POINT 1902 LOMA
NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

HIS 4025: United States History since 1914

History & Political Science Department
Point Loma Nazarene University
4 Units
Fall 2026

Meeting days: TR
Meeting times: 10:00-11:45am
Meeting location: Colt 120
Final Exam: Thurs, 12/17, 10:30-1:00

Professor: Dr. Kelli McCoy
Phone: TBD- I'm changing offices
E-mail: KelliMccoy@pointloma.edu
Office hours: My new office will be in Colt 209, upstairs by the elevator. Office hours: Before and after class and by appointment. Also feel free to just stop by any time! I'll let you know once I'm actually moved into the new office. In the meantime, I'm floating around the department.

Course Description:

Beginning with the outbreak of World War I, this course analyzes in detail the kaleidoscopic nature of contemporary American life. It emphasizes the shift from traditional values to modern relativism and secularism, the benefits and liabilities of being a world power, and the impact of great personalities as the nation threaded its way through depression, wars, scandals, and technological advance. The primary theme that we will trace throughout the course is "the meanings of freedom." The rhetoric of freedom was used from the beginning of the century to the end, in almost every scenario. The idea of "freedom" held real, though sometimes elusive, significance for ordinary Americans. We will analyze the ways in which the different meanings of freedom were at times in tension with each other, and how those meanings changed over the course of the twentieth century.

PLNU Mission:
To Teach - To Shape - To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

History Program Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to…

- Complete a substantial historical project autonomously. (Assessed with the research paper.)

- Present and analyze, in written or oral presentation, different perspectives on an event from the past. (Assessed with the discussion leadership, in-class presentation, and essays on exams.)
- Find appropriate materials online, in a library, or in the community and know how to cite them. (Assessed with the presentation and research paper.)

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to…

- Explain the major events that shaped the United States in the twentieth century.
- Analyze various types of primary and secondary sources.
- Write a paper that exhibits their own original analysis of the sources.

Course Requirements and Expectations

- **Reading Assignments** should be read before class on the date listed in the syllabus.

- **Participation** includes your active engagement in our class discussions, your regular attendance, and any online quizzes/discussions in Canvas.

- **Reading Responses** are a way of rewarding you for thinking carefully and analytically about the reading assignments and helping to prepare you for participation in class discussions. Responses must be submitted via Canvas before class on the due dates.
    - 2 pages typed, double-spaced, 11 or 12 pt. font
    - Due on the dates listed in the syllabus and on Canvas
    - Responses should explain and analyze the main themes of the readings.
    - Your written response can be about any of the readings assigned for that WEEK. You do not have to address every one of your reading assignments, but the reading(s) you discuss should be substantial ones (i.e. you're trying to show me that you did do the reading!).
    - Excellent responses will include quotations and proper citations.

- **Research Papers** will be written about a course-related topic of your choosing, and will be due at the end of the semester. **Proposals** will be due in class during Week 5. Detailed guidelines will be posted on Canvas.

- **AI Project:** We will learn how to use AI as a tool (in conjunction with your human knowledge and skills) for creating interactive ways of telling stories about the past. Detailed instructions will be given in class and on Canvas. We will work together on these throughout the semester.

- **Presentations** will be on the same topic as your research paper. More details will be given in class and on Canvas.

Grading:

Please contact me at any point during the semester if you have questions about the status of your grade. Grades are weighted and will be calculated as follows:

Participation	15%
Reading Responses	10%
Presentation	10%
Research Paper	15%
Midterm Exam:	15%
Final Exam:	20%
AI Project	15%

Grades will be assigned on the following scale:

93%-100%	A	83%-87%	B	73%-77%	C
90%-93%	A-	80%-83%	B-	70%-73%	C-
87%-90%	B+	77%-80%	C+	etc.	

Required Texts

- Kristin Hannah, *The Women*
- George Takei, *They Called Us Enemy*
- Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*
- Articles and primary source reading assignments will be posted on Canvas

Course Policies

Final Examination Policy:

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for *one* of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

Content Warning:

It is, unfortunately, the nature of studying the past that we will need to learn about and discuss a lot of difficult things in this class. That includes, but is not limited to, wars, genocide, and violence of all kinds, including sexual violence and racial violence. We will discuss those things with sensitivity, while at the same time not shying away from discussing hard things about the past. If you anticipate any particular type of subject matter

being particularly difficult for you, please let me know and I will do my best to give you a warning when it is coming up in class and will also talk through how best to support you. Students are always free to step out of my classes to take a break if needed.

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of information. In this class, all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of US history, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Incompletes and Late Assignments:

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due, including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

If assignments are turned in late, they will be subjected to a 10% penalty per day. Please ask me for more information if you believe you will need to turn in an assignment late.

State Authorization:

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on State Authorization to view which states allow distance education outside California.

PLNU Copyright Policy:

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.]

PLNU Recording Notification:

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy:

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. Please consult the Academic Honesty Policy in the University Catalog for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU Academic Behavior Policy:

Both faculty and students at Point Loma Nazarene University have the right to expect a safe and ordered environment for learning. Students are expected to take the initiative to learn and conduct themselves in a mature and civil manner in the classroom environment. Any student behavior that is disruptive or threatening is a serious affront to Point Loma Nazarene University as a learning community. Students who fail to adhere to these behavioral standards may be subject to disciplinary action, including removal from class or further university sanctions. For a full definition of disruptive behavior, response procedures, and the appeal process, please consult the Academic Behavior Policy in the University Catalog.

PLNU Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy:

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) to generate ideas, as a learning tool, or in some cases generate portions of work you will submit. I will specify in individual assignments what constitutes appropriate use of AI for that assignment. Please use this Purdue resource to guide your citations when using AI.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy:

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center, by email or phone at 619-849-2533. Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines approved accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their approved accommodations in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive; as such, clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability-related need should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. In accordance with ADA, accommodations cannot constitute a fundamental alteration to course outcomes; therefore, planning ahead is vital in establishing appropriate accommodations for equal access to this course. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC eligibility process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy:

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

LomaBooks Instructions for Students:

This course is part of our course material delivery program, **LomaBooks**. The bookstore will provide each student with a convenient package containing all required physical materials; all digitally delivered materials will be integrated into Canvas.

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming the list of materials that will be provided for each of your courses and asking you to select how you would like to receive any printed components (in-store pick up or home delivery). If you have not done so already, please confirm your fulfillment preference so the bookstore can prepare your **LomaBooks** materials.

Week 1 **The 1910s: The Progressive Era and the First World War**		
Tues	9/1	Intro to class
Thurs	9/3	Begin thinking about your research paper topic
Week 2 **The 1920s: The Culture Wars** Read: Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns* to page 94 (through "Robert Joseph Pershing Foster")		
Tues	9/8	**No in-person class today.** Dr. McCoy has a doctor appointment - please see Canvas for online assignment.
Thurs	9/10	**Submit reading response** on Canvas. (Deadline postponed to next Tuesday because of book kerfuffle.) **I will adjust this deadline if the book doesn't arrive on time.
Week 3 **The 1930's: The Great Depression and the New Deal** Read: Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns* to page 179 (through the end of Part 2)		
Tues	9/15	**We do still have class today.** The evening event will substitute for our class time on 9/24. **Required: Attend Kristin Hannah event that starts at 7pm** in Brown Chapel (it is sold out, so arrive early to get a seat). Thanks to the HPS Dept, we bought your tickets for you! If you cannot attend this, let me know and I will give you an alternate assignment. Those who attend will submit a selfie of themselves at the event and a short reflection for attendance credit.
Thurs	9/17	Finish reading and **submit reading response** on Canvas.
Week 4 **The 1930's: The Great Depression and the New Deal** Read: Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns* to page 284 (through "Divisions")		
Tues	9/22	Begin reading assignment **Extra credit:** Attend HPS Dept. Dinner on the evening of Wed. 9/23 and submit a brief note to Canvas telling Dr. McCoy about at least one new student you met and talked with.
Thurs	9/24	**No class session today.** This is a swap for the Kristin Hannah event you attended on 9/15. Finish reading and **submit reading response** on Canvas.

Week 5 **World War II** Read: Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns* to page 431 (the end of Part 4)		
Tues	9/21	Begin weekly reading assignment.
Thurs	10/1	Finish reading and **submit reading response** on Canvas. **Submit research proposal**.
Week 6 **World War II** Read: Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns* (Part 5)		
Tues	10/6	Begin weekly reading assignment. **Class will be online today, as Dr. McCoy is at Biola for an event. Submit assignment on Canvas.**
Thurs	10/8	Finish reading and **submit reading response** on Canvas.
Week 7 **World War II** Read: George Takei, *They Called Us Enemy*		
Tues	10/13	Begin weekly reading assignment.
Thurs	10/15	Finish reading and **submit reading response** on Canvas.
Week 8 **Midterm**		
Tues	10/20	**Midterm Exam**
Thurs	10/22	Fall Break– No Class
Week 9 **The Cold War** Read: Kristin Hannah, *The Women*, Ch. 1-8		
Tues	10/27	Begin weekly reading assignment.
Thurs	10/29	Finish reading and **submit reading response** on Canvas.
Week 10 **The 1960s: Civil Rights, Women's Rights, and Vietnam** Read: Kristin Hannah, *The Women*, Ch. 9-13		
Tues	11/3	Begin weekly reading assignment.

Thurs	11/5	Finish reading and **submit reading response** on Canvas.
**Week 11 The 1960s: Civil Rights, Women's Rights, and Vietnam **Read: Kristin Hannah, *The Women*, Ch. 14-22		
Tues	11/10	Work on projects and research papers
Thurs	11/12	Work on projects and research papers
Week 12 The 1970s and 1980s: The Rise of Conservatism		
Tues	11/17	Work on projects and research papers
Thurs	11/19	Work on projects and research papers
Week 13 The 1970s and 1980s: The Rise of Conservatism		
Tues	11/24	**AI Projects Due**
Thurs	11/26	Thanksgiving Break - No Class
Week 14 The 1990s: Globalization and Affluence		
Tues	12/1	Presentations in class
Thurs	12/3	Presentations in class
Week 15 The 21st Century		
Tues	12/8	Work on research papers
Thurs	12/10	**Research Paper Due**
Final Exam Week		
Thurs	12/17	**Final Exam** 10:30am-1:00pm