

AMH 3931: FAMOUS TRIALS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores well-known trials as a lens into U.S. history throughout the 20th Century. The course will encourage students to consider how a historical perspective on famous and scandalous trials compels the us to reassess our understanding of rights, liberties, and the role of the criminal justice system in America. We will examine how the selected trials challenged or reinforced cultural and societal norms during the twentieth century, carefully considering the larger role of race, class, gender, and ethnicity in these cases.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. *Understand the influence of diverse historical forces – technological, social, political, cultural, economic – on human behavior, achievement, and ideas.*
2. *Analyze evidence, synthesize conflicting points of view, and evaluate assumptions and biases to attain a balanced historical perspective.*
3. *Develop the ability to effectively communicate critical thinking, both orally and in writing.*
4. *Learn key themes, principles, terminology, and methodology within the discipline of history.*

THROUGH IN-CLASS LECTURES, IN-CLASS DISCUSSIONS, MULTIMEDIA, THE TEXTBOOK, AND DOCUMENT-BASED READINGS, YOU WILL LEARN TO QUESTION AND EVALUATE HISTORICAL SOURCES AND EVIDENCE FROM FAMOUS 20TH CENTURY TRIALS AND, IN THE PROCESS, BECOME INFORMED THINKERS AND CRITICAL READERS.

REQUIRED READING

BAATZ, SIMON. *FOR THE THRILL OF IT: LEOPOLD, LOEB, AND THE MURDER THAT SHOCKED JAZZ AGE CHICAGO*. NEW YORK: HARPER PERENNIAL, 2009.

UNIVERSITY
OF
FLORIDA

SUMMER B 2019

Class Meeting:
Monday to Friday
Period 4 (12:30 PM - 1:45 PM)
Room: Keene-Flint 0101

MEAGAN T.
FRENZER, MA



Email:

mfrenzer@ufl.edu



E-Learning:

<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays

10:00 am to 12:00pm

Keene-Flint, Room 009

& By Appointment

GENERAL CLASS BEHAVIOR

- Treat the class, your fellow students, and the instructor respectfully.
 - Use computers responsibly—stay off shopping websites, Facebook, Netflix, and so forth. If it appears that computer use is being abused, I will institute a no-computer policy.
 - Turning off cell phones prior to class; No cell phones out during class.
 - Arrive at class on time; Late arrivals will negatively affect your participation and attendance grade.
 - No eating/food in class.
 - Remain in class until class is over; No packing up early.
 - Engage in discussion properly: good listening is as important as good talking.
-

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is central to your learning experience. In addition to showing up for class on time, be ready to articulate and support your ideas, as well as to listen to and work with the ideas of others. Attendance will be taken at every class meeting throughout the semester. You are permitted **THREE** absences without penalty, but on the fourth absence and each subsequent absence, your final grade for the course will be reduced by a third of a letter grade (i.e., from an A to a A-, an A- to a B+, etc.).

The instructor is not responsible for contacting students during the semester to apprise them of their attendance status; it is the responsibility of the students to keep a record of their absences.

Religious holidays, UF athletic travel conflicts, and written explanations from a certified health professional are eligible for an excused absence when cleared with your instructor ahead of time.

See UF attendance policy at

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

LATE WORK & MAKE-UP POLICY

Unless stated otherwise, late papers will be penalized one-third-letter grade for each day they are late. If you know of an excused absence, contact your instructor as early as possible to make arrangements to turn in work ahead of time. Missed exams cannot be made up unless you have an university excused absence that you notify your instructor of beforehand. If you have an unforeseen emergency, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

MOBILE & ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

Recent studies have shown that college students retain less information when they use laptops instead of pen and paper, and that open laptops are disruptive to nearby students. However, I recognize that many of you are more comfortable taking notes on a computer. Please do not abuse this privilege. I reserve the right to ban laptops if they become disruptive over the course of the semester. Please silence your cell phone prior to the start of class and do not text during class time. All cell phones should be away in your bag during the entire class.

CORRESPONDENCE

I will send important course announcements and other correspondence to you via your UF email account and Canvas. If you do not use this as your primary account, please make sure that you have your UF email forwarded to you and check your email regularly!

When emailing with the instructor, please remember that correspondence should be formal and include your name, section number, and address your instructor formally. All correspondence must come from your UF email in order to ensure student identification. Additionally, grades cannot be discussed via email in accordance with university student privacy guidelines. If you wish to discuss grades, please stop by during office hours or email to plan a time to meet.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting an accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. Testing accommodations must be submitted to the DRC with at least 4 days notice before the exam.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The University, as well as your instructor, values and expects academic integrity. Ethical violations include cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and academic misconduct (including turning in the work of others as your own and reusing old assignments). These will not be tolerated and will result in a failure of the assignment and the risk of an automatic failing grade in the course, and possible expulsion from UF. To avoid plagiarism, you must not copy the words, phrases, arguments, ideas, or conclusions of another person or source (including Internet sources) without properly crediting the person or source with both quotation marks and a footnote. Make sure that you properly cite direct quotations, paraphrased information, and facts that are not widely known. I will provide you with guidelines for proper citations and formatting prior to your submission of all written work, but you may contact me at any time for clarification.

For more information on how UF's Judicial Affairs processes cases of plagiarism, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php>.

ASSIGNMENTS

Please go over your syllabus and keep it on hand throughout the semester. This will allow you to keep up with all of the reading and writing deadlines. If it is felt that the class is not keeping up with the assigned reading, the instructor reserved the right to add pop quizzes throughout the semester.

Readings: The reading for this class will ebb and flow, so pay attention to the syllabus and make sure you note which weeks have heavier reading and writing assignments. Make sure to allow enough time in your schedule to read thoroughly and critically.

- **Weekly Quizzes:** Students will take 5 quizzes over the semester starting on Week 1. These weekly quizzes should reflect careful reading and a thoughtful reaction to the assigned works for that week. **DUE WEEKLY, SEE CANVAS FOR MORE INFO.**
 - **Analytical "Thrill of It" Essay:** Students will write one 1,000-word essay on Simon Baatz's *For The Thrill of It*. This essay, which should be posted on Canvas no later than class meeting time of the due date should be analytical in nature. *Further instructions regarding format and content will be distributed before the paper is due.* **DUE July 17th BY 12:30PM**
 - **Final Project Preparation (Case Selection, Sources, & Outline):** Students will select one famous trial from the twentieth century that was not the focus of this course. You will then start building a research paper on the trial by submitting appropriate sources as well as an outline to demonstrate development and preparation on your Final Project. **July 22- CASE SELECTION FOR FINAL, July 26- Final Project Sources Due, July 31-OUTLINES DUE FOR FINAL PROJECT, ALL DUE BY 12:30PM**
-

- o **Final Project Paper:** As a final project, students will submit a 1,000 word essay on their selected cases. These exhibits will rely on narrative and specific artifacts to help convey stories students wish to convey to their audience. *Further instructions regarding format and content will be distributed before the paper is due.* **DUE August 5TH BY NOON**
- o **Final Project Presentations:** Students will present their research to the class. **PRESENTATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE OVER THE LAST WEEK OF THE SEMESTER.**

GRADES

Your grade in this class will be determined largely by your performance on a variety of written assignments as well as class participation and attendance. These exercises will allow you to hone your critical thinking and writing skills and allow you to reflect thoughtfully on key themes of the course.

- Final Project Paper—20 percent
- Final Project Presentation— 15 percent
- Final Project Preparation (Selection, Outline, & Sources)— 10 percent
- Analytical Thrill of It Essay—20 percent
- 5 Quizzes every Friday— 20 percent
- Participation— 15 percent

GRADING SCALE

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
100- 95	94-90	89-86	85-83	82-80	79-76	75-73	72-70	69-66	65-63	62-60	59 & Below

COURSE SCHEDULE

The Instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus at any time during the semester.

Week 1: Opening Arguments **QUIZ 1 ON FRIDAY**

Monday, July 1- SYLLABUS DAY

Reading:

<https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/january-2007/what-does-it-mean-to-think-historically>

Tuesday, July 2- Understanding the Courts

Reading:

- Regoli, Robert M., John D. Hewitt, and Anna E. Kosloski. Exploring Criminal Justice: The Essentials. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2018. Chapter 1 & 7.
- Review The United States Constitution, Stop at Amendment 15. http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/education/all_amendments_usconst.htm

Wednesday, July 3- Shattering the National Pastime

Reading:

- The Black Sox Scandal: <https://www.famous-trials.com/blacksox>
 - o 1919 World Series, Game by Game
 - o Selected Court Documents
 - o Statement from Landis
- <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/1919-black-sox-baseball-scandal-wasnt-first-180964673/>
- Carney, Gene. "Comiskey's detectives." *The Baseball Research Journal* 38, no. 2 (2009): 108.

Watch:

[ESPN Classic's "Top 5 Reasons You Can't Blame...the 1919 White Sox for "Throwing" the World Series](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYVs4Cw6oB4)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYVs4Cw6oB4>

Thursday, July 4- **NO CLASS MEETING, HAPPY FOURTH**

Friday, July 5- **NO CLASS MEETING, QUIZZES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 1:45 PM**

Week 2: The Past, Present, & Future **QUIZ 2 ON FRIDAY**

For The Thrill of It Should be read in full by Friday

Monday, July 8-

Reading:

- Regoli, Robert M., John D. Hewitt, and Anna E. Kosloski. Exploring Criminal Justice: The Essentials. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2018. Chapter 8.
- Constance Areson Clark, "Evolution for John Doe: Pictures, the Public, and the Scopes Trial Debate," *Journal of American History* 87 (March 2001): 1275-1303.

- Simon Baatz, *For The Thrill of It: Leopold, Loeb, and the Murder That Shocked Jazz Age Chicago* (New York: Harper Perennial, 2009).
 - o CHAPTERS 1-3

Watch:

Inherit the Wind (Original 1960 or TV Movie 1999)

<https://vimeo.com/192285696>

Tuesday, July 9-

Reading:

- Scopes "Monkey" Trial:
 - o <https://famous-trials.com/scopesmonkey/2127-home>
 - o Evolution Statute for Tennessee
 - o Hunter's Civic Biology
 - o State v. Scopes Trial excerpts
- Jeffrey Moran, "Reading Race into the Scopes Trial: African American Elites, Science, and Fundamentalism," *Journal of American History*, 90 (2003) 891-911.
- Simon Baatz, *For The Thrill of It: Leopold, Loeb, and the Murder That Shocked Jazz Age Chicago* (New York: Harper Perennial, 2009).
 - o CHAPTERS 3-6

Watch:

PBS American Experience- The Perfect Crime - The Trial of the Century-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWsXWudzOY>

CBS Chicago- 91 Years Later, Key Evidence From Leopold And Loeb Murder Back On Display-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwDvaTCnj6c>

Wednesday, July 10-

Reading:

- Simon Baatz, *For The Thrill of It: Leopold, Loeb, and the Murder That Shocked Jazz Age Chicago* (New York: Harper Perennial, 2009).
 - o CHAPTERS 7- 9
- Leopold & Loeb- <https://famous-trials.com/leopoldandloeb>
 - o Map
 - o Confession
 - o Testimony

Watch:

Inherit the Wind (Original 1960 or TV Movie 1999)

<https://vimeo.com/192285696>

Thursday, July 11-

Reading:

- Leopold & Loeb- <https://famous-trials.com/leopoldandloeb>
 - o Guilty Plea
 - o Caverly's Decision
- Simon Baatz, *For The Thrill of It: Leopold, Loeb, and the Murder That Shocked Jazz Age Chicago* (New York: Harper Perennial, 2009).

- CHAPTERS 10 -13

Watch:

Inherit the Wind (Original 1960 or TV Movie 1999)

<https://vimeo.com/192285696>

Friday, July 12- **Quiz 2 & Writing Workshop**

Reading:

- Simon Baatz, *For The Thrill of It: Leopold, Loeb, and the Murder That Shocked Jazz Age Chicago* (New York: Harper Perennial, 2009).
 - CHAPTERS 14 -17 & FICTION SECTION, FINISHED BOOK

**Week 3: That Blind Goddess
For the Thrill of It Paper Due**

Monday, July 15- Writing Workshop Continued

Reading:

- Scottsboro Boys: <https://famous-trials.com/scottsboroboy>
 - In their own Words
 - First Scottsboro Trials
 - Letters from Alabama
- National Archives, The Scottsboro Boys- Injustice in Alabama <https://www.archives.gov/files/publications/prologue/2014/spring/scottsboro.pdf>

Tuesday, July 16-

Reading:

- N. Jeremi Duru, "The Central Park Five, the Scottsboro Boys, and the Myth of the Bestial Black Man," *Cardozo Law Review* 25, no. 4 (March 2004): 1315.

Watch:

PBS American Experience: Scottsboro- An American Tragedy

<https://vimeo.com/282780032>

<https://vimeo.com/282780585>

Wednesday, July 17- **Paper Due**

Watch:

Eyes on the Prize Documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PoaKysHwLI8>

Thursday, July 18-

Reading:

- The Murder of Emmett Till (1955)- <https://famous-trials.com/emmettill>
 - Two Accounts of Store
 - Sheriff says not his body
 - Selected Testimony
 - Killer's Confession

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/retropolis/wp/2018/07/12/emmett-tills-case-has-been-reopened-his-brutal-death-in-1955-put-a-spotlight-on-racial-violence/>
- Medgar Evers:
 - o <https://www.naacp.org/naacp-history-medgar-evers/>

Friday, July 19- QUIZ 3

Reading:

- Mississippi Burning Case (1967): <https://famous-trials.com/mississippi-burningtrial>
 - o Selected Klan Documents
 - o Selected Trial Documents
 - o Supreme Court decision

Watch:

Mississippi Burning (1988)

Week 4: Spies & Subversion

Monday, July 22- CASE SELECTION FOR FINAL PROJECT DUE

Reading:

- Rosenbergs Trial- <https://famous-trials.com/rosenberg>
 - o Trial Transcript
 - o Appeal
- Michael Parrish, "Cold War Justice: The Supreme Court and the Rosenbergs," *American Historical Review* 82 (1977), 805-842.

Tuesday, July 23-

Reading:

- Rosenbergs Trial- <https://famous-trials.com/rosenberg>
 - o Letters to Children
 - o The Final Plea
- Anders, Roger M. "The Rosenberg Case Revisited: The Greenglass Testimony and the Protection of Atomic Secrets." *American Historical Review* 83, no. 2 (April 1978): 388.

Wednesday, July 24- Workshop on Historical Sources

Reading:

- <https://www.library.illinois.edu/hpnl/tutorials/primary-sources/>
- <http://www.uky.edu/~dolp/HIS316/handouts/sources.html>

Thursday, July 25-

Reading:

- Lenny Bruce (1964): <https://www.famous-trials.com/lennybruce>
 - o Legal Opinions relating to Lenny Bruce
 - o Regulation of Obscenity
- "Fighting Words: Finding the First Amendment in Lower Federal Court Records." *Journal of American History* 78, no. 1 (June 1991): 240-48.

Listen:

<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=920569>

Friday, July 26- **QUIZ 4 & Final Project Sources Due**

Reading:

- Lenny Bruce (1964): <https://www.famous-trials.com/lennybruce>
 - o The People v. Lenny Bruce

Week 5: Examining L.A.

Monday, July 29-

Reading:

- The O.J. Simpson Trial- <https://famous-trials.com/simpson>
 - o Maps
 - o Statement to Police
 - o Trial Documents
 - o The Jury
 - o Excerpts
 - o Incriminating Evidence

Watch: *The People v. O.J. Simpson*

Tuesday, July 30-

Reading:

- Priscilla Walton, and Jonathan Chau. "I'm Not Black, I'm O.J.': Constructions, Productions, and Refractions of Blackness," no. 1 (2018): 61.

Watch: *The People v. O.J. Simpson*

Wednesday, July 31-**OUTLINES DUE FOR FINAL PROJECT**

Reading:

Watch: *The People v. O.J. Simpson*

Thursday, August 1- NO CLASS MEETING, INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WITH INSTRUCTORS

Friday, August 2-**LAST QUIZ**

Reading:

- Medgar Evers Case
 - o Hoerl, Kristen. "Mississippi's Social Transformation in Public Memories of the Trial Against Byron de La Beckwith for the Murder of Medgar Evers." *Western Journal of Communication* 72, no. 1.

Week 6: Closing Arguments

Final Assignment Due Monday August 5th

Final Week is Reserved for Presentations