

The Great Depression and the New Deal

Professor Eric Rauchway

Summer 2021

Course Description

The causes and consequences of the economic slump of 1929–1933 considered together with the economic recovery of 1933–1941 under the New Deal. The course will examine the scope and effects of the Depression, considering particularly how it placed democratic institutions in peril and contributed to the rise of fascist movements. We will then consider the New Deal not only as a program for restoring economic prosperity but more importantly as an effort to reinvigorate democratic institutions, concluding with an investigation of the transition from the New Deal into mobilization for the Second World War. Lectures and reading will focus on the political, social, and economic history of the United States in this period and especially on the policies of the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt during his first two terms in office.

Course Readings

1. Olmsted, Kathryn S. *Right Out of California: The 1930s and the Big Business Roots of Modern Conservatism*. New York: New Press, 2015.
2. Rauchway, Eric. *Winter War: Hoover, Roosevelt, and the First Clash over the New Deal*. New York: Basic Books, 2018.

Course Requirements

- Contribute to nine discussion boards
- Complete five short papers (1–2 pages)
- Participate in at least three Q&As
- Complete a 15-page paper or project of appropriate rigor

Learning Objectives

- Students will gain a sense of the scope and duration of the Great Depression, the character of the New Deal and of opposition to it, and the relation between the New Deal and the Second World War.

Class Schedule

Week 1: May 27: The Crash

Readings

- Nicholas Crafts and Peter Fearon, "Lessons from the 1930s Great Depression," *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 26, no. 3 (Autumn 2010): 285–317. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 1 module.)
- William E. Leuchtenburg, "Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover," in *The American President* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015), 117–142. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 1 module.)
- Herbert Hoover, "Statement on Muscle Shoals Legislation," February 28, 1931, UCSB Presidency Project. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 1 module.)
- Herbert Hoover, "Veto of the Muscle Shoals Resolution," March 3, 1931, UCSB Presidency Project. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 1 module.)

Assignments

- Discussion Board One

Q&A Session One: Tuesday, June 1 - 8:00-9:30 p.m. ET

Week 2: June 3: The Slump

Readings

- Julia Rose Kraut, "Denaturalization, Detention, Deportation, and Discretion," in *Threat of Dissent: A History of Ideological Exclusion and Deportation in the United States* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2020), 90–119. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 2 module.)
- Gerald D. Nash, "Herbert Hoover and the Origins of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation," *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* 46, no. 3 (December 1959): 455–468. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 2 module.)
- "Disputes Hoover on Employment; Frances Perkins Says Figures in This State Show Steady Decline," *New York Times*, January 23, 1932, 11. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 2 module.)
- "'Human' Alien Laws Urged by Governor; Roosevelt Opposes Registering Foreigners," *New York Times*, October 24, 1932, 9. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 2 module.)

Assignments

- Discussion Board Two
- Short Paper One due June 9

- Write a response paper: You can respond to the prompt created by your section professor or to one of your own design.
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Week 3: June 10: The Choice

Readings

- Rauchway, 1–46
- Eric Rauchway, "The New Deal Was on the Ballot in 1932," *Modern American History* 2, no. 2 (July 2019): 201–213. Cambridge Core. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 3 module.)
- Herbert Hoover, "Address at Madison Square Garden in New York City," October 31, 1932. UCSB Presidency Project. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 3 module.)

Assignments

- Discussion Board Three
- Final Paper/Project Question due June 16
 - In roughly 1–2 pages, outline the question your final paper or project will attempt to answer. This should include a description of the paper or project you are proposing, some background information and historical context on your topic, a brief description of your research plan, and a justification for why your particular paper or project is worth pursuing.

Q&A Session Two: Tuesday, June 15 - 8:00-9:30 p.m. ET

Week 4: June 17: The Crisis

Readings

- Rauchway, 75–104, 134–163, 196–225
- Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Fireside Chat," October 22, 1933, UCSB Presidency Project. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 4 module.)

Assignments

- Discussion Board Four
 - Short Paper Two due June 23
 - Write a response paper: You can respond to the prompt created by your section professor or to one of your own design.
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Week 5: June 24: The Dream

Readings

- Meg Jacobs, "'Democracy's Third Estate': New Deal Politics and the Construction of a 'Consuming Public,'" *International Labor and Working-Class History* 55 (Spring 1999): 27–51. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 5 module.)
- James Q. Whitman, "Of Corporatism, Fascism, and the First New Deal," *American Journal of Comparative Law* 39, no. 4 (Autumn 1991): 747–778. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 5 module.)
- Upton Sinclair, *I, Governor of California, and How I Ended Poverty: A True Story of the Future* (1933), Internet Archive. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 5 module.)

Assignments

- Discussion Board Five
- Revised Question and Proposed Bibliography due June 30
 1. Revise your initial proposal to incorporate your section professor's feedback, AND
 2. Create an annotated bibliography containing at least five sources. Each of these sources should be followed by a short paragraph describing the source and what it will contribute to your final paper/project.

Q&A Session Three: Tuesday, June 29 - 8:00-9:30 p.m. ET

Week 6: July 1: The Works

Readings

- Chad Alan Goldberg, "Contesting the Status of Relief Workers during the New Deal: The Workers Alliance of America and the Works Progress Administration, 1935–1941," *Social Science History* 29, no. 3 (Fall 2005): 337–371. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 6 module.)
- Walter B. Hill, Jr., "Finding Place for the Negro: Robert C. Weaver and the Groundwork for the Civil Rights Movement," *Prologue* 37, no. 1 (Spring 2005): 42–51. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 6 module.)
- Sharon Ann Musher, "Art and the New Deal," in *The New Deal and the Great Depression*, ed. Aaron D. Purcell (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2014), 111–127. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 6 module.)
- Robert C. Weaver, "The New Deal and the Negro: A Look at the Facts," *Opportunity* 13, no. 7 (July 1935): 200–202. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 6 module.)

Assignments

- Discussion Board Six
 - Short Paper Three due July 7
 - Write a response paper: You can respond to the prompt created by your section professor or to one of your own design.
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Week 7: July 8: The Opposition

Readings

- Olmsted, 107–191
- Herbert Hoover, *The Challenge to Liberty* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1934), 23–35, Internet Archive. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 7 module.)

Assignments

- Discussion Board Seven
- Short Paper Four due July 14
 - Write a response paper: You can respond to the prompt created by your section professor or to one of your own design.

Q&A Session Four: Monday, July 12 - 8:00-9:30 p.m. ET

Week 8: July 15: The Land

Readings

- Anthony J. Badger, "How Did the New Deal Change the South?" in *New Deal/New South: An Anthony J. Badger Reader* (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2007), 31–44. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 8 module.)
- Eric Rauchway, "The Clinch River," in *Why the New Deal Matters* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021), 41–72. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 8 module.)
- Marsha Weisiger, "Gendered Injustice: Navajo Livestock Reduction in the New Deal Era," *Western Historical Quarterly* 38, no. 4 (Winter 2007): 437–455. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 8 module.)
- Ernie Pyle, "Norris Dam Amazes Writer," *Pittsburgh Press*, December 22, 1935, 17. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 8 module.)
- Ernie Pyle, "TVA to Save Big Area From Death Valley Fate," *Pittsburgh Press*, December 23, 1935, 17. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week Eight module.)

- Ernie Pyle, "Writer Finds Dams Form Small Part of TVA Rehabilitation," *Pittsburgh Press*, December 24, 1935, 7. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week Eight module.)
- Ernie Pyle, "'Worn Out' Farm Land Reclaimed," *Pittsburgh Press*, December 26, 1935, 18. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 8 module.)
- Ernie Pyle, "40,000-Square-Mile Area Being Revamped," *Pittsburgh Press*, December 27, 1935, 38. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 8 module.)

Assignments

- Paper/Project Preview due July 21
 - Paper: Turn in a rough draft of the first five pages of your final paper.
 - Project: Submissions of the project preview will differ from project to project according to type. Determine an appropriate portion of your final project to turn in with your section professor.

Week 9: July 22: The Landslide

Readings

- Christopher H. Achen and Larry M. Bartels, "A Chicken in Every Pot: Ideology and Retrospection in the Great Depression," in *Democracy for Realists: Why Elections Do Not Produce Responsive Government* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017), 177–212. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 9 module.)
- Gareth Davies and Martha Derthick, "Race and Social Welfare Policy: The Social Security Act of 1935," *Political Science Quarterly* 112, no. 2 (Summer 1997): 217–235. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 9 module.)
- William E. Leuchtenburg, "When the People Spoke, What Did They Say? The Election of 1936 and the Ackerman Thesis," *Yale Law Journal* 108, no. 8 (June 1999): 2077–2114. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 9 module.)
- "Thomas Declines to Back Roosevelt," *New York Times*, February 3, 1936, 1. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 9 module.)

Assignments

- Discussion Board Eight
- Short Paper Five due July 28
 - Write a response paper: You can respond to the prompt created by your section professor or to one of your own design.

Q&A Session Five: Tuesday, July 27 - 8:00-9:30 p.m. ET

Week 10: July 29: An Assessment

Readings

- Greg Hannsgen and Dimitri Papadimitriou, "Did the New Deal Prolong or Worsen the Great Depression?" *Challenge* 53, no. 1 (January–February 2010): 63–86. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 10 module.)
- Jason Scott Smith, "The Triumph of the Mixed Economy: The New Deal Order, Keynes, and the Genius of American Liberalism," in *Capitalism Contested: The New Deal and Its Legacies*, ed. Romain Huret, Nelson Lichtenstein, and Jean-Christian Venel (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020), 59–74. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 10 module.)

Assignments

- Rough Draft due August 4
 - Paper: Turn in a rough draft of the first ten pages (at minimum) of your final paper.
 - Project: Submissions of the project rough draft will differ from project to project according to type. Determine an appropriate portion of your final project to turn in with your section professor.
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Week 11: August 5: The Nine

Readings

- William E. Leuchtenburg, "Comment on Laura Kalman's Article," *American Historical Review* 110, no. 4 (October 2005): 1081–1093. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 11 module.)
- Eric Schickler, "New Deal Liberalism and Racial Liberalism in the Mass Public, 1937–1968," *Perspectives on Politics* 11, no. 1 (March 2013): 75–98. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 11 module.)
- Chloe N. Thurston, "Policy Feedback in the Public-Private Welfare State: Advocacy Groups and Access to Government Homeownership Programs, 1934–1954," *Studies in American Political Development* 29 (October 2015): 250–267. Cambridge Core. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 11 module.)

Assignments

- Discussion Board Nine
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Week 12: August 12: The War

Readings

- Gareth Davies, "The New Deal in 1940: Embattled or Entrenched?" in *America at the Ballot Box: Elections and Political History*, eds. Gareth Davies and Julian E. Zelizer (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015), 153–166. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 12 module.)
- Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Address at Ottawa, Canada," August 25, 1943, UCSB Presidency Project. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week 12 module.)

Assignments

- Final Draft due August 18