History 245: America Since 1945
Moravian College, Spring 2009

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Office Hours: Thursday 1-2, Wednesday 10-Noon, and by appointment.

History 245 gives a detailed survey of the most significant emerging historical interpretations of American society from 1945 to 1974.

Please note that several films will be shown as part of our class activities. These will be shown on campus at a time to be yet to be determined. I am aware that scheduling film viewings outside of regular class meeting times will pose a hardship for many who have work demands and other activities on campus. Please note that if you have a conflict viewing these films with the class, you are responsible for viewing these films on your own. (All of these films are easily available through most rental establishments or Netflicks.)

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (ex 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Office of Learning Services.

Please be aware of Moravian College’s standard for grades. It is within the instructor’s purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for the course.

Required Texts:

The following books are available for purchase at the Moravian College Bookstore:

William H. Chafe, The Unfinished Journey: America Since World War II.
George Lipsitz, Rainbow at Midnight: Labor and Culture in the 1940s.
Lance Hill, The Deacons for Defense: Armed Resistance and the Civil Rights Movement
Kathy Dobie, The Only Girl in the Car.
Graded Assignments and Exams:

**Participation: 10%** As this class is discussion based, it is important that you attend each meeting period. Excessive absences will negatively impact your final grade.

**Mid-term Exams 30% (15% Each)** This course will have two exams on the dates specified.

**Final Exam: 20%** A cumulative final exam will be held at a time and place designated by the College Registrar.

**Historiographical Paper: 30%** Each student will write a 15-20 page paper focusing on how historians have interpreted a specific issue related to the period under study. I will provide a selection of possible topics to choose from in the first week of class. Students are encouraged to begin research on this project as soon as possible, as they may want to take advantage of interlibrary loan services in securing the necessary secondary source materials (books, articles). The paper must be appropriately documented according to Chicago style guidelines (footnotes), it must adhere to the rules and principles of Standard American English (grammar, spelling, usage, and rhetoric), and it must use a minimum of ten scholarly sources. Additional information will follow. Out of justice to the class, all late papers will be downgraded one letter grade for each day of lateness. An exception to this would be serious illness verified by a physician. Also, cases of plagiarism will result in an “F” grade.

**In class presentation: 10%** In addition to the historiographical paper, each student will present in class a 10 minute overview of a selected text which gives an alternative methodological or theoretical interpretation to that week’s selected reading class. As part of this assignment, students should read at least one review of the book and print it out to hand in. In some cases, a student may select an article published in a scholarly journal. In this case, please be sure to consult with me for further guidelines. These presentations will occur at the beginning of our Friday sessions each week.

“The House I Live In:” America in the late 1940s
Jan 21-Jan 23

Class Discussion: Abbot and Costello, “Who’s on First?” (1944)  
Frank Sinatra, “The House I Live In”

Unrest at Home: Labor Militancy and the Rise of Corporate Liberalism  
Jan 28-Jan 30  
Lipsitz, *Rainbow at Midnight*, Chapters 4-7
Library session, Jan 30: *Life Magazine* and the promise of consumption

In class presentation: Robert Rodgers Korstad, *Civil Rights Unionism: Tobacco Workers and the Struggle for Democracy in the mid-Twentieth Century South*

**The Origins of the Cold War**  
Feb 4-Feb 6  
*Reading, The Unfinished Journey*, The Origins of the Cold War, Truman and the Cold War, Lipsitz, *Rainbow at Midnight*, Chapter 8

Film: *Good Night and Good Luck* (2006) Time and location to be determined.

In class presentation: William Appleman Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*.  

**A House Divided: Race and the Politics of Housing in Post-war America**  
Feb 11-Feb 13  
*Reading: The Unfinished Journey*, Chapter 5; Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis*. (entirety)


**Suburban Nation**  
Feb-18-Feb 20  
Reading, Rome, *Bulldozer in the Countryside*, 1-152.  
In Class Screening: *I Love Lucy* “Job Switching,” 1952

In class presentation: James Howard Kunstler, *The Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America’s Man-Made Landscape*  

Feb 25: Overview  
Feb 27: Midterm 1

March 4-6: Spring Break

Youth Culture and Rebellion in the Eisenhower Era  
March 11
Readings: *The Unfinished Journey*, Chapter 5,  

Remembering the Youth Culture of the 1950s: Special Guest, Dr. Tom Egan.

**March 13**  
The Beat Movement: Literary and Cultural Critiques in the 1950s.  
Lipsitz, “Corporate Culture, Conformity and Commodities.”

In class presentation: Glenn C. Altschuler, *All Shook Up: How Rock and Roll Changed America*  

**The Civil Rights Movement**  
**March 18-March 20**  
Reading, *The Unfinished Journey*, Chapter 6  

George Lipsitz, *A Life in the Struggle: Ivory Perry and the Culture of Opposition*.

In class documentary: *Eyes on the Prize: America in the Civil Rights Years*

**The Black Freedom Movement: Alternative Views**  
**March 25-March 27**  


Film: *Malcolm X* (1999) Time and location to be determined.

**John F. Kennedy and the Hope of the 1960s**  
**April 1-April 3**  
Readings, *The Unfinished Journey*, 7-8, Rome Chapters 5-9


**Midterm 2: April 8**

**The Vietnam War**  
**April 15-17**  
*Readings, The Unfinished Journey 9-10*

Andrew J. Rott, *The Path to Vietnam: Origins of the American Commitment to Southeast Asia*.  

**The Late 1960s**  
**April 22-24**  
*Readings, Unfinished Journey, 11-12.*  

**Film: Easy Rider** (1969) Time and location to be determined.


**Changes Come to Main Street: Into the 1970s**  
**April 29-May 1**  
*Reading, Dobie, The Only Girl in the Car, The Unfinished Journey, 14*

In class screening: *All in the Family* (1971)

In class presentation: Alice Echols, *Scars of Sweet Paradise: the Life and Times of Janis Joplin*  
Donald T. Critchlow, *Phyllis Schlafly and Grassroots Conservativism: A Woman’s Crusade*.  

List of suggested historiographical topics for paper:

**U.S. Politics**

- Historical Views of the Truman Administration
- Historical Views of the Eisenhower Administration
- Historical Views of the Kennedy Administration
- Historical Views of the Nixon Administration
- Historical Views of the Ford Administration
- Historical Views of the Carter Administration
- Historical Views of the Reagan Administration
- Historical Views of the George H. Bush Administration
- Historical Views of the William J. Clinton

- Kennedy and the Bay of Pigs Crisis
- Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis
- Harry Truman and Civil Rights
- Eisenhower and Civil Rights
- John Kennedy and Civil Rights
- Lyndon Johnson and Civil Rights
- Richard Nixon and Civil Rights
- Richard Nixon and Environmentalism
- The Nixon Administration and Foreign Policy
- The Watergate Scandal
- John Kennedy’s Vietnam Policy
- President Reagan’s economic policies

- Historical views of The Dixiecrats
- Historical views of Robert Kennedy
- Historical views of George Wallace
- Historical views of Barry Goldwater
- Joseph McCarthy
- Hubert Humphrey
- Harry S. Truman and the Decision to Use Atomic Weapons
- Robert McNamara
- Henry Kissinger
- US policy and the Irish “Troubles”
- The Marshall Plan
- The Korean War
- The Equal Rights Amendment
- The Gulf of Tonkin Incident
Robert Kennedy and the 1968 presidential campaign
Eugene McCarthy and the 1968 presidential campaign
Ronald Regan and the 1976 campaign
George Wallace and the 1968 election
George McGovern and the Presidential Election of 1972
Strom Thurman and the Dixiecrat Rebellion of 1948
Henry Wallace and the 1948 presidential election.
Barry Goldwater and the 1964 Presidential Election
President Truman, General Douglas McArthur and the Korean War
President Eisenhower’s Policy in Vietnam

**Social and Cultural Themes**

Jackie Robinson and the Integration of Baseball
The Beat Writers and 1950s America
Cesar Chavez and the Farm Workers Movement
Stonewall and the Gay Rights Movement
The Birmingham Bus Boycott
Malcolm X and Black Power
The 1964 Civil Rights Act
Martin Luther King and Organized Labor
Martin Luther King and the Vietnam War
The Sexual Revolution
Thurgood Marshall, the Supreme Court and Civil Rights
Environmentalism
Historical Interpretations of the 1970s
Historical interpretations of the 1980s.
Historical Views of American Sports (Football, Baseball, etc)
The New Left
Young Americans for Freedom
1960s student radicalism
Folk Music
Rock music and the Counterculture
Jimmy Hoffa and the Teamsters Union
Walter Reuther, the United Autoworkers and Post-War liberalism
Women and Labor since 1945
Organized Labor and the Civil Rights Movement
The Rise and Impact of Baseball Unionism
The Women’s Movement
Television in the Post War Period
Latino/Latina Movements since 1945
Stonewall and Gay Liberation
Fanny Lou Hamer and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
A.Phillip Randolph
Post-War Environmentalism
African Americans and Communism

The 1968 Democratic Convention
Bob Dylan and the 1960s Counterculture
Folk Music and the New Left
The Students for a Democratic Society
The Yippies
The Black Panthers
Allen Ginsberg and 1960s Radicalism
The Weathermen Underground
Rock music and the Counterculture
The Young American for Freedom and the Rise of the “New Right”
The Red Scare and Hollywood
Betty Friedan and Modern Feminism
Women and Basketball
The Campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment
Roe v. Wade
Lyndon Johnson and Urban Policy
The Urban Riots of the 1960s
The rise of the New Right

**Politics and Diplomacy**

Robert A. Taft and Post-War Foreign Policy
Henry Kissinger and American Foreign Policy
John Foster Dulles and American Foreign Policy
Robert McNamara and the Vietnam War
U.S. politics and the Irish “Troubles”
The Gulf of Tonkin Incident
The Marshall Plan
U.S.-Israeli Relations in the Eisenhower Administration
U.S.-Israeli Relations in the Kennedy Administration
U.S.-Israel Relations in the Johnson Administration
U.S. Israeli Relations in the Nixon Administration
U.S. Israeli Relations in the Carter Administration
Japanese Internment during World War Two
U.S. and Puerto Rican relations since 1945
**Student Activism**

April 10  
*The Unfinished Journey*, 11-12.

Alternate Views:


Analysis Essay on Diner 10%