

07/04/13: American Studies Lecture

Exam Review:

- Same format as midterm exam
- Do not replicate term paper in essay answer
- Exclusive to second term

Possible Terms:

World Fair / White City (White Sepulcher):

- Celebrating the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World
- Held in Chicago in 1893
- Social, cultural, and innovative architecturally
- Set up based on race; demonstrates widespread racism at the time of the fair
- Built in three years on swamp land
- Created by the best of the best in all of their fields
- expo to show Americas progress
- America has fulfilled their manifest destiny
- Daniel H Burham (build first skyscraper) made the model (the White City) for the fair which was a model of the perfect city (Greek and roman architecture), modern landscape architecture
- "model city" (reinforces American exceptionalism and white supremacy)
- Modern city on a hill (all should aspire to be like white city)
- fair literally and figuratively powered by the notion of industrialization (The Dynamo: 2 genera
- 27 Million people visited the fair
- Several products like Cracker Jacks and (PBR) Blue Ribbon beer was created for the fair
- Deemed as the "Cultural Olympics"
- Each world fair tried to outshine each other (Chicago followed Paris world fair in 1889)
- George Washington Ferris created and built the Ferris Wheel
- Fair was racist (center of fair ground was white city, then surrounded by European exhibits and at the far ends of the fair, near the freak shows were the African Exhibitions) "It was like an ethnological Zoo"
- The White Sepulchre: Pamphlet written by Fredrick Douglass criticized the fair for being racist, he considered the city as white wash due to its white supremacy

Buffalo Bill's Wild West:

- William Fredrick Cody (Buffalo Bill) created show
- Packaged frontier and sold it to Americans
- Showed frontier as a savage
- Was not allowed to be part of the fair but got land just outside of it and therefore everyone thought he was part of the fair
- Not putting on a show, instead gave Americans part of history
- Skeptical of inverted conquest (Cowboys were good guys, Indians were bad)
- Never touched on trail of tears or anything bad that the Americans did to the Natives
- Annie Oakley was one of the stars of the show due to her sharp shooting

Turner: The Frontier Thesis:

- Developed by Fred Jackson Turner in 1893
- Presented at the World Fair
- Argues that the frontier drove American history and shaped American culture
- Frontier was fundamental for American growth
- Written 1893 that American democracy was formed by the American Frontier
- In the thesis, the American frontier established liberty by releasing Americans from European mindsets and eroding old, dysfunctional customs.
- Process of rebirth for immigrant
- Civilization and savagery (American can learn how to survive from the savages but can still be civilized)
- Manifest destiny/binary logic/melting pot
- Take from culture but do not assimilate to them
- Thesis is an idea of American Exceptionalism

Gilded Age / The Great Barbecue:

- 1870's to 1900
- Time of rapid economic growth in North and West but also social conflict
- Economic struggle in the South
- Era of great poverty as poor Europeans were rapidly immigrating
- Blacks in the South stripped of Political and voting rights
- Time of prohibition and women's suffrage

- Development of Jim Crow laws
- “The Great Barbecue” is a term that describes the economic prosperity of the time. All were “invited” in the middle and upper class (demonstrates inequality at the time)

Harlem Renaissance:

- Known at the time as the New Negro Movement
- Cultural movement throughout the 1920s
- Migration and immigration was mainly to Harlem, New York and other urban areas in the US

Social Darwinism:

- Apply biological concepts of natural selection and survival of the fittest to sociology and politics. A sociological theory that sociocultural advance is the product of intergroup conflict and competition and the socially elite classes (as those possessing wealth and power) possess biological superiority in the struggle for existence
- Thomas Roosevelt believed in this

Nativism / Neo Nativism:

- Intense opposition to an internal minority based on it’s foreign engagements
- Fear of immigrants
- Americans don’t want to lose their values
- Pro American and anti-immigration
- Also support of efforts to lower the political and legal status of specific ethnic or cultural groups because the groups are considered hostile or alien to the American culture, and assumptions that they cannot be assimilated

PT Barnum:

- Was an American showman and businessman
- Remembered for promoting celebrated hoaxes and for founding the Barnum & Bailey Circus
- Humbug= hoax (Humbug was not lying but instead a putting on of appearances)
- P.T. Barnum (the Price of humbug) inventor of advertising (using brick man ect) (Advertising promotes not just a product but a quality that you will receive if you get it (get nike running shoes and you will become more confident)
- Product is no longer just a product but it is a persona)
- Barnum created The New York Museum (a museum filled with everything, animals, art, freak shows ect.)

- Became associated with large scale hoaxes
- Theatrical selfhood
- Advertised exhibits as hoaxes and he asked people to come and decide what was real and what was fake (he would never reveal to the audience what was actually real and fake)
- Barnum was seen as a model of the new paradigm
- He also help create our modern celebrity culture
- We are encouraged to see celebrities are more than us but less than us
- We are made to feel like we know them like a friend or family member

Feminine Mystique:

Eugenics:

- Racism and phrenology
- Belief and practice of improving the overall genetic quality the human
- Scientific racism
- Forced sterilization of women who were in jail, hospital, mental institution, black, or any other woman who was not healthy and white
- Anti-Misesadnation- prohibiting mixed race relationships
- One drop rule even if you have just one drop of black blood, and you look white you are still considered black

Conservationism:*

Mutually Assured Destruction:

- A military strategy in which high-yield weapons of mass destruction are used by opposing sides which would cause the complete annihilation of both attacker and defense
- Based on the theory that the threat using strong weapons will deter the enemy's use of the same weapons
- Example of this is the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962

Cold War:

Containment:

- Truman introduced doctrine to contain communism and ensure the Soviet Union would not expand
- Overthrowing third world countries that supported communism

Proxy Wars:

- Two sides of the Cold War, Soviet Union and USA
- Both sides attempted to expand their influence

Institutional Racism:

- Government enforcement of racism through laws (Jim Crow Laws)
- It is so embedded into society we don't even notice it
- De facto segregation- separated by race through social and economic institutions

Minstrelsy:

- Form of American entertainment involving comic skits, variety acts, dancing, and music performed by white people in blackface
- After the Civil War many black people also acted in blackface in the shows
- Demonstrated black people as dimwitted, lazy, buffoonish, and musical
- As the civil rights movement progressed, minstrelsy lost popularity

Brown v. Board of Education:

- Civil rights case
- 1954
- Plaintiffs argued that the Board of Education perpetuated inferior treatment to African Americans

Jim Crow Laws:

- 1876-1965
- Gave African Americans a "separate but equal status"
- Segregation laws in the South following the end of slavery
- New amendments were passed such as poll taxes, literacy and comprehension tests, and record keeping requirements that disenfranchised the poor white Americans and African Americans at the time
- Many laws were passed to keep African Americans from voting
- By 1970 most of these laws were overturned

McCarthyism:

- Senator Joseph McCarthy (leader of HUAC) believed communists were infiltrating USA

Kitchen Debate:

- An exchange (through translators) between Pres. Richard Nixon and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev

- Took place in the kitchen of a model home

Domino Theory:

- Existed between the 1950s and 1980s
- The idea that if one state came under the influence of communism, the surrounding states would follow
- Emphasized the need for US intervention

Dustbowl and the Great Depression:

Oakies:

- Thousands of displaced people in the eastern states (due to dust storm) who travel west looking for employment
- Westward expansion of the Frontier

Stock Market Crash:

Civil Rights Act:

- Movements between the 1950s and 1960s that sought racial equality in America
- Aimed at making racial discrimination towards African Americans illegal
- The 1960s to 1970s had a separate movement: The Black Power Movement
- Many segregation policies were in effect; i.e school segregation, segregation on buses, segregation of public washrooms etc.
- See Brown v. Board of Education term
- December 5th 1955 MLK is elected to be the president leading the boycott
- Rosa Parks was an instrumental part of the movement with her bus protest
- Civil Rights Act of 1964 passes on July 2 banning discrimination in public places and in employment
- Voting Rights Act passes August 6 1965 which illegalizes all discriminatory voting requirements
- June 12 1967, laws struck down that forbid interracial marriage
- MLK assassinated on April 4 1968
- Civil Rights Act of 1968 passes on April 11. Prohibits discrimination by renters or sellers of property

Black Nationalism:

Malcolm X:

- More violent and radical than MLK
- Had position of self-sufficiency
- Believed in creating the Black community in a way that White America would see it as a force to be reckoned with rather than simply as equals
- Muslim human rights activist
- Did not agree with the Civil Rights Movement's focus on integration
- The Bullet v The Ballot: Malcolm X criticism of MLK; believed that African-Americans should do more than simply flock to vote, they needed strength beyond that
- Assassinated February 21, 1965

Neurasthenia:

- Medical condition to do with a nervous disorder of some sort similar to modern day General Anxiety Disorder

Laissez- faire (Let it be economics) (Robber Barons):

- Large scale corruption
- The businessman had politicians in their pockets
- Robber barons were accused of eliminating competition through predatory pricing and then overcharging when they had a monopoly
- Robber Barons included J.P. Morgan, Andrew Carnegie, Andrew W. Mellon, and John D. Rockefeller
- The economy will do really well if the government leaves it alone, therefore low taxes and few regulations

The New Deal:

- Roosevelt during the great depression and WW2 attempts to stabilize the economy and minimize the boom and bust cycles through economic policy
- Three R's= Relief, Recovery, Reform
- Social Security and Medicare come from this period

Crisis of Masculinity:

- 20th century crisis taking place because of strong women filling positions typically only given to males
- Causes males to question what masculinity means

Vietnam Syndrome:

- Impact of the controversy surrounding the Vietnam War on US foreign policy
- The reluctance for US policy makers to be involved in foreign affairs following Vietnam Quagmire b/c it would drain their resources and taint their image
- Several attempts to break Vietnam Syndrome, i.e 1983 in Grenada and the Gulf War

Vietnam War:

My Lai Massacre:

- Mass murder of between 347 and 504 unarmed civilians in South Vietnam on March 16, 1968
- Committed by US Army
- Victims included men, women, and children
- Some women were gang-raped
- 26 soldiers charged with criminal offenses
- Considered the “most shocking episode of the Vietnam war”
- Cause of global outrage when the incident became public in November 1969
- Massive cover-up being revealed resulted in massive loss of American support for the US Army and for US involvement in the Vietnam War

Dien Bien Phu:

- French offense in 1954
- France was defeated by Vietnam in battle due to lack of preparation
- US provided France with material aid (i.e aircrafts) but avoided direct intervention
- When US began to contemplate assisting France
- “Day We Didn’t Go to War”

The Jazz Age:

- Feature of the Roaring 20s
- When Jazz (which is a fusion of African and European music) became popular
- Music originated in New Orleans
- Term “Jazz Age” was coined by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Birth of Jazz music generally accredited to African-Americans but was expanded and modified to be socially acceptable to middle class white Americans

The Great Migration:

Escapism:*

Birther:

Tea Party:***NSA:**

- National Security Agency of America
- Deals with the deciphering of encrypted information and the maintenance of secure computer operations for the US Government
- Portrayed in popular culture to herd private data of ordinary Americans

Flappers:

- "New breed" of young Western women in the 1920s
- Wore short skirts, bobbed their hair, listened to jazz, and flaunted their disdain for what was then considered acceptable behavior
- Seen as brash for wearing excessive makeup, drinking, treating sex in a casual manner, smoking, driving automobiles, and otherwise flouting social and sexual norms

Roaring 20's:

- Time of change
- Prohibition (1920-1933)
- An era of unprecedented affluence best remembered through the cultural artifacts generated by its new mass-consumption economy
- Stock market was soaring
- Young Americans in the nation's teeming cities rejected traditional social norms by embracing a modern urban culture of freedom
- Drinking illegally in speakeasies, dancing provocatively to the Charleston, listening to jazz music
- "Great Gatsby Time"

Mayday Riot:

- Series of violent demonstrations that occurred throughout Cleveland, Ohio
- The riots began when Socialist leader, Charles Ruthenberg organized a May Day parade of local trade unionists, socialists, communists, and anarchists to protest the jailing of Eugene V. Debs.
- Charles was running for mayor, thought parade will help him
- May 1st 1919
- Outbreak of violence during labour parade

- Organized at the height of the red scare (widespread paranoia of the Bolshevik revolution spreading from Russia to USA)
- People unhappy with social scene (reading Karl Marx)
- 5000 in parade (carrying American flags and red flags for Bolshevik revolution)
- 10,000 watching parade
- Marks a moment of political cynicism for Fitzgerald

Chinese Exclusion Act:

- Geary Act: 10 years later extends the CEA, strict immigration policy that demonstrates nativism in America
- Signed by President Chester A. Arthur in 1882
- Prohibited immigration of all Chinese labourers
- Repealed by the Magnuson Act 1943
- Even the Chinese who were settled in the US had to receive certification if they left and desired reentry
- Chinese Immigration to the US heightened with the California Gold Rush
- Americans argued that the Chinese were non-assimilative and thus did not work with their melting pot ideologies
- Put into action to “protect American labor” as well as wages; the Chinese were known to work for less

Reasons for Chinese Exclusion (based on reading):

- Chinese are not assimilative
- Protect American labor
- To aid industrial peace

Truman Doctrine:

- Deals with **Containment**

Lynching and KKK:

- The KKK rapidly grew from a secret social fraternity to a paramilitary force bent on reversing the federal government's progressive Reconstruction Era-activities in the South
- Created in 1865
- A mob, usually several dozen or several hundred persons, takes the law into its own hands in order to injure and kill a person accused of some wrongdoing

- Usually by hanging or burning at the stake
- Form of terrorizing blacks to keep them in their place
- Lynching was illegal but never enforced
- Public spectacle and entertainment

Birmingham Bombing:

- 1963 bombing of Baptist church by member of the KKK
- Bomb killed 11 year old girl and three fourteen year old girls
- October 1963, KKK suspect was found to be not guilty of murder and served six months in jail simply for illegal possession of dynamite
- In 1977, he was retried and received life in prison

MLK:

- Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights activist
- Believed in the integration of blacks into white society
- Was nonviolent in hopes of winning whites over to the civil rights struggle
- One of the most influential persons involved in the Civil Rights Movement

Unreal City:

- Cities were filled with immigrants, con artists, prostitutes ect
- The Wizard of Oz
- The city of Oz is like the “white city” offers a promise of greatness but instead tricks people into relying on technology
- There is no place like home (separation from family and communities back in their rural towns) city not a great as small towns
- Loss of individuality when moving to city
- Becoming subject to rich capitalist that control you
- No longer maker of things but a person who provides labour
- “Social alienation”
- Instead of helping each other they would compete and undercut each other for work
- Industrial labour= social alienation

Credibility Gap:

- Government credibility weakened b/c people were seeing things that differed from what they were being told

The Red Summer:

- Refers to the race riots that occurred in more than three dozen cities
- During the summer and early autumn of 1919
- Whites attacked African Americans

Progressivism:

- Political philosophy based on the Idea of Progress,
- Emphasizes that advances in science, technology, economic development, and social organization can improve the human condition
- Five "crucial premises" of the Idea of Progress as being: value of the past, nobility of Western civilization, worth of economic / technological growth, faith in reason and scientific / scholarly knowledge obtained through reason, intrinsic importance and worth of life on earth
- The Progressive Party, founded in 1912 by President Theodore Roosevelt

Immigration Restriction League:

- Founded in 1894 by people who opposed the influx of "undesirable immigrants"
- Worried about immigrants bringing in poverty and organized crime at a time of high unemployment
- Also believed they were a threat to the American way of life
- Attracted prominent scholars and philanthropists
- Used books, pamphlets, meetings, and newspaper and journal articles to disseminate information and sound the alarm about the dangers of the immigrants
- The League also had political allies that used their power in Congress to gain support for the League's intentions