**History 3348:** Rights and Reform in 20th Century U.S. History

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**About the Course:**  
This course will consider both conservative and progressive reform political movements during the 20th century and their relationship to competing ideas of rights. Students will consider the various ways Americans engage in politics and in influencing U.S. government and policy. Students will study movements such as: fundamentalism and politics, women’s rights movements, civil rights movements, progressivism, conservatism and the New Left.

**Grades Completed/Your Grade**

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<th>Participation</th>
<th>20%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Short Responses x2</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper #1</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Paper #2</td>
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**Grade Scale:**
A  90-100%  
B  80-89%  
C  70-79%  
D  60-69%  
F   0-59%

**Required Books:**


Other readings will be placed on Blackboard. Please check your email or blackboard postings regularly for announcements and additional class materials. You may also use the Blackboard site to post questions to your classmates or discussion questions you are interested in considering in class. For assistance with Blackboard, contact IT Support at (325) 942-2911.

Short Response Papers: These papers are over a week of readings and should take the format of either a narrative summary bringing together the readings of the week (in the style of a short lecture for teaching) or an analysis of how these topics might be integrated into the larger narrative of U.S. history in the classroom setting. A textbook narrative will be useful reference for completing the latter. These should be 2-3 pages.

**Papers:** You will write two 4-6 page papers.
Policies:

**Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated. Plagiarism includes both copying other another person or sources work word for word without proper citation AND using the ideas of another person or source without proper citation. (This includes internet sources). All plagiarized papers will receive a zero and be reported to the administration. For clarification, please see the professor.

Cheating on exams will not be tolerated either. This includes (but is not limited to) the use of cell phones. The use of a cell phone during an exam will result in automatically failing the exam. I will assume you are using the phone to cheat if you are using it in any matter during the exam. Turn your phone off, leave it at home, or leave it at the front of the room to avoid suspicion.

Signing in for someone else or having one sign in for you qualifies as cheating. It will result in a zero for your participation grade in the course.

The ASU *Student Handbook* contains important information about campus services, programs, policies, and procedures, including such areas as the campus disciplinary rules and the Academic Honor Code. All students are expected to be familiar with this publication and to comply with the policies contained therein, among them maintaining complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits according to the Academic Honor Code. The ASU *Student Handbook* is available via the ASU website at [www.angelo.edu](http://www.angelo.edu) (“Current Students:/University Publications.”) Large print versions are available in the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center.

**Student Learning Objectives for History 3348:**

- Students will be able to analyze reform movements in the United States over the course of the 20th century.
- Students will have a sophisticated understanding of the evolution of rights and the politics of rights in the United States.
- Students will be able to discuss, in a nuanced manner, the connection between reform movements, rights rhetoric and ideas, and the experiences of different groups of Americans.
- Students will be able to construct essays which synthesize assigned readings and lectures into a coherent, fact-based analytical narrative that demonstrates critical thinking skills.

**Outline. Readings that are not from required books are on Blackboard:**

Week 1: Introduction and thinking about Rights before the 20th century
Read:
Excerpt from *Declaring Rights: A Brief History with Documents*
Excerpt from *Moral Minorities and the Making of American Democracy*
Review big trends taking place during the 1830s and during Reconstruction
Review Powerpoint on late 19th century and find definitions of “incorporation (in reference to the 14th amendment) and positive vs. negative liberty
Response paper this week

Week 2: Progressive Reform
Read: McGerr, Preface and Chapter 1-6 and 9
Review civil liberties advances in the 1920s (if covered in your book. Otherwise, discuss).
Response paper this week

Week 3: The New Deal and Welfare Rise
Read: Freedom From Fear Excerpt
Excerpts from School Lunch Politics: The Surprising History of America's Favorite Welfare Program

Paper #1 Due

Week 4: Civil Rights
Read: Dittmer, Part 1, Part 2, documents: 2, 3, 8, 9, 18, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 32, and chapter 5
Kruse, Kevin, “The Politics of Race and Public Space”
Watch AIM documentary
Watch Prejudice and Pride

Week 5: Gender and sexuality
Read: All in the Family Excerpt, Chapter 5 and 10 (except pages 296-304)

Paper #2 Due