

HIST 3346
Radicalism in Modern America
Spring 2015



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Office Hours: Thurs., 3:00pm-6:00pm

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Tues. and Thurs., 12:30-1:50pm, University Hall 008

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: The following books are required. One copy of each is also on reserve in Central Library, where they can be checked out for two hours at a time.

- **Paul Alkebulan**, *Survival Pending Revolution: The History of the Black Panther Party*
- **Helen C. Camp**, *Iron in Her Soul: Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and the American Left*
- **Van Gosse**, *Rethinking the New Left: An Interpretative History*
- **James R. Green**, *Death in the Haymarket: A Story of Chicago, the First Labor Movement and the Bombing that Divided Gilded Age America*
- **Nick Salvatore**, *Eugene V. Debs: Citizen and Socialist*

- Additional assigned articles and book sections are available online or through the course [BlackBoard](#) page, in the “Course Readings” folder.

Descriptions of Major Assignments:

- **Weekly Response Paragraphs and Questions:** Before midnight on each Wednesday evening, unless otherwise noted, students will log onto [BlackBoard](#) and, in the “Response Paragraphs and Questions” tab, submit 1) a paragraph-length response to the week’s readings (what did you find most interesting or surprising, and why?), 2) a discussion question you would like to pose to the rest of the class, and 3) any other questions or clarifications about the readings you would like answered. The response paragraphs will be private and graded on a credit/no credit basis, but I will incorporate the questions in class as best I can.
- **Research Paper Proposal:** 1-page proposal outlining the topic of your Final Research Paper. Due on February 26.
- **Research Paper Draft:** Full first draft of your Final Research Paper. Due on April 14.
- **Final Research Paper:** Historical research paper of at least 10 full pages about a movement, individual, or event relating to the topic of this course. Due on May 7.

Attendance: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this course, I will take attendance, which will be factored into your participation grade.

Grading: Your final grade will be calculated based on:

- Class participation
- Weekly response paragraphs and questions
- Final Research Paper

The percentage of your final grade based on each category will be determined by students on the first day of class, and then posted on the course [BlackBoard](#) page.

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.

Plagiarism: Students who plagiarize material in their assignment will also automatically receive in an F for this course, and be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. The revolution will not be plagiarized!

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://www.uta.edu/aao/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.

Title IX: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses 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.

UT Arlington faculty members 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.

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 an online 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.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

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.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): Hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mondays-Thursdays, 9 am to 3 pm Fridays and Noon to 5 pm Saturdays and Sundays. Walk In **Quick Hits** sessions during all open hours Mon-Thurs. Register and make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>.

Librarian to Contact: Andy Herzog, amherzog@uta.edu.

<p>Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911.</p>

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 in this course. –Kenyon Zimmer

Week 1: Introduction and Antebellum Radicalism

Tues. Jan. 20: Course introduction

Thurs. Jan. 22: No Response Paragraphs and Questions

Week 2: The Civil War, Populism, and Working-Class Radicalism

Tues. Jan. 27: **Green**, *Death in the Haymarket*, chaps. 1-4

Thurs. Jan. 29: **Green**, *Death in the Haymarket*, chaps. 5-7

Week 3: Anarchism and the Haymarket Affair

Tues. Feb. 3: **Green**, *Death in the Haymarket*, chaps. 8-11

Thurs. Feb. 5: **Green**, *Death in the Haymarket*, chaps. 12-14

Week 4: Anarchism's Second Wave

Tues. Feb. 10: **Green**, *Death in the Haymarket*, chaps. 15-16 and Epilogue

Thurs. Feb. 12: Chaps. 12-13 of Paul Avrich, *Anarchist Portraits*, 1988 (**online** on the course [BlackBoard](#) page)

Week 5: The Rise of Eugene V. Debs

Tues. Feb. 17: **Salvatore**, *Eugene V. Debs*, 1-82

Thurs. Feb. 19: **Salvatore**, *Eugene V. Debs*, 85-146

Week 6: The High Tide of American Socialism

Tues. Feb. 24: **Salvatore**, *Eugene V. Debs*, 147-219

Thurs. Feb. 26: **Salvatore**, *Eugene V. Debs*, 220-261. **Research Paper Proposal due**

Week 7: The IWW, WWI, and the Red Scare

Tues. March 3: **Camp**, *Iron in Her Soul*, chaps. 1-3

Thurs. March 5: **Camp**, *Iron in Her Soul*, chaps. 3-4; **Salvatore**, *Eugene V. Debs*, 262-302

Week 8: Spring Break

Tues. March 10: **No class**

Thurs. March 12: **No class**

Week 9: The Communist Party

Tues. March 17: **Salvatore**, *Eugene V. Debs*, 303-345; **Camp**, *Iron in Her Soul*, chaps. 5-6

Thurs. March 19: Kenyon Zimmer, "Premature Anticommunists? American Anarchism, the Russian Revolution, and Left-Wing Libertarian Anticommunism, 1917-1939," *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, 2009 (**online** on the course [BlackBoard](#) page)

Week 10: The Popular Front, World War II, and McCarthyism

Tues. March 24: **Camp**, *Iron in Her Soul*, chaps. 7-9

Thurs. March 26: **Camp**, *Iron in Her Soul*, chaps. 10-11

Week 11: From “Old Left” to “New Left”

Tues. March 31: **Camp**, *Iron in Her Soul*, chaps. 12-15

Thurs. April 2: **Gosse**, *Rethinking the New Left*, chaps. 1-4

April 3: Last day to drop classes

Week 12: White Radicals, Vietnam, and Black Power

Tues. April 7: **Gosse**, *Rethinking the New Left*, chaps. 5-8; Andrew Cornell, “‘White Skin, Black Masks’: Marxist and Anti-Racist Roots of Contemporary US Anarchism,” in *Libertarian Socialism: Politics in Black and Red*, ed. Alex Pritchard et al., 167-186 (**online** on the course [BlackBoard](#) page)

Thurs. April 9: **Alkebulan**, *Survival Pending Revolution*, chaps. 1-2

Week 13: The Black Panthers

Tues. April 14: **Research Paper Draft due** (submit an electronic copy to SafeAssign on [BlackBoard](#) before class, and a paper copy in class)

Thurs. April 16: **Alkebulan**, *Survival Pending Revolution*, chaps. 3-4

Week 14: “Identity Politics” and Third World Marxism

Tues. April 21: **Gosse**, *Rethinking the New Left*, chaps. 10-12; **Alkebulan**, *Survival Pending Revolution*, chaps. 5-6 and Epilogue

Thurs. April 23: Chaps. 3 and 5 of Max Elbaum, *Revolution in the Air: Sixties Radicals turn to Lenin, Mao and Che*, 2006 (**online** on the course [BlackBoard](#) page)

Week 15: 1980-Present: A New New Left

Tues. April 28: **Gosse**, *Rethinking the New Left*, chap. 13; David Graeber, “The Rebirth of Anarchism in North America, 1957–2007,” *Historia Actual Online*, 2010 (**online** at <http://www.historia-actual.org/Publicaciones/index.php/haol/article/view/419/361>); David Graeber, “The Shock of Victory,” 2007 (**online** on the course [BlackBoard](#) page)

Thurs. April 30: Ruth Milkman, Stephanie Luce and Penny Lewis, *Changing the Subject: A Bottom-Up Account of Occupy Wall Street in New York City*, 2013 (**online** at http://sps.cuny.edu/filestore/1/5/7/1_a05051d2117901d/1571_92f562221b8041e.pdf)

Week 16: Failure of a Dream?

Tues. May 5: Eric Foner, “Why Is There No Socialism in the United States?” *History Workshop*, 1984 (**online** on the course [BlackBoard](#) page); Madonna Gauding, “Who Knew? Americans Like Socialism,” 2010 (**online** at <http://www.occasionalplanet.org/2010/08/27/who-knew-americans-like-socialism/>)

Thurs. May 7: **Research Paper due** (submit an electronic copy to SafeAssign on [BlackBoard](#) before class, and a paper copy in class). No Response Paragraphs and Questions