Unit Description
The Great Depression presents us with the drastically unfamiliar picture of an American society that was brought to its knees. It was - in the eyes of many – devastatingly destructive of the American Dream, with up to one in four unemployed and often on the verge of starvation. But more than the USA was deeply mired in domestic catastrophe: two countries sharing North America (where the Depression and accompanying dust bowls were especially severe) were equally affected, in similar and in dissimilar ways. This involved two separate if related responses to the challenge of recovery: that of the American and of the Canadian (in a Canada that only achieved its full self-governance in 1931). How did the USA and Canada cope with this challenge from within their respective societies and political cultures?

Contact Hours and Mode of Teaching:
10 x 2 hour seminars

Methods of Assessment:
1 x 3000 word essay (formative), 1 x 2 hour exam (100%)

Essential Reading
D. Adams, Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal (1979)
R.E. de Bedts, Recent American History: 1933 Through World War II (vol. 1) Ch. 1-5 (1973)

Further Information

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