20TH CENTURY READING LIST (1.31.13)

Overview

The following reading list provides a general overview of the subjects and texts that students should study in preparing to write the twentieth century portion of American and US Minor and Major exams.

How to use the reading lists

Like our PDR courses, our exam reading lists divide American history into three broad periods: The Colonial Era; the Nineteenth Century, and the Twentieth Century. Exam questions will likewise cover these three broad periods, although some questions may ask you to think across periods Please use all three reading lists to develop your own personalized exam reading lists.

Beginning well in advance of the planned exam date, you should develop, update and personalize your own reading lists to include any recently published works not yet on the departmental lists, as well as any texts you consider central to your own field. You can plan your exam reading by marking off texts that you have read and the texts you plan to read. You will not be expected to master all the books and articles on all three of the lists, but you should have some command of most of the subject areas.

Once you have put together your own annotated and updated version of the lists you should meet with your examiners to discuss and review your personalized lists and reading plan. Such meetings should occur well in advance of your exam date and will allow you to confirm that your lists are up-to-date, and include a suitable selection of texts.

Please submit a final copy of your updated and approved lists to your examiners (and to Dawn Ruskai) when you hand in your completed exam.

1. The U.S. and the World (1898-1941)


2. **The Progressive Era: Politics, Society, and Culture**


Glenda E. Gilmore, ed., *Who were the Progressives?* (Historians at Work), Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2002.


Robyn Muncy, *Creating a Female Dominion in American Reform, 1890-1935*, Oxford University Press, 1991


3. **The Depression and the New Deal**

Jefferson Cowie and Nick Salvatore, “The Long Exception: Rethinking the Place of the New Deal in American History,” and responses by Klein, MacLean, and Montgomery, *International Labor and Working-Class History* (Fall 2008)


4. **Race Relations, Ethnicity, Migration and Urbanization 1890-1941**


5. **WWII: The Home Front and Global Struggles**


6. The Cold War and the Globalization of American Culture


Robert Dean, Imperial Brotherhood: Gender and the Making of Cold War Foreign Policy, University of Massachusetts Press, 2003.


Daniel Horowitz, Betty Friedan and the Making of the Feminine Mystique: The American Left, the Cold War, and Modern Feminism, University of Massachusetts Press, 1998.


Melvyn Leffler, For the Soul of Mankind: The United States, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War, Hill and Wang, 2008.


7. **Postwar America: Culture and Society**


8. **Postwar America: Labor and Politics**


9. The Black Freedom Struggle: The Modern Civil Rights Movement and Black Power


10. **The Long 1960s: Collective Action and Politics -- Left, Center, and Right**


11. Late 20th Century: Political Economy and Culture in a Postindustrial, Postmodern Society


**Syntheses/20th Century Overviews**


