THE 1960s: CULTURE AND CONFLICT -- LSHV-457-01

Mondays, 6:30 PM – 9:35 PM

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: 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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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 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. Research 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 (Analytical Essays)
3. Oral Presentation
4. Final Paper (Research, 25+ pages of text)

**Textbooks**

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

**Primary**


**Course Outline**

Class Meets on Mondays, 6:30 PM – 9:35 PM in ICC

**Week 1, Jan 10 (Wednesday is a Monday)**

America and Foreign Policy in the Post-War Years


**Week 2: Jan 15, NO CLASS, Dr Martin Luther King**

**Week 3: Jan 22**

**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 4: Jan 29**

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

*First Analytical Essay Distributed*


Michael Wm. Doyle, “Debating the Counter-Culture: Ecstasy and Anxiety Over the Hip Alternative,” *CGA*, 143-156.


**Week 5: Feb 5**

**Vietnam**
First Analytical Essay Due

Week 6: Feb 12
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 7: Feb 19, NO CLASS, Presidents’ Day

Week 8: Feb 26
Civil Rights: Martin Luther King, Jr.

Week 9: Mar 5, NO CLASS, Spring Break

Week 10: Mar 12
Religion in the 60s
Second Analytical Essay Distributed
David Tracy, Blessed Rage for Order (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1975). Selections to be distributed/posted on BlackBoard.
Week 11: Mar 19
Religion in the 60s, continued
Second Analytical Essay Due
Study Group Presentations

Week 12: Mar 26
Religion in the 60s, continued
Liberation Theology & Latin America
Crisis of Faith
Topics for Final Research Paper Due
Selections to be distributed/posted on BlackBoard.
Michael Grow, U.S. Presidents and Latin American Intervention (Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas Press, 2008).

Week 13: April 2, NO CLASS, Easter Break

Week 14: April 9
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 15: April 16
Revolution in the Air: the Cultural Revolution
Third Analytical Essay Due

BDP, 103-193


**Week 16: April 23**

The Cold War: The New Reformers & the New Left

Student Oral Presentations


**Week 17: April 30**

LAST CLASS

Student Oral Presentations

**FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE BY MAY 11, 2018 by 5:00 PM IN THE GLS OFFICE**

Additional Readings (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).


*This syllabus may be updated and/or corrected*
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