

Fall 2010 University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
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Office: 2145 MHRA Office Hours: M W 12-1, and by appt

## **HIS 524: The Politics of the Seventies**

This course will explore the politics and history of the United States in the 1970s. While not a comprehensive overview of the decade, we will explore diverse social movements (probing connections between them) and examine key events such as the oil crisis, school busing conflicts, and the end of the war in Vietnam. Students will read a wide range of primary and secondary sources, watch films that capture the culture and events of the decade, conduct their own oral history interviews, and engage in extensive discussion and debates.

### **Course Requirements (all percentages are approximate)**

#### **Attendance and Participation: 25%**

Attendance is mandatory and extremely important. More than one absence will significantly hurt your grade. If you have to miss class, you are still responsible for posting on blackboard. The class will be run as a seminar in which students discuss and debate the readings. Any student who cannot keep up with the reading (approx 250 pages per week, sometimes more for graduate students) and participate actively in class discussion should not enroll in the course.

#### **Blackboard Posts: 20%**

Every other week you must post a response to the readings on blackboard by 9pm on the Monday before our class. Requirements for posts will be distributed in class.

#### **Secondary Source Analysis: 10%**

An analysis of the major arguments in the secondary sources that you read for your oral presentation.

#### **Oral History Analysis: 10%**

This assignment requires you to conduct and analyze an oral history interview about your presentation topic.

#### **Presentation: 10%**

A 10 minute oral presentation on a topic of your choice that helps us to understand the United States in the 1970s.

#### **Final Essay: 25%**

A take-home essay using the primary and secondary sources assigned for the class to make an original argument.

## **Requirements for Graduate Students**

In addition to the requirements for undergraduates:

1. You will read additional readings listed on the syllabus. Your blackboard posts must always address these additional readings.
2. You will read more secondary sources on your presentation topic than undergraduates.
3. Your final essay and blackboard posts will be longer in length.

I use the following grading scale: 93 and above A, 90-92 A-, 88-89 B+, 83-87 B, 80-82 B-, 78-79 C+, 73-77 C, 70-72 C-, 68-69 D+, 63-67 D, 60-62 D-, 59 and below F.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of others without giving them credit. Any source that you use in your work (i.e. books, documents, articles, webpages) must be properly cited. If you use someone else's exact words they must be enclosed in quotation marks and be followed by a citation. If you put someone else's ideas into your own words, you must also use a citation. Anyone who commits plagiarism will be penalized.

PLEASE NOTE: Plagiarism includes copying and pasting any text from the internet into a document without using quotation marks and a citation.

For more information, see UNCG's academic integrity policy:

<http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>

I report all cases of plagiarism to the Dean of Students.

## **Technology: E-mail, Blackboard, Power Point, Laptops, and Cell Phones**

E-mail is the best way to reach me. I will always confirm receipt of messages and try to respond quickly. If you do not receive a response from me within 48 hours, you should assume that I did not receive your message and try again. If you do not receive confirmation of your message, it means that I did not receive it and you will not be credited for any information that you communicated.

I will use e-mail to contact you, so you must check your UNCG email account regularly. All messages will be sent to UNCG accounts.

The course will have a blackboard website, which will have a copy of the syllabus, assignments, and links to readings.

This is an interactive class that requires your engaged attention. You may *not* use laptops in the classroom. Cell phones and any other electronic equipment must also be turned off at all times. No texting or checking your phones during class. If you cannot spend three hours without logging onto the internet or checking your cell phone, this is not the right class for you.

