Harry Truman and the Origins of the Postwar World
Class Outline

Week One: The Rise of Truman
- Personal story
- World War I
- Pendergast machine
- Senator Truman
- Truman Committee

Week Two: The Accidental President
- 1944 Democratic convention and campaign
- Death of FDR
- Historic challenges

Week 3: 1945: The First Four Months
- Potsdam Conference
- The Bomb

Week 4: Creating the Postwar World
- A New Deal vision for post war reconversion
- 1946 mid-terms and conservative pushback
- The Truman Doctrine

Week 5: Birth of New International Order
- The Marshall Plan
- Origins of European Union and NATO
- 1947 National Security Act and the CIA

Week 6: 1948 Campaign and Election
- Dissolution of the New Deal Democrats
- Henry Wallace and the Dixiecrats
- Recognition of Israel
- Desegregation of then military by executive order
- The whistle-stop campaign

Week 7: The Cold War Intensifies At Home and Abroad
- Second Red Scare – McCarthyism
- Loss of China
- Soviet Atomic Bomb
- Korea
- McArthur decision

Week 8: Truman's legacy
- Civil Rights - Commission on Civil Rights
- Truman in the progressive tradition
- Foreign policy - NSC-68 and the military industrial complex
- Executive Branch expansion