

COURSE SYLLABUS
HISTORY 492.01: UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1945
TTH 12:00-1:15 PM
MLH B32
FALL 2005

Instructor: Christopher K. Riggs
Office Location: Spalding 109
Office Hours: 10:30AM-11:45AM Mon & Wed
1:30PM-4:15PM Tues
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OVERVIEW

This course will examine American history from the end of World War II until the early 21st century. A key theme of the period was (and is) Americans' "Grand Expectations" (to use historian Thomas Patterson's phrasing) - expectations of prosperity, freedom, equality, international influence, and so forth. Yet, those expectations were sometimes at odds and in other instances were frustrated. Such tension between expectation and reality remains a fundamental aspect of American life to this day.

COURSE FORMAT

The course format will consist of lecture and discussion sessions, supplemented by some audio-visual presentations (videos, etc.).

Please note that in preparation for discussions, you may be asked to write answers to a series of questions and to turn in your answers to me at the end of the session.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

You are responsible for all material presented and discussed during all class sessions whether or not you are present. Also, attendance will be considered in regard to determining your participation grade (see below).

I request that you arrive to class on time and stay for the entire time; if you anticipate that you might be late or

need to leave early, please let me know.

Please turn cell phone and pager ringers off or to vibrate. If you need to make or take a cell phone call during class, please step outside.

READINGS

Everyone will be asked to read the following books. Copies of these books are on reserve at the LCSC library and are available via the bookstore and the Internet.

David Howard-Pitney, *Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and the Civil Rights Struggle of the 1950s and 1960s* (2004).

Douglas Little, *American Orientalism: The United States and the Middle East since 1945* (2002).

Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era*, revised ed. (1999).

Schaller, Schulzinger, & Anderson, *Present Tense: The United States Since 1945*, 3rd ed. (2004).

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* (2004).

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Your grade will be based on how many points you earn out of a possible 535. You earn points by doing the following things.

Participation

Participation is valued at 100 points. Among other things, participation involves reading material to be discussed in class beforehand, active engagement in class discussions (listening and speaking), asking relevant questions, and good faith efforts to grapple with course material. Earning a high participation grade, of course, will require you to attend class regularly. To gauge participation, you may occasionally be asked to sign in or turn in evidence of your work during class.

Actions during class which will cause you to lose participation points include (but are not limited to) sleeping or putting your head down on the desk, reading

newspapers or magazines, doing other homework, leaving early without checking with the instructor beforehand, and talking while the instructor or another student or guest speaker is speaking. Such actions can be very disruptive and show disrespect toward other students and the instructor; they are not appropriate.

Research Paper

You will be asked to write a research paper. The assignment will include submitting a topic proposal, an optional rough draft, and a final draft. The proposal will be worth 10 points. The final paper will be worth 200 points. More information about the paper will be provided in a separate handout.

Life Magazine Assignment

You will be asked to write a short paper analyzing an issue of *Life Magazine*. More information about the assignment will be provided in a separate handout. The assignment will be worth 75 points. It may be done individually or in a group.

In-Class Assignments

You will be asked to complete several in-class written assignments. Generally, these will be responses to questions on the readings, and will often be done in groups. They will serve as a substitute for regular quizzes and exams. In class assignments will vary in terms of point value, but will be worth a total of 150 points.

Extra Credit

You will have the option to do a maximum of two extra credit assignments, worth up to ten points total. Students should check with me before proceeding with any extra credit work. The activities listed below are suggestions; other projects would likely be acceptable as well, but just be sure to check with me if you have any questions. Please note that the more complex and difficult the project, the more points you are likely to earn.

Some potential extra credit projects include writing a 1-2 page paper summarizing and analyzing a history-related film; article in a magazine, journal, or newspaper; source on the Internet.

Note that you must cite any source that you use in your extra credit project (author and title of article, title of film, web address, etc.)

GRADING

I will grade using the following scale:

93-100% = A	90-92 = A-	
88-89% = B+	83-87 = B	80-82 = B-
78-79% = C+	73-77 = C	70-72 = C-
68-69% = D+	63-67 = D	60-62 = D-
59% and below = F		

MAKE UP EXAMS

I will permit make up exams only under special circumstances. Please let me know as soon as possible (preferably before the exam) about the situation that has caused you or will cause you to miss the exam so that a make up can be arranged. NOTE THAT MAKE UP EXAMS MAY BE OF A DIFFERENT FORMAT THAN THE REGULAR EXAMS.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Class policy is the same as that of the college. As explained in the LCSC Student Handbook: Code of Conduct: <http://www.lcsc.edu/student-services/SHBcodeofconduct.htm>

Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable. The College functions to promote the cognitive and psychosocial development of all students. Therefore, all work submitted by a student must represent his/her own ideas, concepts and current understanding. Academic Dishonesty includes:

- a) Cheating—intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term "academic exercise" includes all forms of work submitted for credit hours.
- b) Fabrication—intentional and/or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or the source of any information in an academic exercise.

c) Collusion facilitating academic dishonesty—intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of Academic Dishonesty.

d) Plagiarism—the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas or words or statement of another person as one's own without acknowledgment.

Anyone found in any of the above activities or related activities will be subject to penalty. Such penalty may include failing a particular assignment, failing the course, and/or additional sanctions imposed by the college.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who need special accommodations are asked to please consult with me no later than three weeks after the semester begins.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Below is a tentative schedule (with the emphasis on tentative!) of the topics we will address in class. I have included the readings that go with each of our weekly topics, due dates for assignments, and the like. So, for example, the pages listed under the heading of "Sept 6" should be read before our class on that day.

It is very important that you do the assigned readings prior to class, in order to insure that you will be able to fully participate in the discussion.

Present Tense = PT
American Orientalism = AO
Homeward Bound = HB
Martin Luther King Jr. = MLK

Aug 30
Introduction
Readings: none

Sept 1
Laying the Groundwork for the Post-1945 Era: The Great Depression and World War II
Readings: PT, pp. 1-41

Sept 6

Class Held in LCSC Library, Classroom 104 (Meet at Library)

Sept 8

The Cold War, 1945-1960

Readings: PT, pp. 42-81

Sept 13

The Cold War, 1945-1960 (con't)

Readings: PT, pp. 127-166; AO, pp. 77-115

Sept 15

NO CLASS - WORK ON ASSIGNMENTS

Sept 20 & 22

The Cold War (con't); American Society & Culture in the 1950s

Readings: PT, pp. 83-126

Sept 27

American Society and Culture in the 1950s (con't)

Readings: HB, pp. xi-xxvi, pp. 10-28, pp. 100-185

Sept 29

NO CLASS - WORK ON ASSIGNMENTS

Oct 4

Civil Rights, 1954-1963

Readings: MLK, pp. 3-8, pp. 73-90

Oct 6

Civil Rights (con't); the New Frontier, 1960-1963

Readings: PT, pp. 168-206

Oct 11

The Great Society, 1964-1965

Readings: PT, pp. 209-242

Oct 13

TURN IN LIFE MAGAZINE ASSIGNMENT/NO CLASS

Oct 18 & 20

The American War in Vietnam, 1964-1968

Readings: PT, pp. 243-279; MLK, pp. 136-147

Oct 25

The Culture of Protest & the Rights Revolution, 1960-1975

Readings: PT, 280-287; MLK, pp. 6-27, pp. 57-70, pp. 96-99

Oct 27

Culture of Protest & the Rights Revolution, 1960-1975 (con't)

Readings: PT, 287-317

Nov 1

America and the World, 1969-1974

Readings: PT, pp. 318-350

Nov 3

America and the World, 1969-1974 (con't)

Readings: AO, pp. 117-155

Nov 8

Watergate and Its Legacy

Readings: PT, pp. 351-385

Nov 10 - **NO CLASS**

Nov 15

America in the 1970s

Readings: PT, pp. 386-422; AO, pp. 43-75

Nov 17

TURN IN FINAL PAPERS/NO CLASS

Nov 22 and 24: NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)

Nov 29

America in the 1980s

Readings: PT, pp. 424-462

Dec 1

The End of the Cold War

Readings: PT, pp. 463-496

Dec 6

The Post-Cold War Era

Readings: PT, pp. 497-536

Dec 8

The Post-Cold War Era (con't)

Readings: AO, pp. 229-318

Dec 13 & 15

Catch Up and Reflect

TURN IN OPTIONAL REWRITES OF RESEARCH PAPERS