



**After the Crash: Life in the Thirties**  
**Syllabus for Spring 2026**

**Location:** MAB Campus

**Day/Time:** Thursdays, 9:00 - 10:30 (10 weeks)

**Instructor:** Susan Merritt; susanmerritt99@gmail.com

**Schedule:**

Wk	Date	Topics
1	2/05	Introduction; Sep 3, 1929; what came before; the Crash!
2	2/12	The early years (1930-33); descent into depression; Japan invades Manchuria; Gandhi's salt march
3	2/19	Fashion; toys and play; music
4	2/26	Focus on 1933; gangsters of the depression; end of prohibition; Franklin D. Roosevelt takes office; the New Deal
5	3/05	The middle years (1934-37); stormy weather; photography becomes an art form; the Galapagos Mystery; art and literature; sports; cults
6	3/12	The Dustbowl; Nevada in the 1930s; transportation; the Hindenburg
<b>Spring Break – no classes</b>		
7	3/26	Focus on 1937; crimes, trials and mysteries
8	4/02	The later years (1938-39); Billie Holiday; golden age of radio; the African-American experience in the thirties; <i>War of the Worlds</i> broadcast
9	4/09	World's Fairs; invention of TV; science & inventions; automats; the golden age of Hollywood; hit songs from the movies
10	4/16	The sinking of the USS Squalus; lead-up to yet another World War