

SC 387 The Sixties Through Film

Fall 2007

Professor: Jim Hamm
Office: McGuinn 426D
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday by appointment
Classroom: O'Neil Library 211 on Tuesday from 3:00 to 6:00 PM
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About the course

This course is about the sixties, a time of change. We begin with the Fifties and end with 1974 and the fall of Richard Nixon. We need the fifties to set the stage for what happened in the Sixties and the first few years of the seventies to end the period.

This is a course in Cultural Anthropology. Each week is about a different topic. As we interpret what happened at the time, we will bring out what is anthropologically interesting. We will explore many of the social issues of the times: identity, justice, race, sex, gender, women's issues, religion, marriage and family, the Cold War, protest, revolution, rock 'n roll, the Vietnam War, McCarthyism and black listing, civil rights, and the rise of the middle class and consumerism.

This course is about the construction of realities. Why do people think the way they do? How do people's concepts of reality influence the ways they behave? Portions of this course may be disturbing or sad. Sometimes, you will see yourselves and may not like what you see. At times you may find the course too political. Hopefully, you will leave the course less sure about concepts that you have not previously questioned.

All of the films have been chosen to be interesting as well as provocative. Wherever possible, feature films are used. The readings have been carefully chosen to complement the films.

Requirements

You should read the assigned material before class. If you miss a film, it will be your responsibility to view it in the media center in the library. Since the course is more than watching a film, when you miss class, you miss the discussion that develops a sometimes different understanding of the topic. Be careful.

You are required to prepare a two page, double-spaced paper each week on an assigned topic. The paper is due in class. If your paper is late - up to one week late, you will lose twenty percentage points. After that, the paper will not be accepted. Late papers may be turned into my mailbox in McGuinn 426.

For each paper, you have a rewrite option if you handed the first paper in on time and if you attended the relevant class. If you rewrite, you will receive the higher grade.

Grading

The course grade is composed of three parts of equal weight (33.3 per cent) - the papers, the mid-term and the final.

There will be eleven papers. Since the papers account for one-third of the grade, they should be taken seriously. The papers are a way for you to find out what you understand about the topics. It is in writing that we often find logical inconsistencies in our thinking.

The mid-term and the final will each be based on the material for that half of the course.

Attendance

Attendance is required. There is a bonus for attendance. If you miss one class, your lowest paper grade will be dropped. If you miss no classes, your two lowest paper grades will be dropped. This is a substantial bonus: don't miss it. There are no excuses for missing a class. This is a bonus, not a penalty.

Attendance will be taken after the break. You do not get credit for attendance if you do not stay for the discussion.

Class Discussion

The discussion portion of the class is important. If you have done the readings and seen the films, you should have plenty to say. This is your class. Make it interesting. The material we will be covering is fascinating. Perhaps you will understand your parents better once you have thought about the times in which they grew up.

Readings

Kotz, Nick. Judgment Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Laws that Changed America. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 2003

Lytle, Mark Hamilton. America's Uncivil Wars: The Sixties Era from Elvis to the Fall of Richard Nixon. New York: Oxford University Press. 2006

May, Elaine. Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era. New York. Basic Books. 1999

Halberstam, David. The Fifties. New York: Villard Books. 1993

Course pack (CP)

Lesson Plan

Week 1 (9-04-07) Fifty's Role of Women

Film: The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter. D810.W7.L65 (1987: 65 min)
Ozzie and Harriet, vol. 1, episode 2. "A Wife in the Office." PN1992.A38
(2003: 22 min)

Reader: CP - Deliberate Speed, 1-16
Homeward Bound, Ch. 3
The Fifties, Ch. 34 (508-520) & 39 (587-598)

Paper #1 – – due 9-11-07

Week 2 (9-11-07) Black Listing and McCarthyism

Film: Point of Order. E743.5.P565 (1964: 97 min)

Reader: Homeward Bound, Ch. 4
America's Uncivil Wars, Ch. 1
The Fifties, Ch. 3 (49-59)
CP - Discourse, 6-22

Paper #2 - - due 9-18-07

Week 3 (9-18-07) Sexuality

Film: Kinsey. PN1997.2.K26 (2004: 118 min)

Reader: Homeward Bound, Ch. 5
The Fifties, Ch. 20 (272-281) & 21 (282-294)

Paper #3 – – due 9-25-07

Week 4 (9-25-07) Rock 'N Roll and Folk

Film: History of Rock 'N Roll, selections. ML3534.H57 (60 min)
Festival, selections (1967: ?? min)

Reader: CP - Lhamon, Deliberate Speed, 86-97
CP - Friedlander, Rock & Roll: A Social History, excerpts
CP - Dickerson, Goin' Back to Memphis, excerpts
CP - Szatmary, Rockin' in Time: A Social History of Rock-and-Roll,
excerpts
CP - Gitlin, The Sixties (37-44)

Paper #4 – – due 10-2-07

Week 5 (10-2-07) The Intersection of Sexuality and Race

Film: Far From Heaven. PN1997.F37. (2003: 108 min)

Reading: CP - Deliberate Speed, xiii-xiv, 7-10. 31-37, 104-112

Paper # 5 – – due 10-9-07

Week 6 (10-9-07) The Emerging U.S. Role in World Affairs, The End of an Era, the Rise and Fall of Camelot

Film: Cold War, Vol. 6, #18. D840.C65 (1998: 46 min)
Cold War, Vol. 4, #11. D840.C65 (1998: 5-10 min)
Eisenhower's farewell **Put this together**
1960 Presidential debates
JFK'S Inauguration Speech
LBJ's speech to Congress 11-27-63, 12:30PM

Reader: The Fifties, Ch. 25 (359-369) & 45 (699-712)
CP - An American Half Century, Introduction
Judgment Days, Ch. 1 & 2

No Paper due 10-16-07

Midterm Exam: due in class Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Week 7 (10-16-07) A Changing Culture (Back then, we believed people.)

Film: The Century: America's Time, Vol. 4, 1953-60 & 1960-64 (E741.C46)
(1999: 90 min)

Reader: Americas Uncivil Wars, Ch. 2
Homeward Bound, Ch. 7
The Fifties, Ch. 33 (496-507)

Paper #6 – – due 10-23-07

Week 8 (10-23-07) Civil Rights Beginnings

Film: Freedom Song. PN1997.F728 (2000: 117 min)
Fannie Lou Hamer's speech before the credentials committee 1964 DNC
King, M. L. "I Have a Dream." 8-28-63. The Mall, Washington, DC
LBJ. Selections from 1-8-64 State of the Union

Reader: America's Uncivil Wars, Ch. 5, 155-163, Freedom Summer & MFDP
America's Uncivil Wars, Ch. 6
Judgment Days, Ch. 5

Paper #7 – – due 10-30-07

Week 9 (10-30-07) LBJ: The Great Society and Vietnam: The Construction of the Enemy

Film: The Century: America's Time, Vol. 4, 1965-70. E741.C46 (1999: 45 min)
Cold War, Vol. 4, #11 (King speaks out, anti-war, Tet) D840.C65 (1998:
20 min)
Vietnam's Unseen War. DS559.5.V537 (2002: 60 min)

Reading: America's Uncivil Wars, Introduction
Judgment Days, Ch. 13

Paper #8 – – due 11-6-07

Week 10 (11-6-07) Sixties Youth Culture

Film: Hair PN1997.H35 (1979: 121 min)

Reader: Homeward Bound, Ch.9
CP-Farber, The Age of Great Dreams, 167-189

Paper #9 - - due 11-13-07

Week 11 (11-13-07) 1968 and Its Aftermath – Too Little, Too Late

Film: 1968: The Year that Shaped a Generation. E846.A15 (2004: 56 min)
1969. PN1997. N564 (1988: 96 min)

Reading: America's Uncivil Wars, Ch. 11
Judgment Days, Ch. 14 & Epilogue

Paper #10 – – due 11-27-07

Week 12 (11-20-07) No class before Thanksgiving break.

Week 13 (11-27-07) Vietnam: Nixon

Film: Kent State. LD4191.O72.K46 (1981: 120 min)

Reader: America's Uncivil Wars, Ch. 15

Paper #11 – – due 12-4-07

Week 14 (12-4-07) The Fall of Richard Nixon,

Film: Watergate. E860.W3. Vol. 1 & 2 (1994: 90 min)

Reader: America's Uncivil Wars, Ch. 16

**Final Exam: due in my mailbox in McGuinn 426 by 5PM
Thursday, December 13, 2007**