



Professor Robin Underhill has taught history in the University's Associate in Arts program since 2005 after teaching at Lincoln Christian College and Seminary. His recent research and consulting focuses on the history of American Protestant colleges. Additionally, he studies the social, political, religious, and economic influences and reactions of the first half of the 20th century that still impact the 21st century. His favorite questions: How did we come up with that? And what were we thinking?

He earned a B.A. and M.A in theological studies from Cincinnati Christian University, continuing his education at Louisville Theological Seminary, Ashland Theological Seminary, and Kent State University. He holds a Ph.D. in history from Case Western Reserve University. Recent presentations include "Teaching World History: Textbooks, Maps, and Journals" for the Mid-Atlantic World History Association; "Ode to Freedom: Politics and Emotions at the Fall of the Berlin Wall" for Georgetown campus' Colloquium Series; and seminar leader for Harford Leadership Academy on Leadership and Ethics. He observes the world through the lens of an eclectic education, multiple careers, and lots of travel.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

MALS667: A Roar, A Crash, and A Depression: After World War I, President Warren Harding called for the reign of "normalcy." Yet "new," and "for the first time" are 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 and the political arena, contrasting the political concerns of Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover with 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.