

History 174
Spring 2015
TTh 2:45-4:00
Humanities 203

Professor Liss
Hum. 214, x73541
OH: Tues. 4:15-5:30, Thurs. 12:15-1:15

The American 1960s

The Sixties, probably more than most decades, has a hold on our present. Why? How do we disentangle history from memory, memory from nostalgia? One of the goals of this course is to answer these questions by exploring the history of the era and its legacies for our own time. In doing so, we will examine the hopes, struggles, and impact of the decade with an emphasis on social, political, and cultural history. We will focus on the U.S. in the 1960s, especially the controversies and conflicts over the meaning of “American” as a source of individual and collective identity and polemical purpose. Particular topics include post-war liberalism, civil rights movements, environmentalism, women's liberation, the Vietnam War, the sexual revolution, the counterculture, and the rise of the New Right. Readings will include primary sources from the period and secondary works by historians and other scholars. These materials fulfill another goal of the course: to be self-conscious about historical work by *doing* the work of historians in materials original to the time and by *analyzing* how historians evaluate the tumultuous decade of the 20th century—the '60s.

The following books are available at Huntley Bookstore and on reserve at Honnold Library.

Alexander Bloom and Wini Breines, eds. “Takin’ It to the Streets”: A Sixties Reader, 3d edition
ISBN: 978019536835

James Baldwin, The Fire Next Time ISBN: 9780679744726

Michael Herr, Dispatches, ISBN: 0679735259

Penny Lewis, Hardhats, Hippies, and Hawks ISBN: 9780801478567

Lisa McGirr, Suburban Warriors ISBN: 9780691096117

Bruce Schulman, ed., Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism, 2d edition
ISBN: 9780312416331

Tom Wolfe, The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test ISBN: 9780312427597

Additional readings (marked with *) are in the Resources folder on Sakai.

An augmented version of this syllabus with links to speeches, music and videos is on Sakai.

Course learning objectives:

- To become acquainted with the social, political and cultural dynamics of the U.S. in the 1960s
- To understand and critique historical arguments (class participation, written work)
- To understand and interpret primary sources (class participation, written work)
- To articulate historical arguments in group discussion (class participation, Sakai postings)
- To develop clear, analytical writing that synthesizes different readings (paper #1), evaluates scholarly work (paper #2), and uses primary and secondary sources (written work)
- To develop historical research skills (paper #3)

Course requirements and grading policy are on the next page.

Course requirements and grading policy:

Students must complete all assignments to pass this course.

Class participation, including attendance	20%
Sakai postings	10%
Paper #1 (5 pages) due February 24	20%
Paper #2 (5 pages) due March 6 or April 17	20%
Paper #3 (10-15 pages) due May 13	30%

Participation, including attendance: This class is a seminar which means that class time is used for discussion in which student participation is crucial. Students are required to complete the assigned reading before class and come prepared to discuss it. Laptops and other electronic devices are not permitted, except for approved, individual academic accommodations (in which case, please speak to me and see below*). If necessary, there may be in-class writing assignments. Students should bring readings to class, including Sakai materials that will need to be printed out. Unexcused absences will affect your grade.

Sakai postings: Students will post (in the appropriate Sakai forum thread) questions and comments on the readings by 9 a.m. of the day's class. Your questions and comments should demonstrate that you have done the readings *and* thought about them. They should help generate discussion about the readings and their arguments or approaches. Avoid simple factual questions. In contrast, questions that focus on a key concept that is unclear, difficult, or controversial may be helpful. Questions that explore the implications or conclusions of the readings or connect them to each other are also useful. We will use these questions as a starting point and basis for our discussions. Your comments will also serve as an on-going conversation about the readings and issues raised in this course. They will be a useful starting point for your final paper that will expand upon the course material.

Two 5-page papers based on the assigned readings:

Paper #1: due February 24 by the beginning of class in your Sakai dropbox

Paper #2: due Friday March 6 or Friday April 17 by 4 p.m. in your Sakai dropbox

A 10-15 page, final paper on a topic of student's choice, based on material in the course and involving additional research. Papers are due Wednesday May 13 by 4 p.m. in your Sakai dropbox.

Expectations regarding academic honesty: It should go without saying that students are expected to adhere to the norms and rules regarding academic honesty. This means that all work must be your own, fully cited according to the standards of academic scholarship and produced for this class. Academic dishonesty is grounds for failure on the assignment and/or the course and possible suspension or expulsion.

*Students seeking academic accommodations must see the disability coordinator at their home college: sdelator@scrippscollege.edu; julia.easley@claremontmckenna.edu; nayers@hmc.edu; Jill_Hawthorne@pitzer.edu; Jan.Collins-Eaglin@pomona.edu.

Week I: A New Frontier: It Was 50 Years Ago Today

Jan. 20: Introduction to the course
Handouts: JFK, Inaugural Address; 1960s in the news

Jan. 22: Alexander Bloom and Wini Breines, eds., “Takin’ It to the Streets”, pp. 1-11
*Robert M. Collins, “Growth Liberalism” (all readings marked with an * are on Sakai in the Resources folder)
*Isaac Asimov, “Visit to the World’s Fair of 2014”

Film: “Freedom on My Mind” (1994, dir. Connie Field and Marilyn Mulford, 105 min) Q&A with Professor Rita Roberts, 7:00 p.m., Humanities Auditorium
Also available at vimeo.com for \$4.99 (required)

Jan. 23: 10 a.m. film screening: “Selma” (2014, dir. Ava DuVernay, 127 min.) Discussion with Professors Rita Roberts and Julia Liss, *Laemmle Claremont* (recommended)

Week II: Is This America?: The Civil Rights Movement

Jan. 27: *Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, “The Long Civil Rights Movement”
James Baldwin, The Fire Next Time, pp. 1-10
Bloom and Breines, pp. 12-13, 14-17, 20-21, 26-28, 33-37, 42-47
Ella Baker at MFDP (1964) at <http://youtu.be/GR16h-Cn4W0>

Jan. 29: Baldwin, The Fire Next Time, pp. 11-106
Bloom and Breines, pp. 109-112

Week III: The Measures of Progress

Feb. 3: *Rachel Carson, Silent Spring, selections
*Adam Rome, “Give Earth a Chance”

Feb. 5: *Cesar Chavez, “Letter from Delano” and other readings
*Michael Harrington, The Other America, selections

Week IV: Second-Wave Feminism and Women’s Activism

Feb. 10: *Sara Evans, “Sources of the Second Wave”
*Amy Swerdlow, “Ladies’ Day at the Capitol”
Bloom and Breines, pp. 37-42

Feb. 12: Bloom and Breines, pp. 393-398, 403-404, 442-445

Week V: LBJ and the “Liberal Consensus”

Feb. 17: Bruce J. Schulman, Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism, pp. 1-132

Feb. 19: Schulman, LBJ, pp. 181-185, 191-230

Week VI: The Student Movement and the New Left: From Port Huron to Berkeley

Feb. 24: “Berkeley in the Sixties” (1990, dir. Mark Kitchell)—first half screened in class
Paper #1 due by the beginning of class

Feb. 26: Bloom and Breines, pp. 48-61, 66-69, 72-76, 86-97

Week VII: “The Center Cannot Hold”: The Beginnings of the New Right

Mar. 3: Lisa McGirr, Suburban Warriors, Introduction, ch. 1-3
Bloom and Breines, pp. 286-293

Mar. 5: McGirr, Suburban Warriors, ch. 4-Epilogue
Bloom and Breines, pp. 293-298

Mar. 6: **Paper #2 option 1 (critical analysis of McGirr) due by 4 p.m. in your Sakai dropbox**

Week VIII: The Making of a Youth Culture

Mar. 10: *Kenneth Cmiel, “The Politics of Civility”
*Gael Graham, “Flaunting the Freak Flag”

Mar. 12: *Michael J. Kramer, The Republic of Rock, selections
*Listening assignment, tba
Professor Joti Rockwell (PO, Music) will be our guest

>>Spring Break<<

Week IX-X: The Counterculture and the Politics of Liberation

Mar. 24: Tom Wolfe, The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test, ch. 1-15

Mar. 26: Wolfe, The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test, ch. 16-end

Mar. 31: *Alice Echols, “Nothing Distant About It”
Bloom and Breines, pp. 409-426, 434-438, 442-445, 494-504

Week X-XI: Vietnam I: Waist Deep in the Big Muddy

Apr. 2: Schulman, LBJ, pp. 133-178, 236-249, 265-271
*Christian Appy and Alexander Bloom, “Vietnam War Mythology”

Apr. 7: **Film: “Hearts and Minds” (1974, dir. Peter Davis, 112 min.), arr. tba**
Michael Herr, Dispatches, pp. 3-166

Apr. 9: Herr, Dispatches, pp. 167-end

Week XII: Vietnam II: Anti-War Movements

Apr. 14: Penny Lewis, Hardhats, Hippies, and Hawks, Introduction, ch. 1, Part I
Bloom and Breines, pp. 182-186, 191-201, 217-220

Apr. 16: Lewis, Hardhats, Hippies, and Hawks, Part II
Bloom and Breines, pp. 309-312, 371-384, 472-483, 486-490

Apr. 17: **Paper #2 option 2 (critical analysis of Lewis) due by 4 p.m. in your Sakai dropbox**

Week XIII: Black Power, La Raza and Nationalisms

Apr. 21: *Leigh Raiford, “Restaging Revolution”
Bloom and Breines, pp. 120-125, 131-136, 139-143, 146-151, 336-338, 367-371, 448-452, 459-463

Apr. 23: *Tomás Summers Sandoval, Latinos at the Golden Gate, selections
Professor Summers Sandoval (PO, History) will be our guest today

Week XIV: Endings and Legacies

Apr. 28: “Berkeley in the Sixties”—second half screened in class
Final paper proposals due in your Sakai dropbox by the beginning of class

Apr. 30: *Watergate and the National Security State, selected readings

May 5: Are the 1960s Over?: tba
Bloom and Breines, pp. 528-532

May 13: **Final papers due by 4 p.m. in your Sakai dropbox**