U.S. History in the Age of Roosevelt
Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00-3:15 pm, Physics 144

HIST 535 (schedule # 21554) Fall, 2012
Professor Andrew Wiese
Office: 531 Arts and Letters
Office Hours: TTh, 9:00-10:00am; W, 2:00-3:00pm
Telephone: 594-3358 Email: awiese@mail.sdsu.edu

Required Reading (available at the Aztec Shops):
Lizabeth Cohen, Making a New Deal: Industrial Workers in Chicago, 1919-1939 (1990)
Mildred A. Kalish, Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm during the Great Depression (2007)
Required Readings on Blackboard.

Course Requirements:
1. Attendance, contribution to discussion, and classroom assignments. (20 percent)
3. Midterm examination: in-class, October 25. (20 percent)
5. Final examination, Thursday, December 13, 1:00-3:00pm (20 percent)

Graduate Students: please consult the instructor for the assignment of extra work.

What to expect:
History 535 explores the history of the United States from the 1920s through World War Two. During these years, Americans experienced both economic abundance and the concussion of the Great Depression; they reformed the role of government in their lives; they fought a war across the globe, and they remade the nation’s place in world affairs. At home, diverse Americans participated in a “mass society” that homogenized cultural experiences and restructured traditional social distinctions. At the same time, Americans struggled over the meaning and practice of race in ways that both eased and encouraged racial inequality. In all of these areas – the five principal themes of our course – Americans restructured their society in ways that continue to shape the contemporary United States.

Class sessions will include a mixture of lectures, discussions, films and other classroom assignments. On days when I lecture, I encourage students to pose questions, observations or objections at any time. Some days we will devote entirely to discussion of assigned readings, documents, or films. I will expect every student to attend class, to carefully read and annotate the course reading, to actively engage the class lectures, discussion, and audio-visual materials, and to contribute in an informed manner to all class activities. These activities are essential to satisfactory performance in the class (i.e., your grade).

Course objectives:
By the end of the course, students should be able to:
- Explain the causes, consequences, and historical interpretations of the Great Depression
- Explain the main causes, policies, and results of the New Deal.
- Explain the main causes and results of World War II at home and overseas.
- Explain the main causes and consequences of the shift toward a “mass society”
- Explain significant changes and continuity in the meaning and practice of race during this period.
- Recognize and assess the relationships among these themes.
- Evaluate and interpret primary evidence for all of the above.
- Assess and draw appropriate historical connections between this period and our own.
- Find, contextualize, and interpret primary sources; use them to build historical arguments.
- Write college-level prose with increased fluency.

**Academic integrity:**
It should go without saying that **academic integrity is expected of every student**. Students caught cheating on an exam or other assignment will, at minimum, receive a zero for the assignment and may receive an F for the semester. The same standard will apply to cases of plagiarism – that is, formally representing someone else’s words or ideas as your own. Examples of plagiarism may include copying language – key words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs – ideas, or general organization from an unacknowledged source, and multiple authorship of the same or substantially similar papers. The recycling of graded work from another course for which you have received credit is also unacceptable. All material drawn from outside sources must be cited using Chicago/Turabian bibliographic style (for Chicago style see the History Department website: http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/histweb/undergraduate_program/writing_guides.htm). Academic dishonesty may be grounds for dismissal from the University, and each case will be judged according to its severity. See the SDSU General Catalogue, 2012-13 for more on academic integrity at SDSU.

**The Course:**

**Week 1:** Aug. 28 Introduction
Aug. 30 The 1920s and the Modern Era

**Reading:** (Please bring assigned reading material and detailed notes with you to class each week.)
- David Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear*, 10-34;
- begin Lizabeth Cohen, *Making a New Deal*, 1-9, 99-211

**Week 2:** Sept. 4 Workers in the New Era - discussion
Sept. 6 The End of an Era: The Crash

**Reading:**
- Cohen, *Making a New Deal*, 1-9, 99-211
- Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear*, 34-69

**Week 3:** Sept. 11 Herbert Hoover and the Great Depression
Sept. 13 The First Hundred Days

**Reading:**
- Cohen, *Making a New Deal*, 213-49
- Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear*, 70-103
- Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear*, 104-59

**Week 4:** Sept. 18 A New Deal for America
Sept. 20 The Second New Deal

**Reading:**
- Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear*, 177-189
- Cohen, *Making a New Deal*, 251-89; Fireside Chat, 1934 (BB)
- Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear*, 213-27, 249-88

**Week 5:** Sept. 25 Film: "Mean Things Happening"
Sept. 30 Workers Make a New Deal – discussion

**Reading:**
- Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear*, 288-323
- Cohen, *Making a New Deal*, 324-60

**Week 6:** Oct. 2 Rural America in the 1930s

**Reading:**
- Kalish, *Little Heathens*, chpts 1, 4, 5, 8-11 (skip the recipes if
you like); Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear*, 190-213

**Oct. 4**  
Everyday life in the 1930s  
*Reading*: Kalish, *Little Heathens*, chpts 13-16, 17, 19-22  
FSA Photographs (BB)

**Week 7:**  
**Oct. 9**  
"Fanfare for the Common Man": A New Deal for the Arts  
Studs Terkel, *Hard Times*, selections (BB)

**Oct. 11**  
The Depression in Words and Images – discussion  
*Film*: *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Ford (1940)

*Four page essay due*: Remembering the Great Depression

**Week 8:**  
**Oct. 16**  
Life in the Jim Crow South  
*Reading*: Documents on Blackboard (BB)

**Oct. 18**  
Chicano Los Angeles in the 1930s  
*Reading*: George Sanchez, *Becoming Mexican American*, 209-69 (BB)

**Week 9:**  
**Oct. 23**  
The New Deal in Retrospect  
*Reading*: Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear*, 323-80

**Oct. 25**  
Midterm Exam

**Week 10:**  
**Oct. 30**  
Isolationism  
Nov. 1  
Thunder on the Horizon – Film: "Prelude to War”  
*Reading*: Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear*, 381-464

**Week 11:**  
**Nov. 6**  
Arsenal for Democracy  
Nov. 8  
Women and War – Film: "Rosie the Riveter”  
*Reading*: Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear*, 465-515, 615-55

**Week 12:**  
**Nov. 13**  
War in the Pacific – Film: "The War"  
Nov. 15  
Hollywood’s War – Film: “Guadalcanal Diary”  
*Reading*: Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear*, 516-64, 809-35

**Week 13:**  
**Nov. 20**  
Race and the War at Home  
*Reading*: Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear*, 746-97  
Nov. 22  
Thanksgiving – No Class

**Week 14:**  
**Nov. 27**  
Diplomacy and the Grand Alliance  
Nov. 29  
The Yalta Conference  
*Reading*: Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear*, 565-614, 669-86, 685-708 (skim if you wish), 798-809

**Week 15:**  
**Dec. 4**  
The Ultimate Weapon  
*Reading*: Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear*, 655-68, 835-58  
Dec. 6  
The Age of Roosevelt in Retrospect

*Group Projects Due: Thursday, December 6, in class.*

*Final Examination: Thursday, December 13, 1:00-3:00pm*