

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

Location: Virtual

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

Instructor: Susan Merritt; susanmerritt99@gmail.com

Schedule:

Wk	Date	Topics
1	2/03	Introduction; Sep 3, 1929; what came before; the Crash!
2	2/10	The early years (1930-33); descent into depression; Japan invades Manchuria; Gandhi's salt march
3	2/17	Fashion; toys and play; music
4	2/24	Focus on 1933; gangsters of the depression; end of prohibition; Franklin D. Roosevelt takes office; the New Deal
5	3/03	The middle years (1934-37); stormy weather; photography becomes an art form; the Galapagos Mystery; art and literature; sports; cults
6	3/10	The Dustbowl; Nevada in the 1930s; transportation; the Hindenburg
Spring Break – no classes		
7	3/24	Focus on 1937; crimes, trials and mysteries
8	3/31	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	4/07	World's Fairs; invention of TV; science & inventions; automats; the golden age of Hollywood; hit songs from the movies
10	4/14	The sinking of the USS Squalus; lead-up to yet another World War