

HIS 340: The United States Since World War II

Spring 2011

Instructor: Sarah Gates

Office: MHRA 2112

Office Hours: M/W 4:00-5:00 or by appointment

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Class Schedule: M/W 5:00-6:15PM

Classroom: MHRA 2211

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers a more in-depth look at the political, economic, social and cultural history of the United States since World War II. We will focus on three themes, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and American politics. For each theme, we will consider several perspectives. We will examine both the internal and international effects of the Cold War, the legal history and the social history of the Civil Rights Movement, and the vicissitudes of liberalism and conservatism in American political culture. The weekly readings will give the historical background of a given theme. You will then analyze the assigned primary sources, participate in six in-class debates and write four analytic essays. In the final take-home essay exam, you will consider how these themes have intersected and interacted overtime.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ You will gain in-depth knowledge of some of the major developments in American history since 1945.
- ❖ You will develop your ability to analyze and interpret historical documents.
- ❖ You will develop your ability to formulate your own historical arguments using historical documents.
- ❖ You will develop your written and verbal skills. By the end of the semester, you will be better able to articulate and support an argument in writing and on your feet.
- ❖ You will leave this course with the skills and curiosity to pursue your study of the past and better equipped to think about the present.

COURSE POLICIES:

Class Preparation & Participation:

The format of the class will be a lecture, documents analysis and class debate for each text. You are required to bring the current reading to class so that you can refer to it in class. Class preparation and participation is graded. You will be expected to give your analysis of primary source documents and then use this evidence to support your interpretations during class discussions and debates.

Written Work:

You will write four (4) 3-4 page papers that will draw from the historical documents assigned. The purpose of these papers is to develop your ability to develop a thesis and argument and to support that argument using primary source evidence. Two papers must be completed before Spring Break.

Quizzes:

There will be seven (7) quizzes, one for each reading. There will be no make-up quizzes. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Exams:

There is no mid-term. The final exam will be a 4-5 page take-home essay drawing from two or more themes in the course.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend every class and to arrive on time. If you miss more than three classes your final grade will drop by a third of a grade for every additional class missed. Three late arrivals or early departures are equivalent to one missed class.

Academic Integrity Policy:

All work submitted in your name must be your original work with proper credit given to all sources. Each student should be familiar with the Academic Integrity Policy and the penalties for plagiarism. Refer to the UNCG website for more details: <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu>.

Grading Formula:

20% Class Participation
20% Quizzes
40% Written Assignments
20% Final Exam

Required Reading (available at UNCG's Bookstore):

May, *American Cold War Strategy, Interpreting NSC-68*

Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism*

Martin, *Brown v. Board of Education*

Pitney, *Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and the Civil Rights Struggle of the 1950s and 1960s*

Logevall, *The Origins of the Vietnam War*

Story, Laurie, *The Rise of Conservatism in America, 1945-2000*

Schulman, *Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism*

Class Schedule

Week 1

Mon, Jan 10 Introduction

Wed, Jan 12 Legacies of WWII

Reading: May, *American Cold War Strategy, Interpreting NSC-68*, 1-45

Week 2

Mon, Jan 17 Cold War Lecture

Reading: May, *American Cold War Strategy, Interpreting NSC-68*, 46-82

Quiz #1

Wed, Jan 19: Cold War Documents Analysis

Reading: May, *American Cold War Strategy, Interpreting NSC-68*, 83-129

Due: Outline #1. Bring two copies to class.

Week 3

Mon, Jan 24: Cold War Debate

Reading: May, *American Cold War Strategy, Interpreting NSC-68*, 130-201

Q: How did U.S. Cold War policy change from 1945-1950? Why?

Due: Assignment #1. Bring two copies to class.

Wed, Jan 26 McCarthyism Lecture

Reading: Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism*, 1-47

Week 4

Mon, Jan 31 McCarthyism Lecture

Reading: Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism*, 48-108

Film: Army-McCarthy Hearings

Quiz #2

Wed, Feb 2 McCarthyism Documents Analysis, 109-200

Reading: Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism*, 109-200

Due: Outline #2

Week 5

Mon, Feb 7 McCarthyism Debate

Reading: Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism*, 201-274

Q: Is the protection of national security and civil liberties mutually exclusive?

Due: Assignment #2. Upload through SafeAssign in Blackboard under Assignments.

Wed, Feb 9 Civil Rights and the Courts Lecture

Reading: Martin, *Brown v. Board of Education*, 1-39

Quiz #3

Week 6

Mon, Feb 14 Civil Rights and the Courts Documents Analysis, 40-150
Reading: Martin, *Brown v. Board of Education*

Wed, Feb 16 Civil Rights and the Courts Documents Analysis
Reading: Martin, *Brown v. Board of Education*, 151-237

Week 7

Mon, Feb 21 The Civil Rights Movement Lecture
Reading: Pitney, *Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and the Civil Rights Struggle*, 1-30
Quiz #4

Wed, Feb 23 The Civil Rights Movement Documents Analysis
Reading: Pitney, *Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and the Civil Rights Struggle*, 31-101

Week 8

Mon, Feb 28 The Civil Rights Movement Documents Analysis
Reading: Pitney, *Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and the Civil Rights Struggle*, 102-179
Film: PBS *Eyes on the Prize* "Mississippi: Is this America-1963-64"

Wed, Mar 2 The Civil Rights Movement Documents Debate
Q: In the post-war struggle for Civil Rights what forces were decisive?
Due: Assignment #3. Upload through SafeAssign in Blackboard under Assignments.

Mar 4 Last day to drop without academic penalty

Mar 5-10 Spring Break

Week 9

Mon, Mar 14 Vietnam Lecture
Logevall, *The Origins of the Vietnam War*, 1-45

Wed, Mar 16 Vietnam Lecture
Logevall, *The Origins of the Vietnam War*, 46-92
Quiz #5

Week 10

Mon, Mar 21 Vietnam Documents Analysis, 92-132
Logevall, *The Origins of the Vietnam War*, 92-132

Wed, Mar 23 Vietnam Debate
Q: Which administration did the most to promote U.S. involvement in Vietnam?
Logevall, *The Origins of the Vietnam War*, 92-132

Week 11

Mon, Mar 28 Vietnam
Film: *Hearts and Minds* (1974)
Due: Assignment # 4. Upload through SafeAssign in Blackboard under Assignments.

Wed, Mar 30 Liberalism Lecture
Reading: Schulman, *Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism*, 1-90

Week 12

Mon, Apr 4 Liberalism Lecture
Reading: Schulman, *Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism*, 91-181
Quiz #6

Wed, Apr 6 Liberalism Documents Analysis
Reading: Schulman, *Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism*, 182-226

Week 13

Mon, Apr 11 Liberalism Debate
Q: How did liberalism change from The New Deal to 1968?
Reading: Schulman, *Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism*, 227-271
Due: Assignment #5

Wed, Apr 13 Conservatism Lecture
Reading: Story, Laurie, *The Rise of Conservatism in America, 1945-2000*, 1-32
Quiz #7

Week 14

Mon, Apr 18 Conservatism Documents Analysis
Reading: Story, Laurie, *The Rise of Conservatism in America, 1945-2000*, 33-100

Wed, Apr 20 Conservatism Debate
Reading: Story, Laurie, *The Rise of Conservatism in America, 1945-2000*, 101-165
Q: How did conservatives come to power from 1945-2000? Why?
Due: Assignment #6. Upload through SafeAssign in Blackboard under Assignments.

Week 15

Mon, Apr 25 The End of the American Century: Various and precarious end points in the Cold War, rights movements, and American politics.
Due: Outline for Final Take Home Exam. Bring two (2) copies to class.
Present and critique arguments in class.

Week 16

Mon, May 2 Due: Final Take Home Exam, 10 PM. Upload through SafeAssign.