Seminar in 20th Century U.S. History
Wednesday, 4:00-6:40 pm, Arts and Letters 566

HIST 630  (Schedule # 21564)       Fall, 2012
Professor Andrew Wiese
Office: 531 Arts and Letters
Office Hours: TTH, 9:00-10:00am; W, 2:00-3:00pm
Phone: 594-3358; email: awiese@mail.sdsu.edu

Required Reading: (available at the Aztec Shops).
Matthew Klingle, Emerald City: An Environmental History of Seattle (2007)

Course Requirements:
1. Attendance, contribution to discussion, in-class assignments (20 percent).
2. Weekly discussion duties: Prepared presentations and 3 short papers (1,000 words each) (30 percent)
3. Research proposal and bibliography, due Oct. 17 (5 percent)
4. Oral presentation of research prospectus, Nov. 28 or Dec. 5 (5 percent)
5. Research prospectus and primary source analysis, due Dec. 7 (15 pages): (40 percent)

History 630 is a graduate seminar focusing on recent scholarship in 20th century United States Urban History, which has been one of the most exciting areas of investigation in modern U.S. historiography during the last 25 years. Areas of exploration in this field have included the histories of suburbanization, metropolitan political economies, the role of the state, and critical changes in U.S. politics, and the links between all of these and the making of social distinctions such as race, class, and gender. At the core of much of this work has been the reemergence of U.S. political history through the lens of urban social history and the ‘spatial turn’ that has shaped recent historiography in general.

The course will meet weekly on Wednesday afternoons for a critical discussion of books drawn from this field. Students will play a key role in building these discussions. Each week, three student “discussants” will prepare concise reports (5 minutes max.) that will serve as points of departure for the week’s conversation. Discussants will report separately on the thesis, methodology, and theory evident in the assigned reading. Each presentation will situate the week’s reading within the literature and close with two broad questions to initiate discussion. Another student will be assigned the role of secretary, responsible for keeping thorough minutes of the discussion. The secretary will open the next meeting with a very brief (3-4 minute) summary of the main points developed in the previous meeting. In addition to the preparation I expect from discussants, I will expect every student to attend class, to contribute routinely and thoughtfully to discussion, and to be prepared to appraise the quality of the weekly reports. Students will be allowed one excused absence, but I will reduce student grades in proportion to each additional absence.
It should go without saying that **academic integrity is expected of every student**. Students found to have plagiarized their work will, at minimum, receive a zero for the assignment and may receive an F for the semester. For those unaware, plagiarism involves the misrepresentation of someone else’s words or ideas as one's own. Examples include, but are not limited to, copying languages -- paragraphs, sentences, phrases, verbs -- ideas, or general organization from a printed source, copying the same from another student, and multiple authorship of the same or substantially similar papers. All material drawn from outside sources must be cited using Chicago style (see http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html). Academic dishonesty may be grounds for dismissal from the University, and each case will be judged according to its severity. If you have any questions about academic integrity at San Diego State University, see the [SDSU General Catalogue, 2012-13](#).

**The Course:**

**Week 1**: August 29  
Introduction to the Course:

**Week 2**: September 5  
(Please bring assigned reading and detailed discussion notes to class each week.)

**Week 3**: September 12  

**Week 4**: September 19  

**Week 5**: September 26  

**Week 6**: October 3  
Reading: David Freund, *Colored Property* (2007)

**Week 7**: October 10  
Reading: Carl Nightengale, *Segregation* (2012)

**Week 8**: October 17  

* Final Research Prospectus proposal due in class

**Week 9**: October 24  

**Week 10**: October 31  

**Week 11**: November 7  

**Week 12**: November 14  
Reading: Individual Meetings with Instructor
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<th>Week 13:</th>
<th>November 21</th>
<th>Library Day – work on final Research Prospectus</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14:</td>
<td>November 28</td>
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* Research Prospectus and Primary Source Analysis Due: Friday, December 7, 3pm, 531 Arts and Letters (under the door).