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# History of the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression

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## **OSHER 889-001**

**Dates:** Mondays: August 31 – October 12

**Time:** 9:30 am – 11:00 am

**Location:** Online via Zoom

**Instructor:** Walter Jones  
walter.jones@utah.edu

*\*No class on Labor Day, Monday, September 7.*

### **Course Description:**

The decade of the 1920s was a period of significant economic expansion and prosperity for the United States. These years, however, were a troubled time for some Americans, especially for those who farmed or labored at unskilled, nonunion jobs. As the decade progressed signs of economic decline, stagnation and natural disasters began to appear and became harbingers of hard economic times for many Americans. By the end of October 1929, the nation's economy faltered, slowly at first, but by late 1931, real panic set in. President Herbert Hoover, in office from 1929-1933, attempted to implement programs to alleviate the harsh economic conditions that had spread throughout the nation. His work did little good so that in 1932, voters elected Franklin Delano Roosevelt to replace President Hoover. For nearly ten years FDR sought controversial ways to restore prosperity to the nation; attempts that have been both hailed as saving the nation from violent revolution but also as failing to bring back genuine economic stability. This class will explore important events and people of the 1920s and 1930s in order to better understand the contrasts between the 1920s and 1930s and the challenges, accomplishments and failures of the two sharply contrasted decades.

## Course Overview:

- Week 1:** Spanish Flu, Republican Years, Women's Rights, Consumerism, Mobility & Entertainment
- Week 2:** Entertainment (Continued), Literature, Sports, Music & Dance
- Week 3:** Music & Dance (Continued), Crime & Political Corruption, Presidential Election of 1928, Harbingers of Hard Times Ahead
- Week 4:** A Terrible & Persistent Depression, Entertainment (The Split Personality of the Great Depression)
- Week 5:** Residents of the White House Respond to the Great Depression
- Week 6:** Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, Last Years of the New Deal, FDR's Supreme Court "Packing" Attempt, Second Crash, New Deal's Impact, FDR's Memorial in Washington, D.C.