Overview

Course Overview: This course surveys the history of the United States from the end of World War II to present. Key developments in American political, social, and cultural history are considered, and major themes include the Cold War and anticommunism, the Civil Rights and women’s movements, the counterculture of the 1960s, Vietnam War, the rise of the New Right, and the September 11, 2001 attacks and subsequent War on Terror.

Course Objectives: After completing this course, you should:

1. Know key themes and events in postwar American history, both domestically and internationally,
2. Understand how the present has been shaped by the past, and
3. Identify the major debates in recent American history and articulate the opposing positions.

Course Format: This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and discussions based upon daily reading assignments. There will be a single text that we will work through during the term.


Instructor Policies

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected from all students. Given that this is a summer course lasting only five weeks, your attendance is even more crucial.

Office Hours: My office is located in Room 314 of the Paper Technology Building (IPST) at 10th and Hemphill Streets. I am available Monday through Thursday, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. I can be reached by e-mail at nathan.moon@gatech.edu or by phone at 404-894-8845.

Academic Honesty: Under no circumstances will I accept cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty. Students are expected to abide by the Georgia Tech Honor Challenge, available at http://www.honor.gatech.edu/.

Grading: Your grade will be weighted as follows:

Test 1 – 30%
Test 2 – 30%
Test 3 – 30%
Participation – 10%
**Note on Reading:** This course partly is discussion-based, meaning that your attention to the reading assignments is imperative. Given the rather intensive nature of this course—lasting only five weeks—you should expect to read in advance of almost every meeting. I have assigned an average of 10-20 pages of reading per meeting, which suggests that you should be prepared to allocate 1-2 hours of outside preparation time, including your T-Square posting. I have tried to provide natural pauses in the course to allow you to catch up on reading as necessary, and I am prepared to adjust reading assignments as necessary. Nevertheless, you will need to remain diligent about reading in order to get the most from this course.

**Note of Respect for Others’ Views:** The history of postwar America is fraught with controversies, and the readings I have assigned frequently take opposing positions in attempting to resolve a key question. Naturally, you may find yourself at odds with your fellow classmates during our discussions—which is perfectly fine. Every student should consider the evidence, read all the arguments, and come to their own conclusions. However, you need to respect views that may be different from your own. Debate is welcome, but personal attacks will not be permitted in the course of our discussions.

**Note on Participation Grade:** Your participation grade will be assessed primarily according to your contributions to the T-Square discussion forum, as well as your overall level of engagement in the classroom discussions. In order to receive full credit for participation you will be required to contribute to no less than 10 questions on our T-Square group. At least 15 opportunities will be provided for you to contribute.

**Course Schedule**

**WEEK 1: Cold War, Consumerism, and Conformity**


**WEEK 2: Civil Rights, Great Society, and Counterculture**

7/4 – HOLIDAY – NO CLASS

WEEK 3: Vietnam, Women’s Liberation, and the 1970s
7/9 – Test 1 / View The Fog of War

WEEK 4: The Reagan Revolution, End of Cold War, and the New Economy
7/16 – Test 2 / View Harlan County U.S.A.

WEEK 5: The Clinton Years and Beyond
7/24 – September 11, 2011 / READ: Gaddis, “Setting Right in a Dangerous World” and Hunt, “In the Wake of September 11” (ONLINE RESERVES)
7/26 – Final Discussion and Review
8/2 – FINAL EXAM (Test #3) @ 11:30 a.m.