

## **HIS 4025: UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1914**

History & Political Science Department  
Point Loma Nazarene University  
4 Units  
Spring 2023

**Meeting days:** MWF

**Meeting times:** 10:55-12:05

**Meeting location:** Colt 120

**Final Exam:** Wed, 5/3, 10:30-1:00

**Professor:** Dr. Kelli McCoy

**Phone:** 619-849-2438

**E-mail:** KelliMccoy@pointloma.edu

**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-Noon  
and by appointment.

### **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 or online recorded lectures.
- **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 by Friday nights.
  - 2 pages typed, double-spaced, 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.
- **Presentations** will be on a topic of your choosing. More details will be given in class.

### 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	15%
Presentation	10%
Research Paper Proposal	5%
Research Paper	20%
Midterm Exam:	15%
Final Exam:	20%

**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**

Richard Polenberg, *The Era of Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933-1945*

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**

This class will follow the academic policies of PLNU as outlined in the Student Handbook and the Undergraduate Catalog.

**Participation**

Your engagement with the class is a huge component of your success in this course, and also enhances the learning of your classmates. Your participation is therefore evaluated throughout the semester. Since you cannot participate if you do not attend class, attendance will be taken at the start of each class. **You get two completely free absences—no need to tell me why!** If you miss three or more classes, you will lose 15 points (out of 100 possible) for each absence, beginning with the third one. Arriving late or leaving early will be considered  $\frac{1}{2}$  an absence. (As stated in the Undergraduate Catalog, there are no excused absences other than in the case of certain university-sponsored events. If this applies to you, it is your responsibility to provide me with the appropriate documentation no later than one week after the missed class.)

Your participation grade will also include some assignments and discussions that will be posted on Canvas. These will be graded as credit/ no credit, so you can get the full participation grade just by participating in these! **Online discussions cannot be turned in late, since by their nature, they require timely interaction with your classmates.**

**Incompletes and Late Assignments**

Please talk with me as soon as possible if for whatever reason you are having trouble completing your work, so that we can find the best solution. All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due, unless otherwise indicated on Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances. There are no make-up quizzes/ online discussions, since those are to help you come prepared to class. There are no make-up exams (midterms and final), unless you have contacted me in advance, in which case I *may* allow it depending on the circumstances. If papers, projects, or activities 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.

**Laptops, Cell Phones, and Recording Devices:** In order to create the most conducive learning environment, all phones should be silenced and not used during class. Please do not use laptops or other technological devices during our face-to-face class sessions, as these are often a distraction to neighboring students. Exceptions may be granted under certain circumstances. Please speak with me as soon as possible if you believe you have a specific need for an exception. No recording of lectures or class discussions is allowed without prior permission from the professor.

### **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 [Class Schedules](#) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

### **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 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. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

### **PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy**

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center ([EAC@pointloma.edu](mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

**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 drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation.

As it says in the Catalog, students are expected to do two hours of preparation for each hour spent in class. I have designed the readings and assignments with this in mind.

**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 online (distance education) outside of California.

**Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination**

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students. If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available through the Title IX Office at [pointloma.edu/Title-IX](http://pointloma.edu/Title-IX). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at [counselingservices@pointloma.edu](mailto:counselingservices@pointloma.edu) or find a list of campus pastors at [pointloma.edu/title-ix](http://pointloma.edu/title-ix)

<b>Week 1</b>		
<b>The 1910s: The Progressive Era and the First World War</b>		
Read: Isabel Wilkerson, <i>The Warmth of Other Suns</i> (Parts 1 and 2)		
Tues	1/10	Begin weekly reading assignment.
Wed	1/11	Continue reading.
Fri	1/13	Finish reading and submit reading response on Canvas.
<b>Week 2</b>		
<b>The 1920s: The Culture Wars</b>		
Read: Isabel Wilkerson, <i>The Warmth of Other Suns</i> (Parts 3 and 4)		
Mon	1/16	No class for Martin Luther King, Jr. day
Wed	1/18	Continue reading.
Fri	1/20	Finish reading and submit reading response on Canvas. <b>Class is online. See Canvas for assignment.</b>
<b>Week 3</b>		
<b>The 1930's: The Great Depression and the New Deal</b>		
Read: Isabel Wilkerson, <i>The Warmth of Other Suns</i> (Part 5)		
Mon	1/23	Begin weekly reading assignment.
Wed	1/25	Continue reading.
Fri	1/27	Finish reading and submit reading response on Canvas.
<b>Week 4</b>		
<b>World War II</b>		
Read: Richard Polenberg, <i>The Era of Franklin D. Roosevelt</i> (pages TBA)		
Mon	1/30	Begin weekly reading assignment.
Wed	2/1	Continue reading.
Fri	2/3	Finish reading and submit reading response on Canvas.
<b>Week 5</b>		
<b>World War II</b>		
Read: Richard Polenberg, <i>The Era of Franklin D. Roosevelt</i> (pages TBA)		
Mon	2/6	Begin weekly reading assignment.
Wed	2/8	Continue reading.
Fri	2/10	Finish reading and submit reading response on Canvas. <b>Submit research proposal.</b>
<b>Week 6</b>		
<b>World War II</b>		
Read: George Takei, <i>They Called Us Enemy</i>		
Mon	2/13	Begin weekly reading assignment.
Wed	2/15	Continue reading.
Fri	2/17	Finish reading and submit reading response on Canvas.
<b>Week 7</b>		
<b>World War II</b>		
Readings on Canvas		
Mon	2/20	Begin weekly reading assignment.
Wed	2/22	Continue reading.
Fri	2/24	Finish reading and submit reading response on Canvas.

<b>Week 8</b>		
<b>The 1950s and 1960s: The Cold War</b>		
Mon	2/27	Study for midterm
Wed	3/1	Study for midterm
Fri	3/3	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
<b>Week 9</b>		
<b>The 1960s: Civil Rights, Women's Rights, and Vietnam</b>		
Readings on Canvas		
Mon	3/13	Begin weekly reading assignment.
Wed	3/15	Continue reading.
Fri	3/17	Finish reading and submit reading response on Canvas.
<b>Week 10</b>		
<b>The 1960s: Civil Rights, Women's Rights, and Vietnam</b>		
Readings on Canvas		
Mon	3/20	Begin weekly reading assignment.
Wed	3/22	Continue reading.
Fri	3/24	Finish reading and submit reading response on Canvas.
<b>Week 11</b>		
<b>The 1960s: Civil Rights, Women's Rights, and Vietnam</b>		
Mon	3/27	Work on presentations
Wed	3/29	Work on presentations
Fri	3/31	Work on presentations
<b>Week 12</b>		
<b>The 1970s and 1980s: The Rise of Conservatism</b>		
Mon	4/3	Presentations
Wed	4/5	Presentations
Fri	4/7	Easter Recess
<b>Week 13</b>		
<b>The 1970s and 1980s: The Rise of Conservatism</b>		
Mon	4/10	Easter Recess
Wed	4/12	Work on research papers
Fri	4/14	Work on research papers
<b>Week 14</b>		
<b>The 1990s: Globalization and Affluence</b>		
Mon	4/17	Work on research papers
Wed	4/19	Work on research papers
Fri	4/21	Work on research papers
<b>Week 15</b>		
<b>The 21<sup>st</sup> Century</b>		
Mon	4/24	Work on research papers
Wed	4/26	Work on research papers
Fri	4/28	<b>Research Paper Due</b>
<b>Final Exam Week</b>		
Wed	5/3	<b>Final Exam 10:30-1:00</b>