History 467
The United States Since 1945

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Winter 2011
Tu/Th 11:30-1:00
Angell Hall Aud. C

Office Hours: Thursdays, 2:00-4:00 p.m., and by appt.

Course Webpage: CTools: History 467 001 W11 [https://ctools.umich.edu/portal]

Graduate Student Instructor:
Katie Rosenblatt  <krosenb@umich.edu>  Sections 002, 003, 004

History 467 provides a topical and thematic approach to post-1945 United States history, including Cold War politics and culture; the fate of liberalism and the rise of conservatism; social movements of the Left and the Right; the relationships among youth subcultures, countercultures, and mass consumer culture; and the era of globalization and its recent discontents in the economy and foreign policy, including the “war on terror.” The main emphasis of the course is the intersection of politics, culture, and society in modern U.S. history.

We will address questions such as: How did the “frontier mythology” shape postwar America? How did the Cold War reshape politics and popular culture in the United States? What is the “American Way”? What role have corporations played in modern America? What happened to the power base of organized labor? How have civil rights, feminism, environmentalism, the Christian Right, and other grassroots movements changed American society? Why did the United States lose in Vietnam? Can the federal government win the “War on Drugs”? Were the Seventies more important than the Sixties? Are the “culture wars” finally over? How are Latinos and other immigrant groups changing contemporary politics? Did the ideology of American Exceptionalism advanced by Ronald Reagan and on display in two wars in the Middle East overcome the “Vietnam Syndrome”? Is it accurate to speak of a new “American Empire” in the global arrangements that have replaced the Cold War framework? What happened to the “new economy” of the 1990s? Where did your shoes actually come from?

Requirements: Students are expected to attend lectures regularly, to be present at all discussion sections, and to be prepared and participate actively in the section meetings. If you must miss your regular section, you should arrange to attend a different one with the GSI. If this is not possible, then in order to receive credit for participation you should turn in a one-page, single-spaced summary of the readings/films for the section that you missed (in addition to any assigned discussion project). Your GSI will distribute a discussion section syllabus with additional information, including class policy for missing section, religious holidays, and more. Assigned films should be watched in advance of the weekly discussion section. Students should consult the History 467 CTools site routinely for reading material, assignment guidelines, research links, class updates, and general course information.
Lecture Outlines: The lecture outlines will be available for printing or downloading on CTools in the Resources/Lecture Outlines folder by the morning before the class meeting.

Technology in the Classroom: Please turn off or mute your cell phones during lecture and discussion sections and resist the urge to use them for any reason during class time. Laptops can serve useful purposes in the classroom, such as downloading the lecture outlines, taking notes, and bringing up electronic copies of assigned articles during section. If you cannot help browsing the web or using your laptop for non-class-related purposes during lecture, please sit in the back rows so that such activities don’t distract your classmates. Laptops should not be used for any non-class-related purpose during your discussion section.

Films: We will watch six films outside of regularly scheduled class meetings. Students should analyze films with the same rigor as reading assignments—as historical documents and as cultural texts—taking notes in preparation for discussion section and in anticipation of graded assignments. Each film will be available in streaming video format through the History 467 CTools site (instructions included on the site). Each of these films, except for My Generation, can also be found in Askwith Media Library and at local video stores.

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Discussion Projects: On five occasions during the semester, discussion projects will include a short (one page, single-spaced) written assignment to be turned in at your section meeting. The guidelines for the discussion projects will be posted in the Resources/Discussion Projects folder on the CTools site [denoted as DP below].

Graded Assignments: The guidelines for graded assignments also will be posted on CTools in a timely fashion. Anything covered in the course—reading assignments, films, lectures—is fair game for the final exam, although it will be tilted toward material after the midterm. A final exam review guide also will be available on CTools before the end of classes. All four components listed below must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

*Discussion: consistent attendance, active participation, discussion projects (30%)
*5 page midterm, take-home essay assignment, based on course readings (20%)
*10 page research paper, based on primary and secondary sources (25%)
*Comprehensive final exam on Friday, April 22, 1:30-3:30 pm (25%)

Style Guide: The History 467 Style Guide is available on CTools in the Resources Folder. These guidelines should be followed for the midterm essay and the research paper, and they also explain issues such as the documentation of sources and the penalties for plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty.
Readings:

1. **Electronic Reader [ER]:** A selection of articles and book chapters is available on CTools in the Resources/Electronic Reader section. These assignments are denoted as [ER] in the syllabus. Some are pdf files, and others are hyperlinks to primary documents available on the web.

2. **Required Books:** The following books are available for purchase online and at area bookstores that participate in the U-M textbook system (Ulrich’s, Michigan Book and Supply, Michigan Union). One copy of each is on reserve at Shapiro Undergraduate Library.

   **Tom Engelhardt,** *The End of Victory Culture: Cold War America and the Disillusioning of a Generation*
   **Wendy Wall,** *Inventing the “American Way”: The Politics of Consensus from the New Deal to the Civil Rights Movement*
   **Glenn Altschuler,** *All Shook Up: How Rock ‘n’ Roll Changed America*
   **Timothy Tyson,** *Radio Free Dixie: Robert F. Williams and the Roots of Black Power*
   **Tim O’Brien,** *The Things They Carried*
   **Bruce Schulman,** *The Seventies: The Great Shift in American Culture, Society, and Politics*
   **Ruth Rosen,** *The World Split Open: How the Modern Women’s Movement Changed America*
   **Greg Grandin,** *Empire’s Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism*
   **William Finnegan,** *Cold New World: Growing Up in a Harder Country*
   **Nelson Lichtenstein,** *The Retail Revolution: How Wal-Mart Created a Brave New World of Business*

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**Course Outline**

**Week 1 — Introduction**

Jan. 6: The Ideology of American Exceptionalism

**President Barack Obama, “A New Beginning” speech in Cairo, Egypt (June 4, 2009) [ER]
**Andrew Bacevitch, “The War We Can’t Win,” *Commonweal* (Aug. 5, 2009) [ER]

**Discussion sections do not meet this week**
Week 2—Cold War America

Jan. 11: The Frontier Mythology

Jan. 13: The Atomic Age

Discussion Reading: Engelhardt, *The End of Victory Culture*, Preface (ix-xii), 3-89
**Plus the articles listed in Week 1

**Film #1: *Why We Fight* (dir. Eugene Jarecki, 2005)

Week 3—The New Deal Order

Jan. 18: Liberalism and the Social Contract

Jan. 20: The Fate of Organized Labor

Discussion Reading: Wendy Wall, *Inventing the “American Way”: The Politics of Consensus from the New Deal to the Civil Rights Movement*, 3-21, 31-67, 77-87, 95-133, 143-177, 187-244, 258-290 [when skipping pages stop/restart at the section breaks]

Week 4—America in the Fifties

Jan. 25: The “American Way”

Jan. 27: Subcultures of Dissent

Discussion Reading: Altschuler, *All Shook Up* (all)

**Film #2: *Rebel without a Cause* (1955, dir. Nicholas Ray, 111 min.)

**Discussion Project #1: Youth Culture [DP]

Week 5—Civil Rights Era

Feb. 1: The South and the Nation

Feb. 3: The “Great Society”

Discussion Reading: Tyson, *Radio Free Dixie*, 1-3, 26-89, 137-308 (Introduction, Chapters 2-3, 6-10, Conclusion)

**Jeff Cohen and Jeff Gottlieb, “Was Fred Hampton Executed?” *The Nation* (Dec. 25, 1976) [ER]

[Week 5 continued on p. 5]
**Discussion Project #2: Civil Rights Strategies [DP]**

**Week 6—New Frontiers**

Feb. 8: Politics of Anticommunism

Feb. 10: Dr. Strangelove’s America

Discussion Reading: Engelhardt, *The End of Victory Culture*, 90-132

**Week 7—Vietnam Era I**

Feb. 15: The Vietnam War

Feb. 17: The New Left

Discussion Reading: Engelhardt, *The End of Victory Culture*, 133-259
  **Students for a Democratic Society, The Port Huron Statement (1962—excerpt) [ER]
  **PBS, “LBJ’s Path to War” Transcript (from 1964-1965) [ER]

**Film #3: Berkeley in the ‘60s (1990, dir. Mark Kitchell, 117 min.)

**Feb. 18—Midterm Essay Due [CT]**

**Week 8—Vietnam Era II**

Feb. 22: The “Vietnam Syndrome”

Feb. 24: Countercultural Cycles

Discussion Reading: O’Brien, *The Things They Carried* (all)
  **James Fallows, “What Did You Do in the Class War, Daddy?” [ER]

**Discussion Project #3: War Stories [DP]**
**Spring Break:** Feb. 26-March 6

**Week 9—Political Realignment**

March 8: Rise of Conservatism

March 10: “Morning in America”

Discussion Reading: Schulman, *The Seventies* (all)

**Discussion Project #4: Family Interview (due either Week 9 or Week 10) [DP]**

**Week 10—Sexual Revolution**

March 15: Feminism

March 17: Culture Wars

Discussion Reading: Rosen, *The World Split Open*, xi-xvi, 3-36, 63-93, 143-226, 263-344 (Preface, Chapters 1, 3, 5-6, 8-9, Epilogue)

**Film #4: *Kramer vs. Kramer* (1979, dir. Robert Benton, 105 min.)

**Discussion Project #4: Family Interview (due either Week 9 or Week 10) [DP]**

**Week 11—New World Order**

March 22: Star Wars

March 24: Hot Wars

Discussion Reading: Grandin, *Empire’s Workshop*, 1-9, 52-237 (Intro, Chapters 2-6, Conclusion)

**Engelhardt, *The End of Victory Culture*, 263-303

**Ronald Reagan, “Evil Empire” Speech (March 8, 1983) [ER]**

**Week 12—Home Front**

March 29: War on Drugs

March 31: Beyond the Melting Pot

[Week 12 continued on p. 7]
Discussion Reading: Finnegan, *Cold New World*, xiii-xiii (Introduction), 3-92, 211-351

**Film #5: Traffic* (2000, dir. Steven Soderbergh, 147 min.)

**Discussion Project #5: Generational Changes [DP]

**Week 13—“New Economy”**

April 5: Living Wages

April 7: Environmentalism

Discussion Reading: Lichtenstein, *The Retail Revolution* (all)

**April 8: Research Paper Due [CT]**

**Week 14—Consumer Nation**

April 12: Market Populism

April 14: Globalization and its Discontents


**Malcolm Gladwell, “The Coolhunt,” *New Yorker* (March 17, 1997), 78-88 [ER]


**Film #6: My Generation* (2000, dir. Barbara Kopple, 103 min.)

**Week 15—Back to the Future**

April 19: The “War on Terror”

**Final Exam**: April 22, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Angell Hall Aud. C. (Review guidelines will be posted on CTools about two weeks in advance)