**HIST 141, Spring 2018, Take Home Essay. Due Thursday March 22, 2018.**

**“Varied Portrayals and Experiences of Historical Eras.”**  [40 pts]

Write an essay proving the fact there are varied portrayals and experiences of historical eras, by specifically addressing three historical eras we have recently studied. Proper nouns and specific references to particular people, events, and developments will strengthen your answers. Show what you have learned. Do not do any additional research beyond course materials. You may consider “possible topics” for each era, but can also address other topics (not listed) from class readings, presentations and other sources.

Essays must be double spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman, 4 pages in length, you may adjust margins as needed.

1. Why is it problematic to portray any era in American history with a single characterization? What is the benefit of recognizing varied portrayals? [5 points]

Write paragraphs on ***two*** of the four eras listed below, but all must do at least one from D and E [30 points, 15 per era]

1. Begin with a topic sentence on your overall portrayal of **the Progressive Era**. Then discuss 3-4 *specific* examples of positive developments and 3-4 *specific* examples of negative/problematic developments. Note for whom the developments were negative or positive in your responses. Who gained from the actions that hurt others? Conclude by noting how Davidson (textbook) provides evidence for and against progress for African Americans in this era.

Possible topics for the progressive Era: trust busting, conservation/preservation, working conditions, housing conditions, women’s rights, food safety, prohibition, racism, eugenics, immigration restrictions, policies toward African Americans, American Indian experiences, African American leaders, foreign policies in Latin America, Presidential policies

1. Begin with a topic sentence on your overall portrayal of **The Twenties**. Then, discuss 3-4 specific examples of positive developments and 3-4 *specific* examples of negative/problematic developments. Note for whom the developments were negative or positive in your responses. Consider who gained from the actions that hurt others. Conclude by noting how sources presented on African American experiences in Duluth, Minnesota and during The Harlem Renaissance (New York) reveals quite different portrayals of race relations in the U.S. in the 1920s

Possible Topics for The 1920s: the “roaring 20s,” automobile industry, economic development, corporate consolidation, agriculture, jazz age, middle class, consumer culture, media, African American experiences in New York and Duluth, immigration policies, artists and alienation, African American leaders, prohibition, KKK, Takao Ozawa, the Stock Market, foreign policies

1. Begin with a topic sentence on an overall portrayal of **The 1930s**. Then, discuss 3-4 specific examples of positive developments and 3-4 *specific* examples of negative or problematic developments pertaining to this historical era. Note for whom the developments were negative or positive. Consider who gained from the actions that hurt others. Conclude by noting how *at least* **three primary sources** you read from *Hard Times* most strongly reveal distinct experiences and perspectives of the era.

Possible Topics for the 1930s: Golden Age of Radio, Family Life, The Dust Bowl, experiences of Mexican Americans and African Americans, New Deal Programs (consider a few individual programs), The Bonus Army, Political Dissenters, the environment, women, Indian New Deal, organized labor, New Deal economic policies, Limitations of New Deal programs

1. Begin with a topic sentence on an overall portrayal of the **World War II era**. Then, discuss 3-4 specific examples of positive developments and 3-4 *specific* examples of negative/problematic developments pertaining to**American experiences** during WWII. Note for whom the developments were negative or positive in your responses. Who gained from the actions that hurt other? Conclude by noting how *at least* **three primary sources** of soldiers during WWII experienced life and/or military engagements during the war.

Possible Topics for Americans in WWII: impact of Pearl Harbor on the nation, war industries, public sacrifices, ‘the good war,” victory gardens, Ex Order 9066, Ex Order 8802; experiences of women, African Americans, Japanese immigrants, Japanese Americans, Hispanics, Mexican Americans, individuals of Chinese and Filipino descent, American Indians, Jews, Homosexuals

1. Finally, why is it important for American citizens generally (even those not taking a history class) to recognize multiple perspectives and experiences? How do you think *differently* about **two of** the eras as a result of your study this semester? [This means, what did you think before, and what do you think now about the era(s)?] [5 points]