Course Description and Topics

Between 1914 and 1945, the global order as it had existed in the nineteenth century imploded, laying waste to imperial Europe and launching the United States to superpower status. Domestically, the federal government exploded in size; anarchy, socialism, and communism were on the rise; Jim Crow reached its apogee; wartime production demands pushed African Americans from the South; the “new immigration” remade the urban North; women gained the right to vote; and mass production changed the lives of millions.

This semester, we’ll dissect the broader (and darker) implications of what many argue was the most “triumphant” period in U.S. history, paying attention to race, class, gender, & environment.

Dr. Erin Mauldin

EMAIL: emauldin@mail.usf.edu

OFFICE: Snell House, main floor

OFFICE HOURS: MW 11 am – 1 pm

Please stop by during my office hours, or any time by appointment, if you have questions about the material, the assignments, or require assistance in any way. I’m just as addicted to my smartphone as you are, so email is a typically reliable way to get questions answered.
Required texts

All are available in the USFSP bookstore, and of course, via any online bookseller. E-books are acceptable. Additional readings will be posted on Canvas.


Course Assignments

- Participation (10%)
- Exams (15% each)
- Imagining History portfolio (20%)
- Past in the Present Essay (15%)
- Reading responses (10%)

A detailed explanation of all essays, quizzes, and other assignments is posted on Canvas

Grading Scale

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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<td>F</td>
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“The urge to save humanity is almost always only a false-face for the urge to rule it.”

—H.L. Mencken

1956
Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate knowledge of major events in U.S. History between 1900 and 1945

Students will discuss and analyze the role of the U.S. in global history, and the impacts other nations’ histories have had on the U.S.

Students will contextualize current headlines using current knowledge through both oral and written modalities

Students will synthesize sources common to historical methodologies and communicate that information effectively in both written and oral forms

The professor reserves the right to alter or modify the class schedule at any time during the semester.

You will be notified of such changes in advance via email and Canvas.

A Note on Technology

Consider this class an ancient technology zone. You will not be allowed to use laptops, computers, or tablets to take notes unless you have an academic accommodation for a specific technology. You will take notes the old-fashioned way: with pen and paper. Learn to doodle.

As you would expect, all cell phones should be placed on silent when you enter the classroom. Classes and lectures may not be recorded without my permission.

Attendance

This is a seminar which requires your presence. I expect you to be in class and actively participating at every class meeting. Merely attending does not satisfy the “participation” requirement—you must be informed and engaged.
**Course Policies**

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is the foundation of the University of South Florida System’s commitment to its university community. Broadly defined, academic honesty is the completion of all academic endeavors and claims of scholarly knowledge as representative of one’s own efforts. **PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask. The process for faculty reporting of academic misconduct, as well as the student’s options for appeal, are outlined in detail in USF System Regulation 3.027: [http://www.usf.edu/undergrad/documents/academic-policies/1academic-integrity-of-students.pdf](http://www.usf.edu/undergrad/documents/academic-policies/1academic-integrity-of-students.pdf).

**Disability Services:** Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) (SVC 1133) in order to receive academic accommodations. SDS encourages students to notify instructors of accommodation needs at least 5 business days prior to needing the accommodation. A letter from SDS must accompany this request.

**Grievances:** The purpose of these procedures is to provide all undergraduate and graduate students taking courses within the University of South Florida System an opportunity for objective review of facts and events pertinent to the cause of the academic grievance. An “academic grievance” is a claim that a specific academic decision or action that affects that student’s academic record or status has violated published policies and procedures, or has been applied to the grievant in a manner different from that used for other students.

**Disruption:** Disruptive students in the academic setting hinder the educational process. Disruption of the academic process is defined as the act, words, or general conduct of a student in a classroom or other academic environment which in the reasonable estimation of the instructor: (a) directs attention away from the academic matters at hand, such as noisy distractions, persistent, disrespectful or abusive interruption of lecture, exam, academic discussion, or general University operations, or (b) presents a danger to the health, safety, or well-being of self or other persons.

**Title IX:** USF is committed to providing an environment free from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence ([USF System Policy 0-004](http://www.usf.edu/undergrad/documents/academic-policies/1academic-integrity-of-students.pdf)). The USF Center for Victim is a confidential resource where you can talk about incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. This confidential resource can help you without having to report your situation to either the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSSR) or the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity (DIEO), unless you request that they make a report.

Please be aware that in compliance with Title IX and under the USF System Policy, I must report incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence.

If you disclose any of these situations in class, in papers, or to me personally, I am required to report it to OSSR or DIEO for investigation. For confidential services, contact the USF Center for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention: (813) 974-5757.
Schedule of Classes

August 21: Introduction to course and the world before the war
August 23: Outbreak of War
  + Tactical demo
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August 28: “America First”
August 30: Changes on the Homefront
  + Discussion: Uncle Sam Wants You, Chapters 1-3
____________
September 4: Doughboys in the trenches
September 6: Connecting battlefield to home front
  + Discussion: Uncle Sam Wants You, 4-6
____________
September 11: A New World Order?
September 13: Post-war maneuvers
  + Discussion: Primary sources, Excerpt from War and Nature (Canvas)
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September 18: “Americans Only”
September 20: Exam 1
____________
September 25: Strange Fruit
September 27: The Great Migration
  + Discussion: Warmth of Other Suns, pp. 1-122
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October 2: Discussion: Warmth of Other Suns, pp. 123-237
October 4: Guest
October 9: Dancing in the Dark
October 11: The Crash
  + Discussion: Warmth of Other Suns, pp. 238-350
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October 16: Discussion of Essays
  + 2 Imagining History Pieces Due
October 18: The Great Depression
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October 23: Warning signs
October 25: Exam 2
____________
October 30: 1939-1941 and the U.S.
November 1: Nothing Left to Fear…
  + Discussion: The Best War Ever,
    Chapters 1-4
____________
November 6: War in the Pacific
November 8: The Pacific
____________
November 13: War in Europe
November 15: The Good War?
  + Discussion: War Without Mercy (Canvas)
____________
November 20: Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree
  + Past in the Present Essay DUE
____________
November 27: A Crisis of Humanity
  + Discussion: The Best War Ever,
    Chapters 5-7
Final exam & Imagining History Portfolio DUE