

HIST 4388-003
Radicals and Revolutionaries in Modern American History
Fall 2012



Instructor: Kenyon Zimmer

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Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 3:00pm-5:00pm

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Tues. and Thurs., 12:30-1:50 University Hall 14

Description of Course Content: This course examines the various movements that, following the Civil War, sought to radically alter the political and economic structure of the United States. The questions we will explore include: What were the similarities and differences between radical ideologies like anarchism, syndicalism, socialism, communism, and black power? What did these groups want and how did they hope to achieve their goals? What circumstances gave rise to radicalism, and who was attracted to it? What impact have these movements had on American society, and how do they continue to influence it today?

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course students will be able to a) identify the major periods and shifts in the history of American radicalism; b) discern the key concepts and differences between radical ideologies; c) critically analyze the history of radical movements; d) recognize the ways in which the past has shaped our present; and e) articulate coherent historical arguments and support them with appropriate evidence.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:

- Michael Kazin, *American Dreamers: How the Left Changed a Nation* (selections)
- James R. Green, *Death in the Haymarket*
- Nick Salvatore, *Eugene V. Debs: Citizen and Socialist*
- Helen C. Camp, *Iron in Her Soul: Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and the American Left*
- Van Gosse, *Rethinking the New Left: An Interpretative History*
- Additional online readings to be posted on BlackBoard

Note: Copies of these books are also available on reserve in Central Library, where they can be checked out for three hours at a time. In addition, the following two reference works are also on reserve for your convenience:

- Mari Jo Buhle, Paul Buhle, and Dan Georgakas, eds., *Encyclopedia of the American Left*
- Margaret DiCanio, ed., *Encyclopedia of American Activism, 1960 to the Present*

Descriptions of Major Assignments:

- **Weekly Response Paragraphs:** Each Tuesday, unless otherwise noted, students will come to class with an informal paragraph-length response to the weekend's readings. These will be shared with the class and turned in for credit.
- **Discussion Leader:** Each Thursday class session, unless otherwise noted, will include a discussion led by one or two students. This means that they will a) prepare at least five open-ended discussion questions (i.e. not questions with simple factual or yes/no answers) based on that week's course material, b) email their questions to Dr. Z and to their co-leader (if they have one) by no later than 5:00pm on the Wednesday before the discussion, and c) facilitate (with the aid of Dr. Z, as needed) an in-depth discussion based off of these questions. Each student will volunteer to be a discussion leader once over the course of the term.
- **Research Paper Proposal:** 1-page proposal outlining the topic of your Final Research Paper. Due on September 27.
- **Research Paper Draft:** Full first draft of your Final Research Paper. Due on November 8.
- **Final Research Paper:** Historical research paper of at least 10 full pages on a movement, individual, or event relating to the topic of this course. Due on December 4.

Attendance: Because this is an upper-level course with a focus on class discussions and only meets twice a week, attendance is crucial. More than two unexcused absences will begin to detract from your grade.

Grading: Your final grade will be calculated according to the following:

- Attendance and class participation: 40%
- Weekly response paragraphs: 20%
- Discussion Leader: 10%
- Final Research Paper: 30%

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

Late Assignments: Unless you have a documented excused absence (a medical or family emergency or a conflicting university commitment), assignments will be docked 10% for each day they are turned in past the due date.

BlackBoard: This course will utilize the online application Blackboard. To access the course on Blackboard, go to <http://elearn.uta.edu/> and login with your NetID and password. Click on the name of the course in the upper left module after logging in.

If you have any problems logging in, contact the Help Desk (helpdesk@uta.edu). Review the Student Resources page (<http://www.uta.edu/blackboard/students/index.html>). This site

contains valuable information that will acclimate you to your course and the Blackboard environment.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. **If you plagiarize material in your assignments, you will automatically receive an F for the course and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, which may impose additional sanctions.**

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Course Schedule

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled. –Kenyon Zimmer

Week 1: Introduction—Defining “Radical” and “Revolutionary”

Thurs. Aug. 23

Week 2: The Civil War and Early American Socialism

Tues. Aug. 28: **Kazin**, Introduction and 39-85

Thurs. Aug. 30: **Green**, 3-52

Week 3: The Socialist Labor Party (SLP), the Knights of Labor, and the International Working People’s Association (IWWA)

Tues. Sept. 4: **Kazin**, 85-87, 90-98; **Green**, 53-101

Thurs. Sept. 6: **Green**, 102-159

Week 4: Anarchism and the Haymarket Affair

Tues. Sept. 11: **Green**, 160-230

Thurs. Sept. 13: **Green**, 231-299

Week 5: Eugene V. Debs: Union Leader

Tues. Sept. 18: **Salvatore**, 1-55

Thurs. Sept. 20: **Salvatore**, 56-113

Week 6: Eugene V. Debs: Socialist

Tues. Sept. 25: **Salvatore**, 114-177

Thurs. Sept. 27: **Salvatore**, 179-219; **Research Paper Proposal due**

Week 7: The High Point of American Socialism and the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)

Tues. Oct. 2: **Kazin**, 109-122, 129-134; **Salvatore**, 220-261

Thurs. Oct. 4: **Camp**, Prologue and 1-46; **Kazin**, 124-129

Week 8: “Bohemian” Radicalism and the First Red Scare

Tues. Oct. 9: **Camp**, 47-85; **Kazin**, 134-146

Thurs. Oct. 11: **Salvatore**, 262-302; **Camp**, 87-109

Week 9: The Russian Revolution, the Communist Party, and the Sacco-Vanzetti Case

Tues. Oct. 16: **Salvatore**, 303-345; **Camp**, 109-123

Thurs. Oct. 18: **Camp**, 125-167; **in-class film**, *Sacco and Vanzetti*; no Discussion Leaders

Week 10: Communism, the Popular Front, and HUAC

Tues. Oct. 23: **Kazin**, 155-204

Thurs. Oct. 25: **Camp**, 169-220

Week 11: McCarthyism and the End of the "Old Left"

Tues. Oct. 30: **Camp**, 221-270

Thurs. Nov. 1: **Camp**, 271-326; **Kazin**, 204-208

Week 12: Origins of the New Left

Tues. Nov. 6: **Gosse**, 1-52

Thurs. Nov. 8: **Research Paper Draft due** (submit an electronic copy to SafeAssign on BlackBoard before class, and a paper copy in class); **in-class film** TBA; no Discussion Leaders

Week 13: Student Radicalism and Black Power

Tues. Nov. 13: **Gosse**, 53-109

Thurs. Nov. 15: **Gosse**, 111-151

Week 14: Women's Liberation, Sexual Liberation

Tues. Nov. 20: **Gosse**, 153-210; **Kazin**, 248-251

Thurs. Nov. 22: **Thanksgiving Break**, no class

Week 15: The "New New Left": From Seattle '99 to Occupy Wall Street

Tues. Nov. 27: **Kazin**, 252-263; **online reading** TBA

Thurs. Nov. 29: **Online reading** TBA

Week 16: Presentation of Final Research Papers

Tues. Dec. 4: **Research Paper due** (submit an electronic copy to SafeAssign on BlackBoard before class, and a paper copy in class); no Response Paragraphs