THE 1960s: DECADE OF TRANSFORMATION

Mondays, 5:30 PM, 640 Mass. Ave

Course Overview
The 2016 Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded to Bob Dylan. “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: Decade of Transformation” is an undergraduate 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
Gregory Havrilak, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Email: gch9@georgetown.edu
Phone: O: 202-784-7316; C: 703-994-8360
Office Hours: Mon 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM; Wed, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM, and by appointment
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 20-minute group presentations will take place on April 6.

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. Mid-Semester Evaluation 10%
4. Term Paper 30%
5. 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. Mid-Term Evaluation
4. Oral Presentation
5. Final Paper (Research, 15-20 pages of text)

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

Primary


Course Outline
Class Meets on Mondays at 5:30 PM

Week 1: Jan 11 (Wednesday is a Monday)
America and Foreign Policy in the Post-War Years

Jan 16: NO CLASS, Dr Martin Luther King holiday

Week 2: Jan 23 (Back to Monday)
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: Jan 30
The Meaning of National Culture and the Counterculture
First Analytical Essay Distributed
Farber, “Freedom,” in *The AGD*, 67-89

**Week 4: Feb 6**

**Vietnam**

First Analytical Essay Due
Farber, “Vietnam,” AGDs, 117-137.

**Week 5: Feb 13**

**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

**Feb 20: NO CLASS, Presidents’ Holiday**

**Week 6: Feb 27**

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

**March 6: NO CLASS, Spring Break**

**Week 7: March 13**

**Mid-Semester Evaluation**

**Religion in the 60s**
Second Analytical Essay Distributed


**Week 8: March 20**

Religion in the 60s, continued

*Second Analytical Essay Due*


**Week 9: March 27**

Religion in the 60s, continued

Liberation Theology & Latin America

Crisis of Faith

*Topics for Final Research Paper Due*


**Week 10: April 3**

Music in the 60s and Its Effect on the National Psyche

Third Analytical Essay Distributed

Protest Songs

Greil Marcus, LRS, 166-201


**Week 11: April 10**

Study Group Presentations
Revolution in the Air: the Cultural Revolution

Third Analytical Essay Due

BDP, 103-193

April 17: NO CLASS, Easter Break

Week 12: April 24
The Cold War: The New Reformers & The New Left
Student Oral Class Presentations
Strategic and International Relations in the Cold War and Post-Cold War, Adelphi Papers, selections will be distributed.
Doug Rossinow, “The New Left: Democratic Reformers or Left-Wing Revolutionaries,” CGA, 91-118
MacKenzie, “Politics & the Liberal Arc,” LH, 38-83
Unger, “The New Left, TWC, 55-92
Gitlin, “Radicals & the Liberal Glow,” TS, 127-170
Faber, “The Liberal dream & Its Nightmare,” AGD, 90-116

Week 13: May 1
LAST CLASS
A New Direction
Student Oral Class Presentations
Farber, CGA, 64
Farber, “Richard Nixon and the Politics of Deception,” AGD, 212-238
Unger, “Election 68,” TWC, 314-345

MAY 8, 2017, by 11:59 PM, LAST DAY TO SUBMIT FINAL PAPER through Turnitin.com

End of Course
ADDITIONAL READING LIST

(The following titles are 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).


Michael Grow, U.S. Presidents and Latin American Intervention (Lawrence, KS: The University of Kansas Press, 2008).


A more detailed topical bibliography will be provided.
This Syllabus may be updated and/or corrected.

**Georgetown Honor System**

All students are expected to follow Georgetown’s honor code unconditionally. We assume you have read the honor code material located at [http://scs.georgetown.edu/academic-affairs/honor-code](http://scs.georgetown.edu/academic-affairs/honor-code), and in particular have read the following documents: Honor Council Pamphlet, What is Plagiarism, Sanctioning Guidelines, and Expedited Sanctioning Process. Papers in this course will all be submitted to turnitin.com for checking. Submitting material in fulfillment of the requirements of this course means that you have abided by the Georgetown honor pledge:

*In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor, and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.*

**Plagiarism**
In accord with university policy, all incident of suspected plagiarism or other Honor Code violations will be reported to the Honor Council without fail. If the Honor Council finds that a student has plagiarized or has violated the Honor Code in any other way, the student will receive a grade of F for the course and/or be subject to expulsion from the university.