SC 387  The Sixties Through Film
Spring 2008

Professor: Jim Hamm
Office: McGuinn 426D
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday by appointment
Classroom: O’Neil Library 211 on Monday 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, 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.
**Paper Format**
Papers are limited to two pages, double-spaced, 12 point type, 1 inch margins sides and top and 1.5 inch bottom. The ability to say what you need to say in a two page paper is a worthwhile skill and a course requirement.

**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 are ten 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**


Course pack (CP)

The books can be bought used at a savings on Amazon or in the bookstore.
Lesson Plan
Week 1 (1-14-08) Stereotypes of the Fifties


Reader: CP - Mills, Discourse, 6-22
        CP - Lhamon, Deliberate Speed, 1-16
        May, Homeward Bound, Ch. 1

Paper #1 - Fifties Discourses - due 1-28-08

Week 2 (1-28-08) Fifty’s Role of Women

              (2003: 22 min)

Reader: May, Homeward Bound, Ch. 3
        CP - Halberstam, The Fifties, Ch. 34 (508-520) & 39 (587-598)

Paper #2 - Fifties Role of Women - due 2-4-08

Week 3 (2-4-08) McCarthyism

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

Reader: CP - Lytle, America’s Uncivil Wars, Ch. 1
        CP - Halberstam, The Fifties, Ch. 3 (49-59)

Paper #3 - McCarthy - due 2-11-08

Week 4 (2-11-08) Sexuality


Reader: Homeward Bound, Ch. 5
        CP - Halberstam, The Fifties, Ch. 20 (272-281)

Paper #4 - Postwar Taboos - due 2-18-08
**Week 5 (2-18-08) Rock & Roll**

Film: The Buddy Holly Story.

Reader: 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

Paper #5 - Rock & Roll - due 2-25-08

**Week 6 (2-25-08) The Intersection of Sexuality and Race**


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

No Paper due 3-10-08

**Midterm Exam: due in class Monday, 3-10-08**

**Week 7 (3-10-08) Fifties Discourses**

Film: Blast from the Past.

Reading: Farber, The Age of Great Dreams, Ch. 1

Paper #6 - Blast from the Past - due 3-17-08

**Week 8 (3-17-08) Civil Rights**


Reader: CP - Lytle, America’s Uncivil Wars, Ch. 6

Paper #7 - Civil Rights - due 3-31-08
Week 9 (3-31-08) Vietnam

Film: Born on the Fourth of July (2000: 145 minutes) DS559.9.K68

Reader: CP - Hawkes, Ideology, 1-7, 116-120

Paper #8 - Ideology - due 4-7-08

Week 10 (4-7-08) Hippies

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

Reader: May, Homeward Bound, Ch.9
Farber, The Age of Great Dreams, Ch. 8

Paper #9 - Hippies - due 4-14-08

Week 11 (4-14-08) Protest

Film: Berkeley in the 1960s 1990: 117 minutes) F869.B5 B37

Reader: CP - Gitlin, “The World Turned Upside Down” 59-68
Farber, The Age of Great Dreams, Ch. 7

Paper #10 - Protest - due 4-28-08

Week 12 (4-28-08) The Fall of Richard Nixon,


Reader: Farber, The Age of Great Dreams, Ch. 10

Final Exam: due in my mailbox in McGuinn 426 by 5PM Wednesday, May 7, 2008