HISTORY 339--THE US SINCE 1968

HI 339 focuses on the political, social, economic and cultural history of the United States since 1968. All books are available in paperback at the Bookstore. Students can find additional assignments at the Blackboard 8 website. Readings are assigned from the following volumes:

Michael Patrick MacDonald, *All Souls*
Jay McInerney, *Bright Lights, Big City*
Barack Obama, *Dreams From My Father*
Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail, 1972*
Assorted Primary Source Documents (Available at the Website)

Assignments:

1. At the end of class on Tuesday, January 31, I will distribute material for the Primary Source Analysis Assignment. Students will choose a short document (fewer than five pages) from a folder of primary sources and answer a series of short questions about them (1 or 2 paragraphs each; the total will be no more than two pages. The completed assignment is due in class on Thursday, February 9. The Primary Source Assignment will account for 10% of your final grade in the course.

2. In class, on Thursday, February 16, we will pass out questions for the first historical essay, covering topics from the first five weeks of the course. In class, on Thursday, March 1, students will turn in a paper of approximately six double-spaced, typewritten pages, analyzing one of the questions in an intelligent and coherent essay. Late papers will be penalized one half grade per day. All students are required to make and retain until the end of the semester a xerox copy of their essay. The essay will account for 25% of your final grade in the course.

3. At the end of class on Thursday, March 8, I will distribute material for the Site Analysis Assignment. Students will choose a Boston-Area site from a list of suggested sites and answer a series of short questions about them (1 or 2 paragraphs each; the total will be no more than two pages. The completed assignment is due in class on Tuesday, March 27. The Site Analysis Assignment will account for 10% of your final grade in the course.
3. At the end of class on Thursday, March 29, we will distribute questions for the second historical essay. Students will choose one of the questions and answer it in an essay of approximately six typewritten pages. The paper must be completed and handed in by the end of class on Thursday, April 12. Late papers will penalized one half grade per day. All students are required to make and retain until the end of the semester a xerox copy of their answer. The essay will account for 25% of your final grade in the course.

4. On Thursday, April 26, 2012, I will distribute a sheet of guide questions for the final exam. Four of those guide questions will appear on the actual exam, on Thursday, May 10, 2012, from 9:00-11:00 AM. Students will answer two of those four questions. Each essay answer will constitute 15% of your course grade (In total the final exam will constitute 30%). Students are not allowed to bring notes or other materials into the exam.

5. Even though HI 339 is a relatively large course, student participation remains an important component in the course and active, engaged participation will improve your performance on the assignments and help decide borderline cases in your favor. Students can demonstrate such engagement in numerous ways: by attending and participating in the optional discussions, by answering questions in class, by visiting the instructors at office hours, and by attending the evening film screenings.

NOTE ON PLAGIARISM. **Remember that plagiarism is a serious offense.** The Boston University Code of Academic Conduct defines plagiarism as “any attempts by a student to represent the work or another as his or her own.” Plagiarism is subject to serious sanctions, including reprimand, suspension, and expulsion. For a detailed description of Boston University’s rules, consult the code of conduct at www.cs.bu.edu/students/conduct.html

NOTE ON WRITING ASSIGNMENTS. For a detailed description of the proper format for historical essays, students should consult the BU History Department Writing Guide. You will find a link to the Writing Guide at the Blackboard website. “Writing Tips,” a brief set of guidelines for essays in HI 365, is also posted on the website. Make sure that you review the writing tips before you turn in your first essay.

**SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

Jan 17 Introduction to the Course: The Mist of History
Jan 19 Annuus Mirabilis, Annuus Horribilus: 1968 and the Postwar Legacy
READING: Thompson, p. 1-April; Chafe, ch. 12; Late 1960s Documents Folder (Schrag and Wallace).

Jan 24 The Trickster: Nixon’s Domestic Presidency
Jan 26 Nixon and Kissinger, Vietnam and the World
READING: Chafe, pp. 365-387; Thompson, May-Dark Interlude; Late 60s Documents Folder (McKeen)

* The Readings for each week of the course follow the lecture titles in the syllabus.
Jan 31 "We're Finally On Our Own": Student Radicalism after 1968
Feb 2 The Legacy of Woodstock
READING: Thompson, August-Epitaph; Chafe; pp. 387-411; Kent State Documents Folder

Feb 7 Watergate
Feb 9 E Pluribus Plures: From Integration to Cultural Nationalism (PRIMARY SOURCE ASSIGNMENT DUE)
READING: MacDonald, Chs. 1-4; Chafe, pp. 290-322.

Feb 14 E Pluribus Plures, Part II: Disco Nites, Rapper's Delites
Feb 16 The Third Great Awakening: Religion and Community in the 1970s
READING: MacDonald, chs. 5-11; Race and Cultural Nationalism Documents Folder.

Feb 21 MONDAY SCHEDULE ON TUESDAY
Feb 23 Coming to America: Rewriting the Immigrant Saga
READING: Chafe, ch. 14; Me Decade Documents Folder, Items 1-3.

Feb 28 The Carter Presidency
Mar 1 The Me Decade and the Politics of Self: Excursions into 1970s Culture (ESSAY DUE)
READING: Chafe, ch. 15; Me Decade Documents Folder, Item 4.

Mar 6 Feminism
Mar 8 From the Duke to Iron John: Men and Masculinity
READING: Chafe, pp. 315-22; Feminism Documents Folder.

Mar 13 SPRING BREAK
Mar 15 SPRING BREAK

Mar 20 Rise of the Sunbelt
Mar 22 Thunder on the Right: The New Right and the Tax Revolt
READING: Men’s Movement Documents Folder; McInerney, pp. 1-98

Mar 27 Material Dreams, Material Nightmares: Stagflation and the Money Revolution (SITE ANALYSIS DUE)
Mar 29 Reaganism
READING: McInerney, pp. 99-182; Chafe, ch. 16; Conservatism Documents Folder.

Apr 3 Years of the Yuppies: Economics and Culture in the 80s
Apr 5 The Privatization of Everyday Life
READING: Chafe, ch. 17; Yuppies Documents Folder.
Apr 10 Trouble in Lakewood: The End of the Cold War and American Society
Apr 12 The Politics of Recognition: "Diversity and its Discontents" (2\textsuperscript{ND} ESSAY DUE)

READING: Obama, Part 1; New Diversity Documents Folder.

Apr 17 The Clinton Presidency
Apr 19 Post-Conservative America? Post Feminist-America?: Making Sense of the 1990s

READING: Obama, Parts 2 and 3

Apr 24 2012 The Contemporary Era in Historical Perspective
Apr 26 Review

READING: Chafe, Ch. 18, The 2000s Documents Folder

May 1 Conclusion

READING: Chafe, Epilogue.