

01:050:303  
Decade in American Culture: The 1940's  
Louise Duus

Spring 2009  
TF 9:15-10:35 am  
RAB 110B

"Americans like to think that they are capable of looking at their own history soberly, that they have avoided the snares of trivializing, sanitizing and sanctifying the past into which other nations have fallen."

-Tom Engelhardt and Edward T. Linenthal. History Wars

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Blum, John M., "V" Was for Victory  
Hersey, John, A Bell for Adano  
Miller, Arthur, All My Sons  
Reid, Constance B., Slacks and Calluses  
Terkel, Studs, The "Good" War  
Vonnegut, Kurt, Slaughterhouse Five

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Tues., 1/20 Introduction

Fri., 1/23 The New York World's Fair 1939-1940

<http://xroads.virginia.edu~1930's/DISPLAY/39wf/welcome>

FILM: The World of Tomorrow

PART I: War Comes to America (sort of)

Tues., 1/27 President's War Message

<http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/tmirhdee.html>

Terkel, pp. 1-37

Fri., 1/30 Selling the War: Blum, pp. 3-45

The Four Freedoms (for reproductions of Norman Rockwell's paintings, go to Google Images, look for Four Freedoms)

Tues., 2/3 FILM: Ducktators

Fri., 2/6 Pictures of the Enemy: Blum, 48-52

FILM: Prelude to War (1942)

Tues., 2/10 "Race, Language, and War" (electronic reserve)

Terkel, pp. 59-97

Fri., 2/13 Homely Heroes: Blum , pp. 53-78  
 Terkel, pp. 38-58, 360-364  
 "I Ain't Laughing, Sir," (<http://www.awon.org/williw/willie2/html>)

Tues, 2/17 A Bell for Adano (1944)  
 PAPER #1 DUE

Fri., 2/20 "American War Dead" (electronic reserve)  
 "Censoring Disorder" (electronic reserve)  
 FILM: Battle of San Pietro (1944)

#### PART II: Life on the Home Front

Tues., 2/24 Getting and Spending: Blum, pp. 90-116  
 Terkel, pp.108-116, 309-317

Fri., 2/27 Blum, pp. 117-147  
 Terkel, pp.318-329  
 FILM: Sacrifices and Shortages

Tues., 3/3 All My Sons (1947)

Fri., 3/6 MID-SEMESTER EXAM

#### Part III: The Outsiders

Tues., 3/10 Blum, pp. 147-181  
 Terkel, pp. 138-143  
 "A Vast Slaughterhouse," (electronic reserve)

Fri., 3/13 "Issei, Nisei, Kibbei" (electronic reserve)  
 FILM: Family Gathering

Tues., 3/17—Fri., 3/20—SPRING BREAK !!!

Tues., 3/24 Blum., pp. 181-220  
 "Negroes Are Saying," (electronic reserve)

Fri., 3/27 Terkel, 113-116, 146-159, 265-282, 343-349, 366-401  
 FILM: The Negro Soldier (1944)

Tues., 3/31 FILM: Zoot Suit Riots

Fri., 4/3 "Yes, Ma'am: The Personal Papers of a WAAC Private," (electronic reserve)  
 "The WAVES: The Story of the Girls in Blue," (electronic reserve)  
 "So Your Husband's Gone to War," (electronic reserve)  
 Terkel, pp. 116-122, 125-134

Tues., 4/7 Slacks and Calluses

Fri., 4/10 "No Victory in the Workplace," (electronic reserve)  
 FILM: The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter

Part IV: The Shape of Things to Come

Tues., 4/14 "The Bomb"  
 Terkel, pp. 198-203, 207-211, 505-557  
 "History at Risk," (electronic reserve)

Fri., 4/17 War Crimes  
 Terkel, pp. 434-443, 459-478, 496-504

Tues., 4/21 FILM: The Best Years of Our Lives (1946)  
 On reserve at the Media Center, Kilmer Library, from 4/10-4/21

Fri., 4/24 Blum, pp. 245-254, 333-340  
 Margot Canaday, "Building the Straight Society: Sexuality and Social Citizenship under  
 The 1944 GI Bill," Journal of American History, 90(December 2003), 935-957

Tues., 4/28 Slaughterhouse Five

Fri., 5/1 The World of Tomorrow Revisited

PAPER #2 DUE

Course work:

Paper #1, due 2/17	25%
Mid-semester exam, 3/6	20%
Paper #2, due 5/1	30%
Final Exam, 5/11, 8:00 a.m.	25%

Attendance policy: You are allowed one unexcused absence.

Office hours: Tuesday, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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