

SC 01601 YOUTH IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

Instructor: Alan Sieber, Ph.D. Telephone: 781.276.1808
Email: sieber@bc.edu

Office Hours: Instructor will be available from 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. before class in McGuinn 100, after class, or by appointment

Required texts: Hine, Thomas, (1999) *The Rise and Fall of the American Teenager*, Perennial, 2000
Palladino, Grace, (1996) *Teenagers: An American History*, Basic Books, 1997
Schor, Juliet, (2004) *Born to Buy*, Scribner, 2005

Course outline: A brief survey of youth in American society, including the Roaring 20's, Great Depression, WWII, '60's, and Boomer generations as a backdrop to what it means to grow up in our contemporary mass culture. We will look at and discuss the impacts of the "inventions" of high school, teenagers and the youthful consumer; of changes in family and peer relating; of ethnicity, class, and causes; of music, movies, cell phones and Web 2.0. Data will include discussion of our own individual experiences of "growing up in America."

Course Requirements and Grading:

Two written assignments, worth 30% and 35% respectively
A final examination, worth 25%
Attendance, worth 10%

If you require reasonable accommodations due to documented disability please let me know.

Class Schedule:

- June 29: Childhood and Society: A Brief Outline
Hine, Ch. 3
- July 1: Family Values, Work and School
Hine, Chs. 4, 7-8
- July 6: Adolescents in the '20's and '30's: Dangers and Opportunities
Hine, Chs. 9, 11
- July 8: "Flappers" and Families in the '20's and '30s
Hine, Ch. 10; Palladino, Ch. 2
- July 13: The '40's and '50's: Teenagers Come Into Their Own
Palladino, Chs. 4-5, 8; Hine, Ch. 12
Assignment 1 Due
- July 15: The '60's: Youth, Culture, and Conflict
Palladino, Chs. 11-14
- July 20: The "Boomers" and Beyond
Hine, Chs. 13-14; Palladino, Conclusion
- July 22: Ending a Century: Two Stories
Movie; Handout
- July 27: Children: The New Market
Schor, Chs. 3, 5
Assignment 2 Due
- July 29: Creating and Selling Habits, and Fighting Back
Schor, Chs. 7, 10
- August 3: Youth in an Age of Technology and Entitlement
Handout
- August 5: Final