

HIST 3760
Problems in American History T01: Social Movements of the 1960s
Fall 2013

Instructor: George Buri

Room: 417 Human Ecology

Time: 1:00-2:15 Tuesday, Thursday

Required Readings: Steven F. Lawson and Charles M. Payne, *Debating the Civil Rights movement 1945-1968*

Harvey Pekar, *Students for a Democratic Society: A Graphic History*

Thomas Frank, *The Conquest of Cool: Business Culture, Counterculture, and the Rise of Hip Consumerism*, 1997

Office Hours: I will be in my office 453 Fletcher from 1:30-3:00 M,W,F Please feel free to drop by to discuss assignments etc.

If this is not convenient we can set up another time to meet or you can e-mail me at georgeburi@gmail.com.

Objectives: The long 1960s, which can be traced from the mid 1950s to the early 1970s and beyond, represented a time of great political, social and cultural change in the United States. This course seeks to study this change and determine how and why the "sixties" came to be, and what impact they had on America today. We will focus mainly upon the various social movements that emerged in this time period including the civil rights movement, the student movement and new left, second wave feminism, the anti-war movement, the counter-culture, black power, and the rise of the new right. Although the focus will be on social history, major political events of the time will be discussed in order to place the social history into context.

In studying the 1960s, students will also develop general skills for historical understanding including reading and analyzing both primary and secondary sources, developing and defending arguments in essays and engaging in constructive and challenging class discussions.

Assignments:

1. Historical Debate Essay = 30% (Due Sept. 26, Oct. 17 or Nov. 14)
2. Research Essay = 30% (Due Oct. 31)
3. Class Participation = 10%
4. Final Exam = 30%

All assignments are to be typed, double spaced and in 12 point font with standard margins etc. Citations should be in the form of footnotes or endnotes that follow Chicago Style. Parenthetical citation is not acceptable.

Research Essay: The research essay is to be 10-12 pages in length and on a topic of the student's own choice. Topics must be approved by myself at least two weeks in advance of the due date in order to ensure suitability. Although primary sources may be consulted it is expected that the majority of the paper will be based upon secondary materials.

Historical Debate Essay: Three books are assigned as required reading for this course. You

are to choose one of the three and write a 5-6 page essay addressing a specific historical debate that the book engages with. You must consult *at least* two other sources in addition to the assigned reading. The essay is due the day we discuss the topic in class. The topics are as follows:

1. Steven F. Lawson and Charles M. Payne, *Debating the Civil Rights movement 1945-1968*
Why did the civil rights movement take place and who was most responsible for its birth and success? Was this a fundamentally “top down” or “bottom up” movement and why?
2. Harvey Pekar, *Students for a Democratic Society: A Graphic History*.
Should the student movement be viewed as a success or a failure and why? Was the movement too radical or not radical enough? Were the movement's tactics correct?
3. Thomas Frank, *The Conquest of Cool: Business Culture, Counterculture, and the Rise of Hip Consumerism*.
Did counter-cultural protest contribute to or distract from the political movements of the 1960s? Was the counter-culture co-opted by business and the establishment? Did the counter-culture make a lasting positive impact on American society?

Final Exam: The exam will consist of two essay questions in which you will be required to develop and argue a thesis using the information learned in this course. A list of potential essay questions will be distributed prior to the exam. Exam questions will be based both upon lectures and required readings so it is important that you read everything you are assigned. The exam may be changed to a take-home if the class is in favor of this.

Class Participation: Students are expected to come to every class prepared to discuss the required readings for that day (see the class schedule). The quality and quantity of participation in group and class discussions will be taken into consideration for this portion of the mark. Required readings are either available for purchase in the bookstore or can be found online through D2L

Late policy: You will lose one grade for every class that your assignment is late. If you cannot hand your assignment to me in person it may be dropped off at the history office. Deadlines are flexible if you ask for an extension IN ADVANCE (the farther in advance the better). If you are experiencing problems with the workload in this or a combination of courses please come to see me and we can work something out. Please come see me beforehand rather than not handing anything in and then coming to see me afterward.

Regarding Plagiarism: The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

Marking: Letter grades correspond to number grades as follows:

A+ = 90-100

A = 80-89

B+ = 75-79

B = 70-74

C+ = 65-69

C = 60-64

D = 50-59

F = below 50

Keep in mind that the goal of this course should be to improve your skills, NOT to achieve any specific grade. Thus my comments on your assignments are far more important than the specific grade given. Please read comments carefully as I have put significant thought into them.

Appeals: Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

Uncollected term work will become property of the faculty of arts and will be subject to destruction

The Voluntary Withdrawal Date: is Nov. 13 and evaluation of term work will be provided before then

Class Schedule:

Week One: The Fifties

Sep. 5: Intro to course

Sep. 10: The New Deal Consensus

Sep. 12: 1950s Society and Culture

Week Two: The Civil Rights Movement

Sep. 17: Origins of the Civil Rights Movement

Sep. 19: The Movement in Action

Week Three:

Sep. 24: Nationalism, Black Power and the Black Panthers

Sep. 26: **Seminar: Lawson and Payne, *Debating the Civil Rights Movement*** (Essay due)

Week Four: The Student Movement

Oct. 1: SDS, The Berkeley Free Speech Movement, Campus Protest

Oct. 3: **Seminar: The Port Huron Statement** (selection) and Paul Goodman, *Growing Up Absurd* (Preface and Introduction)

Week Five: Vietnam and the Anti-War Movement

Oct. 8: The War itself

Oct. 10: The Anti-War Movement

Seminar: "Vietnam Veterans Against the War Statement" and M L King, "Beyond Vietnam"

Week Six: The New Left

Oct. 15: The New Left, Working Class Radicalism, the Weathermen

Oct. 17: **Seminar: Harvey Pekar, *Students for a Democratic Society: A Graphic History***
(Essay due)

Week Seven: Women's Liberation

Oct. 22: Second Wave Feminism

Oct. 24: **Seminar: Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*** (selection)

Week Eight: Movements of Liberation

Oct. 29: Gay Rights Movement

Oct. 31: The American Indian Movement and Environmentalism
RESEARCH ESSAY DUE TODAY

Week Eight: Counter-Culture I:

Nov. 5: The Beats, Folk Music, the Folk Revival

Nov. 7: **Seminar: selections from Ginsberg, Dylan**

Week Eight: Counter-Culture II:

Nov. 12: Yippies, Hippies and Drug Culture

Nov. 14: **Seminar: Thomas Frank, *The Conquest of Cool*** (Essay due)

Week Nine: 1968: The Turning Point

Nov. 19: Johnson Steps Down, The Assassinations of MLK and RFK

Nov. 26: The Democratic Convention and the Election

Week Twelve: The Right-Wing Reaction

Nov. 26: Backlash against Civil Rights, The Rise of the New Right

Nov. 28: Goldwater and Reagan, Nixon and Watergate

Week Thirteen: The Legacy of the 1960s

Dec. 3: The Legacy of the 1960s in America