

DRAFT - TO BE FINALIZED in AUGUST 2015

HISTORY 360, CONFLICT & CONFORMITY IN POSTWAR AMERICA: 1945-1963

Fall 2015, Monday-Wednesday 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Instructor: Neil Lanctot, Ph.D. (pronounced "Lank-toe")

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Office hours: Monday/Wednesday after class or by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVE: Through readings, lectures, videos, discussion, and written assignments, students will achieve a deeper understanding of the complexity of postwar America, an era marked by both conflict and conformity.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

(INCOMPLETE - TO BE FINALIZED IN AUGUST 2015)

Stephen J. Whitfield, *A Death in the Delta - The Story of Emmett Till*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.

Ellen Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism - A Brief History With Documents*. New York: Bedford, 2002.

William W. Savage, Jr., *Commies, Cowboys, and Jungle Queens - Comic Books and America, 1945-1954*. Hanover: Wesleyan University Press, 1998.

Nancy Walker editor, *Women's Magazines 1940-1960 - Gender Roles and the Popular Press*. New York: Bedford, 1998.

Fredrik Logevall, *The Origins of the Vietnam War*. New York: Longman, 2001

Course reader available from University Readers.com

REQUIREMENTS: Final grades will be based upon the following:

1. **Mid-term test** on October 12 (25% of final grade).
2. **Essay** due November 23 (25% of final grade).
3. **Final examination** (25% of final grade).
4. **Discussion questions (based on assigned readings)** (25% of grade).

Tentative schedule of classes and readings:

(INCOMPLETE - TO BE FINALIZED IN AUGUST 2015)

August 26 Introduction - The Atomic Bomb/The Cold War begins
Video:
Comrades (1917-1945) (part 1 of *The Cold War*)

Aug. 31/Sept. 2, 9 The Cold War
John Lewis Gaddis, "Nuclear Weapons and the Early Cold War," 85-112 (from *We Now Know - Rethinking Cold War History*).

Casey, Steven, "Selling NSC-68: The Truman Administration, Public Opinion, and the Politics of Mobilization, 1950-51," *Diplomatic History*, 29 (Sept. 2005), 655-90.

Video:
Iron Curtain (1945-1947) (part 2 of *The Cold War*) or *Korea (1949-1953)* (part 5)

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Sept. 14, 16 McCarthyism and the domestic Cold War

Ellen Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism - A Brief History With Documents*, 107-118, 122-170, 177-189, 197-206, 213-220, 226-228, 229-243, 258-261, 271-277.

Video: *The Atomic Cafe* (part 1)

Sept. 21,23 McCarthyism and the domestic Cold War (continued)

Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism*, 244-257.

Excerpts from Griffin Fariello, *Red Scare - Memories of the American Inquisition - An Oral History*, 255-272, 294-305, 315-331, 340-344.

Video: *The Atomic Cafe* (part 2)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS #2 DUE (SEPTEMBER 22)

Sept. 28, 30 The early Civil Rights movement
Whitfield, *A Death in the Delta*, chapters 1-4

October 5, 7 The early Civil Rights movement (part 2)

Whitfield, *A Death in the Delta*, chapters 5-8.

Excerpts from John Howard Griffin, *Black Like Me*.

Video: *Ain't Scared of Your Jails (1960-1961)* (episode 3 of *Eyes on the Prize*)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS #3 DUE (OCTOBER 6)

October 12 Midterm exam

Oct. 14, 19, 21 Suburbia, the baby boom, and the changing face of American life

Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier - The Suburbanization of the United States* (chapters 13 and 14), 231-271, 369-376.

Wolfinger, James, "'The American Dream-For All Americans': Race, Politics, and the Campaign to Desegregate Levittown," *Journal of Urban History*, 38 (May 2012), 430-51.

Keaton, Angela F., "Backyard Desperadoes: American Attitudes Concerning Toy Guns in the Early Cold War Era," *Journal of American Culture*, 33 (Sept. 2010), 183-96.

Video: *Selling the American Way* or *Let's Play House* (volumes 2 and 3 of *David Halberstam's The Fifties*)

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Oct. 26, 28 The Rise of Television
Nov. 2, 4

Steve Craig and Terry Moellinger, "So Rich, Mild and Fresh": A Critical Look at TV Cigarette Commercials, 1948-1971," *Journal of Communications Inquiry*, 2001, 55-71.

William Boddy, "The Honeymoon is Over,": The End of Live Drama," in *Fifties Television: The Industry and Its Critics*, 187-213.

Thomas Cripps, "Amos 'n' Andy and the Debate over American Racial Integration," in *American History/American Television - Interpreting the Video Past*, 33-54

Video: Samples of 1950s television programming

Nov. 9, 11 Teenagers and the music revolution of the 1950s
James Gilbert, *A Cycle of Outrage - America's Reaction to the Juvenile Delinquent in the 1950s*, 11-23, 196-211.

Glenn C. Altschuler, *All Shook Up - How Rock 'n' Roll Changed America*, 35-66, 197-200.

Video: *Renegades* (episode 1 of *Rock & Roll*)

Nov. 16, 18 Women in postwar America

Walker, *Women's Magazines 1940-1960 - Gender Roles and the Popular Press*, 56-62, 71-75, 82-85, 86-87, 100-102, 106-107, 116-143, 161-192, 199-203, 211-220, 223-227, 228-242.

Betty Friedan, "The Problem That Has No Name," (chapter 1 of *The Feminine Mystique*), 15-32.

Massoni, Kelley, "'Teena Goes to Market': *Seventeen Magazine* and the Early Construction of the Teen Girl (as) Consumer," *Journal of American Culture*, 29 (March 2006), 31-42.

Video: *A Burning Desire* (volume 4 of *David Halberstam's The Fifties*)

Nov. 23 Postwar popular culture

Savage, Jr., *Commies, Cowboys, and Jungle Queens - Comic Books and America, 1945-1954*.

ASSIGNMENT DUE

Nov. 30/Dec. 2 The American Path to Vietnam
Logevall, *The Origins of the Vietnam War*.

Dec. 7 Review for final exam