

MALS Elective Course
Spring 2009

MALS667-430
A Roar, a Crash, and a Depression

Professor Robin Underhill
Monday 6:00 to 9:00pm
Email: rwu@udel.edu

After World War I, President Warren Harding called for the reign of “normalcy,” yet the words “new” and “for the first time” will be much more useful in describing the 1920s and 1930s. This course focuses on the influences and reactions that produced the New Era and the New Deal. We will examine daily life as well as the political arena. The political concerns of Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover will be contrasted to those of Franklin Roosevelt. We will be behind the wheel, in front of the radio, and standing in line. We will watch mass culture and communication create “a new national community,” while paradoxically a fragmented society is still clearly visible. Through problem-based learning, we will consider the similarities of these two decades to more recent times. We will give particular attention to the impact of the United States’ economic growth and cultural presence throughout the world in the years between two world wars. Readings will be from primary and secondary sources. We will view films, hear music, examine art, and read literature that defined the era, expressed the angst, and inspired a generation.