ghwbushiraqinvasion.htm>)  
\*Bush, George W., “Address to the Nation: Ultimatum to Saddam Hussein” (2003) (audio:  
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/wariniraq/gwbushiraq31703.htm>)

- Dec. 4:** McAlister, ch. 5-concl.  
\*Appy, “Ghosts of War” (2004)

- Dec. 9:** **Film: “The Invisible War,” (Kirby Dick, dir., 2012)**  
\*Jeffords, “Rape and the New World Order” (1991)  
\*Rosenberg, “Rescuing Women and Children” (2002)

- Dec. 19:** **Final papers due by 12 p.m.**