

HIST 585-5: Special Topics in History

Topic: Violence in American History

Instructor	Day(s)	Time(s)	Maximum Enrollment
Ward	W	4:15 – 7:15 pm	12

Semester Description:

This course investigates the meaning and historical significance of violence in American history from European settlement to the present day. Violence is an emerging field of its own, but historians from a variety of subfields have utilized violence as an analytical lens and framework for groundbreaking scholarship. As a result, this course will investigate cutting-edge scholarship in Native American, African American, Asian American, Latino, and women's history; the histories of labor, capitalism, imperialism, diplomacy, and militarism/paramilitarism; and the regional histories of the U.S. South, the American West, and North American borderlands. Our readings will intersect with a variety of historical and social scientific subfields including gender and sexuality, trauma, memory, religion, and extremism. Along the way, we will examine recent "state of the field" forums that assess the scholarship on prominent themes in the history of violence (i.e. lynching) or that demarcate emerging subfields (i.e. terrorism).

Scholars have been interested in violence for a long time, but the syllabus reflects a recent upsurge in histories of American violence. The reading list should offer fresh insights for students with a diverse range of research interests and specializations. As with any graduate colloquium, the goal of this course is to prepare students for comprehensive examinations, graduate-level historical research, and post-secondary teaching by exposing them to a broad range of subfields, interpretations, and methodologies.

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources (may include):

1. Baptist, Edward E. *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism*. Basic, 2014.
2. Blackhawk, Ned. *Violence over the Land: Indians and Empires in the Early American West*. Harvard University Press, 2008.
3. Belew, Kathleen. *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America*. Harvard University Press.
ISBN: 978-0674286078.
4. Freeman, Joann. *The Field of Blood: Violence in Congress and the Road to Civil War*. FSG.
ISBN: 978-0374154776.
5. Gage, Beverly. *The Day Wall Street Exploded: America In Its First Age of Terror*. Oxford University Press, 2008.

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6. Johnson, Benjamin Heber. *Revolution in Texas: How a Forgotten Rebellion and Its Bloody Suppression Turned Mexicans into Americans*. Yale University Press, 2003.
7. Kelman, Ari. *A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling over the Memory of Sand Creek*. Harvard University Press, 2013.
8. Kosek, Joseph Kip. *Acts of Conscience: Christian Nonviolence and Modern American Democracy*. Columbia University Press, 2011.
9. Matthews, Donald. *At the Altar of Lynching: Burning Sam Hose in the American South*. Cambridge University Press.
ISBN: 978-1316633984.
10. McGuire, Danielle. *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance--A New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power*. Vintage.
ISBN: 978-0307389244.
11. Pfaelzer, Jean. *Driven Out: The Forgotten War against Chinese Americans*. University of California Press, 2008.
12. Umoja, Akinyele Omowale. *We Will Shoot Back: Armed Resistance in the Mississippi Freedom Movement*. NYU, 2013.

Grading:

TBA.

Updated 07/23/18.