SOCY 338701   The Sixties Through Film
Spring 2016
Monday 3:00 to 6:00PM
Devlin 010

Professor: Jim Hamm
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About the course
This course is about the sixties, a time of change. It explores many of the social issues of this
dramatic period in late 20th century in America.

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. Anthropology
is the study of people, what affects them and how they are affected. We will explore many of the
social issues of the times: discourse, justice, race, sex, gender, women’s issues, the Cold War,
protest, revolution, the Vietnam War and civil rights.

All of the films have been chosen to be interesting as well as provocative. Wherever possible,
feature films have been used. The readings have been carefully chosen to complement the films.
Since the course meets once a week to view and discuss the films, it is critical that you read the
assigned material before class.

Requirements
You must attend class each week. The films are on reserve at the circulation desk 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.

Read the assigned material before class.

You are required to prepare a two page, double-spaced paper each week on an assigned topic.
The paper topics assignments are listed on page 6 of this syllabus. For the weeks without
paper assignments, topics will be assigned in class. The papers are due in class. If your paper
is late, you will lose twenty percentage points and the rewrite option. Late papers
may be turned into my mailbox in McGuinn 426 within one week of the due date.

Hint: Read the paper topic question before you see the film.

You have a rewrite option if you hand the paper in on time. If you rewrite, you will receive the
higher grade. Rewrites are due one week after your paper is returned.

Cell phones are to be turned off. No texting.
Computers are for note taking. No internet or games.

Grading
There are twelve papers on assigned topics.

There will be occasional true/false and multiple choice quizzes at the beginning of class on the readings for that week. The purpose of these quizzes is to assure that you have read the relevant material in the course pack before you see the film and participate in the discussion. Your quiz grade will be 20% and your paper grade will be 80% for that week.

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 lowest two 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. With two paper drops and three rewrites, you have a reasonable degree of control over your course grade.

If you have more than three unexcused absences, you will receive an F. No senior Spring.

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

Excused absences may be made up by appointment. If you elect to do this, you must see the film before we meet.

Readings
The readings have been gathered into a course pack. Read the assignment each week before the film. The readings will be part of the discussion.

Lesson Plan

Week 1 (1-25-16) Discourse

Film: Pleasantville PN1997. P5785 (124 min.)

Reader: Mills, Sarah, Discourse, 6-22
Lhamon, Deliberate Speed, 1-16

Paper #1 - Discourse - due 2-1-16
**Week 2 (2-1-16)  Montgomery: The Beginning of Civil Rights Protest**

Film: Long Walk Home  F334. M79 L66  (98 min.)

Reader: Burns, *Daybreak of Freedom*, 1-33  

**Paper #2 - Montgomery - due 2-8-16**

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**Week 3 (2-8-16)  Black and White Society in the South**

Film: The Help  PN1997.2 H457  (122 min.)


**Paper #4 – The Help – due 2-15-16**

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**Week 4 (2-15-16)  Sixties Overview**

Film: Sixties: the Years that Shape a Generation  E841. S598  (120 min.)

Reader: Lytle, *America’s Uncivil Wars*, 6-9, 72-95  
Baxandall and Gordon, *Dear Sisters*, 3-10  
Sixties Timeline, 1-10

**Paper #3 – Sixties - due 2-22-16**

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**Week 5 (2-22-16)  Grass Roots Civil Rights**

Film: Freedom Song  PN1997. F744  (117 min.)

Reader: Lytle, *America’s Uncivil Wars*, 121-137, 147-163

**Paper #5 – Grass Roots Civil Rights – due 2-29-16**
Week 6 (2-29-16) Hippies

Film: Hair  PN1997. H35  (121 min.)

Reader: Yablonsky, *The Hippie Trip*, 1-13
   Farber, *The Age of Great Dreams*, 167-189

Paper #6 – Hippies – due 3-14-16

Week 7 (3-14-16) Vietnam War – Two Views

Film: Path to War  PN1997.2. P394  (93 min.)
   Hearts and Minds  DS558. H43  (6 min.)
   Vietnam’s Unseen War  DS559.5. V537  (11 min.)

Reader: Anderson, *The Vietnam War*, 41-60

Paper #7 – Vietnam War – due 3-21-16

Week 8 (3-21-16) Protest on Campus

Film: Berkeley in the Sixties  F869. B5 B37  (117 min.)

Reader: Gitlin, “The World Turned Upside Down,” 59-68
   Farber, *The Age of Great Dreams*, 138-166

Paper #8 – Protest – due 4-4-16

Week 9 (4-4-16) Intersection of Sexuality and Race

Film: Far from Heaven  PN1997.2 F37  (107 min.)

Reader: Lhamon, *Deliberate Speed*, 104-112

Paper #9 – Sexuality and Race – due 4-11-16
Week 10 (4-11-16)  Ideology in Crisis

Film: Born on the Fourth of July  DS559.5 K68  (105 min.)

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

Paper #10 – Ideology – due 4-25-16

Week 11 (4-25-16)  Dissent

Film: Rebels with a Cause  LB3610. R434  (109 min.)

Reader: Anderson, The Vietnam War, 61-83

Paper #11 – Dissent – due 5-2-16

Week 12 (5-2-16)  Watergate

Film: All the President’s Men  E860. B47  (94 min.)
   Watergate Plus 30  E860. W37  (23 min.)

Reader: Wilson, “All the President’s Men: Special Report,” 1-7

Paper #12 – Watergate - due 5-9-16
Paper #1 – Discourse - due 2-1-16
How are Bud and Mary Sue affected by their experiences in Pleasantville? At the obvious level we see the impact they have on the people of Pleasantville. What happens to Bud and Mary Sue? The effect of an encounter is never only one way.

Paper #2 – Montgomery - due 2-8-16
In the Long walk Home what did white society in Montgomery achieve through their resistance to the demands of the black society?

Paper #3 – The Help - due 2-15-16

Paper #4 – Sixties - due 2-22-16
Based on the film the Sixties: Years that Shaped a Generation were the sixties good for America? State your premise. Support your position. Address counter arguments.

Paper #5 – Grass roots civil rights - due 2-29-16
What does Owen understand and what doesn’t he understand about the civil rights movement he is involved in?

Paper #6 – Hippies - due 3-14-16

Paper #7 – Vietnam War – due 3-21-16

Paper #8 – Protest - due 4-4-16
In Berkeley in the Sixties why did the participants think the Free Speech Movement was successful? And the anti-war movement was not successful? How do you measure success? Use Sixties: Years that Shaped a Generation to take a longer view.

Paper #9 – Sexuality and Race – due 4-11-16
In Far From Heaven what is the obstacle that Cathy’s friend El cannot abide? Why? What does this say about the time and place in which they live?

Paper #10 – Ideology – due 4-25-16
What is ideology? How is it established? Whose interests are served? Whose are not? Illustrate from Born on the Fourth of July. How was the national ideology challenged? Did it change?

Paper #11 – Dissent - due 5-2-16

Paper #12 – Watergate - due 5-9-16