This course is a readings seminar that focuses on the origins of progressivism in the United States, the contributions of progressives in reinterpreting American social and political thought, and the many forms their activism took between 1890 and 1930. The first class will cover the larger themes of the Progressive Era and its historiography. The remainder of the first half of the course will examine Progressive-era reformers’ use of republican, religious, and democratic ideals to justify change, as well as the ways in which class, gender, and race shaped their interpretation of problems and solutions. The second half of the course will take a regional approach by examining the factors that influenced reform efforts in the southern U.S.

The bulk of the course grade will come from two papers, one midterm and one final that analyze and synthesize the following readings:


5. Addams, Jane. *Democracy and Social Ethics (with intro by Charlene Haddock Siegfried).*


