Department of History

The American Century

Spring 2014

The twentieth century has been called the American Century. It was the century in which the United States emerged as a world power, sealed its position as a major economic player and became an exporter of American ideas, American culture and American goods. But the twentieth century left its mark not only on other nations. It also was a century that saw phenomenal change within the United States.

Students in this course will spend the semester researching and writing an original research paper on some aspect of the American Century. Those interested in cultural history might use movies to trace changing notions of gender or analyze music to explore the rise of sixties movement culture. Those interested in social history might look at the ways in which progressive-era feminists challenged Victorian notions of sexuality, Depression-era automobile workers in Flint went on strike to improve conditions on the shop floor or African-American Olympic athletes championed Black Power in the late sixties. Those interested in military history have several wars to choose from, be it one of the World Wars or a more limited conflict such as the Korean War, the Vietnam War or the Iraq War. Those interested in political history might examine Teddy Roosevelt's environmental policies, Harry Truman's battles with Joseph McCarthy, John F. Kennedy's space program, the rise of the New Left, Watergate, or the Reagan Revolution. The possibilities are endless.

Professor Kathleen Donohue

HST 496 (#22242781)
HST 717A (#22242800)

W / 3:30-6:20 p.m.