THE 1960s: CULTURE AND CONFLICT -- LSHV-483-40

Mondays, 6:30 PM – 9:35 PM, ICC 221B

Course Overview
“The Times They Are A-Changin’” is the title of a Bob Dylan song from 1964. Perhaps the title itself encapsulates an emerging mood in America during this decade of transformation. The inclusive years of the 1960s begins with the election of John Kennedy as the 35th President of the United States in 1960 and concludes with the end of the Vietnam War on January 27, 1973. This entire period was, in fact, more than a time of change: it was a time of formation. More than 70 million young Americans of the post-war years – “baby boomers” - were coming of age and not liking the direction America was going. Having experienced the conservative and lucrative post-war fifties with the advent of television, rock & roll and super highways, America’s youth generally rejected any association with their parents’ generation. They experimented with new and radical ways of thinking that powerfully challenged the very fabric of American life. To be sure, many of the revolutionary ideas from the sixties are shaping life in the West today. The 1960s was not only a decade of transformation in American history, but an era of formation and influence that would lay the foundation for generations to come.

“The 1960s: Culture and Conflict” is a graduate course that will review the political landscape and cultural milieu coming from the Eisenhower post-war era, while examining new and ostensibly radical ideology, protest movements, and counterculture of the period that often united politicians and dissidents in similar causes. By design this course is interdisciplinary, as students will have the opportunity to select themes in political science, the arts (music, entertainment, and media), religion, philosophy and sociology (culture studies) for their semester research paper.

Instructor
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Office Hours: Mondays, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM, ICC Atrium; and by appointment at the Downtown Campus, 640 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20001.
Course Goals
To provide an intellectual framework and analytical tools for students to discuss, reflect upon, and understand issues that developed during a specific period in American history, and how these ideas are influencing life today.

Evaluation
Students are expected to attend lectures, read assigned texts, submit term paper & essays, and participate in discussion, as well as display an ability to absorb, comprehend, and analyze the course material.

Study Groups
Depending on class size, study groups (usually four) will be formed to prepare class presentations on 1960’s issues. These 15 minute group presentations will take place near the end of the semester.

Grading Policy
Final grade for the course will be based on the following:

1. Class Participation/Discussion 10%
2. Analytical Essays 30% (10 X 3)
3. Term Paper 40%
4. Oral Presentation 20%

Learning Objectives
The following objectives are built into the pedagogy of this course syllabus:
1. To provide an awareness, knowledge & understanding of the political & social landscape in post-World War II America;
2. To help students understand the cultural, psychological, political & religious/theological foundations that led to the counter-culture movement in the 1960s; and,
3. To provide the building blocks for students to intelligently express their own views on these and other themes

Disabilities Statement
If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

Use of Electronic Devices
All electronic devices will be turned off at the beginning of class.

Readings Assignments
Required readings for each class are listed below, and should be completed before the class period. All others are highly recommended, and may be referred to in class. Shorter articles will be uploaded to Blackboard. Additional websites and recently declassified government documents will be made available in class.

Requirements
1. Readings
2. Three take home exercises
3. Oral Presentation

Textbooks
The following titles will serve as our main texts for the course:

Primary


Secondary (Recommended but not required)


H.W. Brands, *The Foreign Policy of Lyndon Johnson: Beyond Viet Nam* (College Station, TX: Texas A & M University, 1999).


Gale Editor, ed., *The Cuban Missile Crisis* (Farmington, MI: Greenhaven Press, 2010).


A more detailed topical bibliography will be provided.

**Course Outline**
Class Meets on Mondays, 6:30 PM – 9:35 PM in ICC 221B

**Week 1, May 18**
**America and Foreign Policy in the Post-War Years**


**May 25: MEMORIAL DAY, No Class**

**Week 2: June 1**
**John Kennedy and the Promise of Leadership**


Todd Gitlin, “Leftward Kicking and Screaming,” in *TS*, 81-104.


Gale Editor, ed., *The Cuban Missile Crisis* (Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven Press, 2010). Selections to be distributed/posted on BlackBoard.

**Week 3: June 8**

**The Meaning of National Culture and the Counterculture**

*First Analytical Essay Distributed*


Farber, “Freedom,” in *The AGD*, 67-89


**Week 4: June 15**

**Vietnam**

*First Analytical Essay Due*


**Week 5: June 22**

**Lyndon Johnson and a Nation at War**


H.W. Brands, *The Foreign Policy of Lyndon Johnson: Beyond Viet Nam* (College Station, TX: Texas A & M University, 1999). Selections to be distributed/posted on BlackBoard


**Week 6: June 29**

**Civil Rights: Martin Luther King, Jr.**


**Week 7: July 6**
**Religion in the 60s**
*Second Analytical Essay Distributed*


**Week 8: July 13**
**Religion in the 60s, continued**
*Second Analytical Essay Due*

Study Group Presentations


**Week 9: July 20**
**Religion in the 60s, continued**
**Liberation Theology & Latin America**

**Crisis of Faith**

*Topics for Final Research Paper Due*


**Week 10: July 27**
**Music in the 60s and Its Effect on the National Psyche**

*Class Oral Presentations*

Third Analytical Essay Distributed
Protest Songs
Greil Marcus, LRS, 166-201

Week 11: August 3
LAST CLASS
Revolution in the Air: the Cultural Revolution
The Cold War: The New Reformers & the New Left
Class Oral Presentations
Third Analytical Essay Due
BDP, 103-193

AUGUST 10, 2015, by 5:00 PM, LAST DAY TO SUBMIT FINAL PAPER

End of Course

This Syllabus may be updated.