

**MODERN AMERICA, 1945 TO THE PRESENT**  
**HIST 3073**

**2007 Summer Session II**  
**MTWRF 9:15-11:30am**  
**LeConte Hall, Room 101**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

After two decades of depression and war, the United States emerged in the postwar period as a dominant world force, experiencing unprecedented economic growth and rapid technological change. The promises and problems of prosperity took center stage in national politics, as a greatly enlarged federal government crafted social and economic policies in response to the demands of mobilized social movements. This course will examine the legacies of these interactions between society and state, including the politics of the Cold War, the political culture of mass consumption, labor and civil rights struggles, conflicts over the social welfare state, the war in Vietnam and the antiwar movement, second-wave feminism, the economic and environmental crises of the 1970s, the neo-conservative revolution, and global confrontations at the end of the century. We will develop our understanding of these large-scale historical changes both from the perspectives of current historians and through the recollections of people who participated and observed history in the making.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Attendance**

Attendance at *every* class meeting is mandatory, and will significantly help your grade since exam questions will be drawn from my lectures as well as the reading material. I will take attendance daily, and all absences are considered unexcused. Repeat: there is no such thing as an excused absence. After your second absence from class, I will deduct *two percentage points* from your final course grade for each subsequent absence.

**Reading and Discussions**

Required readings are listed below. Students are expected to complete the assigned reading materials before each class session. Active participation in the discussions is required. To facilitate discussion, each student is required to post to WebCT, at least 2 hours prior to daily discussion, two *analytical* questions in response to each session's reading. Occasional surprise ("pop") quizzes or in-class writing assignments will be administered to make sure the reading is being done.

**Exams**

There will be three exams (two midterms and one comprehensive, take-home final exam). These will take the form of a combination of short-answer identifications and long-answer analytical essays. Students who do the required reading, attend class regularly, take good notes, and develop insights and analyses on the course material will do well on the exams.

**Writing Assignment**

Students are required to complete one writing assignment on an assigned research topic; students will be expected to use both primary and secondary source materials to compose an original essay. The completed essay, which will be due July 16, should be 750 to 1000 words (3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12pt

font, 1" margins) in length. Specific information on this assignment is available on WebCT. Assignments will be penalized 10 points (out of 100) for every day that they are late. No paper extensions will be granted except under truly extraordinary instances.

### **Note on Requirements**

Please note that the course syllabus is a general plan for the course. Deviations may be necessary, and if so, will be announced to the class by the instructor. This means that course readings and requirements are subject to change at the professor's discretion, and it is the student's responsibility to keep abreast of class announcements.

### **Academic Integrity**

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. In short, do not plagiarize. Any infringement of the University's Academic Honesty Code—no matter how minor—will result in an automatic "0" (zero). Visit the following website for more information: [http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic\\_honesty/academic\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/academic_honesty.htm)

### **GRADING**

Discussion	10%
Quizzes and Reading Questions	5%
Exam I	20%
Essay (LBJ Tapes)	20%
Exam II	20%
Exam III	25%

### **READING LIST**

The following books are required reading, and will be available for purchase at the bookstore (or online), as well as placed on reserve at the library. Other documents, marked by an asterisk (\*) in the schedule, will be made available on the course website. Students who provide me with a blank CD-R can also have all the PDFs burned onto the disk.

- John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History* (New York: Penguin Books, 2005).  
Daniel Horowitz, ed., *American Social Classes in the 1950s: Selections from Vance Packard's The Status Seekers* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 1995)  
Ann Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi* (Dell, 1968)  
Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried: A Work of Fiction* (New York: Broadway Books, 1998).  
Karen R. Merrill, *The Oil Crisis of 1973-1974: A Brief History with Documents* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2007).

### **SCHEDULE**

- July 6 Introduction to the Course: The Legacies of Depression and War  
Film: *The Atomic Café* (1982)
- July 9 Lecture: Truman, the Cold War, and Containment  
Lecture: Constructing a Postwar World  
Discussion  
Required Reading: Gaddis, *Cold War*, pp. 1-63.

- July 10      Lecture: Big Business, Big Labor, Big Government  
 Film: *On the Waterfront* (1954)
- July 11      Lecture: "Pinkos," "Commies," and the "Homosexual Menace"  
 Lecture: Supermarkets, Suburbs, and the Politics of Affluence  
 Discussion  
 Required Reading: Horowitz, *American Social Classes in the 1950s: Selections from Vance Packard's The Status Seekers*, pp. 1-80, 121-127, 147-172, 191-195.
- July 12      Lecture: Bebop, Rock n' Roll, and the Beats  
 Lecture: JFK and the Promise of American Liberalism  
 Discussion  
 Required Reading: \*Allen Ginsberg, "Howl" (1956); Gaddis, *Cold War*, pp. 64-118.

**July 13      Exam I (in class)**

**July 16      Short Essay (on the Johnson Tapes) due in class**

- July 16      Lecture: LBJ and the "Great Society"  
 Discussion: LBJ tapes findings
- July 17      Lecture: The Civil Rights Era I: Inequality  
 Lecture: The Civil Rights Era II: Struggle  
 Discussion  
 Required Reading: Moody, *Coming of Age* (thru part II: High School).
- July 18      Film: *Freedom on My Mind* (1994)  
 Lecture: The Civil Rights Era III: Politics  
 Discussion  
 Required Reading: Moody, *Coming of Age*, finish.
- July 19      Lecture: Protesting "The Machine"—The New Left and the New Right  
 Discussion  
 Required Reading: \*Hendrik Hertzberg, "The San Francisco Sound," (Oct. 1966), pp. 3-18;  
 \*Students for a Democratic Society, "The Port Huron Statement," (1962); \*Young Americans for Freedom, "The Sharon Statement" (1960)

**July 20      Exam II (in class)**

- July 23      Lecture: Vietnam, Into the Quagmire  
 Film: *The War at Home* (1979)  
 Discussion  
 Required Reading: O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*, pp. 1-116, 124-134, 179-180; \*George Skakel, "One Soldier's View: Vietnam Letters" (1967-68); \*The John Birch Society and the Vietnam War (1965/1968).

- July 24      Lecture: Second-Wave Feminism  
 Lecture: From *Silent Spring* to Earth Day  
 Discussion  
 Required Reading: \*SNCC Position Paper: Women in the Movement (1964); \*Casey Hayden and Mary King, "Sex and Caste: A Kind of Memo" (1965); \*Betty Friedan, "The Problem That Has No Name" (1963); \*Barbara Susan, "About My Consciousness Raising"; \*Pat Mainardi, "The Politics of Housework"; \*Lady Bird Johnson, "Remarks before the General Session" (1965); \*Ben H. Bagdikian, "The Rape of the Land" (1966); \*Lois Gibbs, "Knocking on Doors at Love Canal" (1983).
- July 25      Film: *Gimme Shelter* (1970) [the Rolling Stones at Altamont]  
 Lecture: Watergate and the Fall (?) of the Imperial Presidency  
 Discussion  
 Required Reading: \*Michael Willard, "Cutback: Skate and Punk at the Far End of the American Century," in *America in the 70s*, ed. Beth Baily and David Farber (U. Kansas Press, 2004), 181-207.
- July 26      Lecture: The Personal Is Political: Race, Rights, and Taxes  
 Lecture: The "Southernization" of America  
 Discussion  
 Required Reading: \*Peter Schrag, "The Forgotten American," *Harper's*, Aug. 1969, 27-34.
- July 27      Lecture: Panic at the Pump—The Global Politics of Food and Fuel  
 Lecture: Crises of Confidence—American "Malaise"  
 Discussion  
 Required Reading: Merrill, *Oil Crisis*, pp. 1-28, 37-41, 48-98, 113-122, 124-133, 140-143, 149-152.
- July 30      Lecture: The Reagan Revolution  
 Lecture: The End of the Cold War  
 Discussion  
 Required Reading: Gaddis, *The Cold War*, pp. 189-266.
- July 31      Lecture: An Age of Uncertainty  
 Discussion / Exam Review

**August 1      Final Take-Home Exam due by 11:59pm**