

HI338A1: Cold War America, US History 1945-1968
Fall 2019
CAS 324, Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:45

Professor Andrew David
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Email: andavid@bu.edu
Office Hours: TR 4:45-5:45, R 11-12, and by appointment

Overview:

In 1945 America emerged from the Second World War as the most powerful industrial nation in the world with the highest standard of living. The story of America between 1945 and 1968 is really the story of the creation of the modern US. During this period the political parties began to take on the tone and philosophies we know today. The physical outline of modern American developed with the rapid expansion of suburban America while the modern idea of the “American Dream” developed. A little over a decade after the end of the Second World War, a majority of American homes owned a TV, helping redefine popular culture. At the same time, the civil rights movement and emergence of the New Left and Right redefined society. The American government and American people also grew accustomed to playing a major role in international relations as the Cold War began and intensified with consequences at home and abroad. In less than twenty years, however, America not only possessed the power to destroy the world (several times over), it had also had become embroiled in a war in Southeast Asia. The perceived unity of the 1940s and 50s had been shattered even as the idea of what it meant to be American continued to evolve and develop.

Course Organization/Requirements:

Specific course requirements are as follows:

Short Paper (10%) (Hard copy due at start of class, Thursday, October 10)
Midterm Exam (25%) (In class, October 24)
Analytic Paper (25%) (Hard copy due at start of class, December 3 **or** 10)
Final Exam (25%) (Wednesday, December 18)
Attendance and Class Participation (15%)

The short paper prompt will be posted to the Blackboard site (and discussed in class) on September 24. The analytical prompt will be posted to the Blackboard site (and discussed in class) on October 31.

Attendance: Students are required to attend lectures and discussions, and attendance will be taken at each class meeting via a sign in sheet. Attendance will be considered when calculating class participation grades, and students will be docked a full grade for every three classes they miss (i.e. 3 missed classes moves a grade you from an A to a B, 6 from a B to a C, etc.). Note that these absences need not be consecutive. If you have a special obligation that will require you

to miss several classes (e.g., varsity athletics, religious observances), please talk with me at the beginning of the semester.

Exams: Students are expected to take the midterm and final on the days they are administered (October 25 and December 18). Make-up exams will only be given in the event of a medical emergency (with a note from a doctor) or a family emergency.

Technology: Use of laptops (and other digital devices) is not permitted in class. If you need to use a laptop for notetaking, please speak to me.

Readings

The following books are available at the Barnes and Noble bookstore in Kenmore Square:

John Lewis, *Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement*
Andrew Preston, *The War Council: McGeorge Bundy, the NSC, and Vietnam*
Nancy Beck Young, *Two Suns of the Southwest, Lyndon Johnson, Barry Goldwater, and the 1964 Battle Between Liberalism and Conservatives*

In addition to these, other readings are posted to the class' Blackboard site

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the passing off of another's words or ideas as your own, and it is a serious academic offense. Cases of plagiarism will be handled in accordance with the disciplinary procedures described in the College of Arts and Science Academic Conduct Code. All students are subject to the CAS code, which can be read online at: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/> Penalties for plagiarism can range from failing an assignment or course to suspension or expulsion from the university. If you have any questions about plagiarism, please speak with me.

Schedule of Lectures, Readings, and Assignments

Tuesday, September 3-Intro to Class

Thursday, September 5-A New Vision for America

Blackboard Readings

Ella Baker, Chapter 3

The New Yorker, Letter from a Campaign Train

Tuesday, September 10-A New Vision for the World

Thursday, September 12-Cold Wars

Readings

The War Council, Chapter 1

Blackboard Readings

Strategies of Containment, Chapter 3

The Truman Doctrine

Tuesday, September 17-The Soul of the GOP and the Red Scare

Thursday, September 29-Civil Rights in the Age of Eisenhower-1

Readings

Two Suns of the Southwest, Chapter 1
Walking with the Wind, Chapter 3
Blackboard Material
Many Are the Crimes, Chapter 5

Tuesday, September 24-New Look

Thursday, September 26-The Good Life

Blackboard Readings

Selections from *The New Yorker*

Fallout

Letter from Washington

IBM's New Brain

The Home Freezer

Bananas in General (TV Comedies)

An Inquiry into Enoughness

Marion Boggs Memo to McGeorge Bundy, 3/14/61

To Kill Nations, Chapter 5

A Drive Through Boston, 1958 (Video)

Tuesday, October 1-Civil Rights in the Age of Eisenhower-2

Thursday, October 3-1960

Readings

Two Suns of the Southwest, Chapter 2

Walking with the Wind, Chapters 4 and 6

Blackboard

Ella Baker, Chapter 4

The New Yorker, Letter from Washington

Tuesday, October 8-Creating Camelot

Thursday, October 10-Civil Rights in the Age of the Kennedys

Readings

The War Council, Chapter 2

Blackboard Readings

The New Yorker, Silent Spring

SHORT PAPER DUE IN CLASS ON 10/10

Tuesday, October 15-**NO CLASS (Monday Schedule)**

Thursday, October 17-In Class Movie: Crisis

Readings

Walking with the Wind, Chapters 7-11

Blackboard

Ella Baker, Chapter 5

Tuesday, October 22-Kennedy's Cold War

Thursday, October 24-**MIDTERM**

Readings

The War Council, Chapter 3

Tuesday, October 29-Kennedy, Southeast Asia, and Vietnam

Thursday, October 31-The New Left

Readings

The War Council, Chapter 4-5

Blackboard Readings

The Port Huron Statement [Excerpts-See note on Blackboard page]

The Feminine Mystique, Excerpts

Reporting Vietnam, A Suicide in Saigon

Tuesday, November 5-The New Right

Thursday, November 7-Freedom Summer: Success or Pyrrhic Victory?

Readings

Two Suns of the Southwest, Chapters 3-4

Walking with the Wind, Chapter 13

Blackboard Material

Young Americans for Freedom's Sharon Statement

The Politician, Chapter 17

Tuesday, November 12-1964: Electoral Success and The Great Society

Thursday, November 14-1964: Lyndon Johnson Inherits Vietnam

Readings

Two Suns of the Southwest, Chapters 5-7

Walking with the Wind, Chapter 14

Blackboard Material

New Yorker, Letter from Washington

Lyndon Johnson Orders Pants (Telephone Recording/Cartoon)

Tuesday, November 19-Escalation

Thursday, November 21-**NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)**

Readings

The War Council, Chapter 6-8

Blackboard

The New Yorker, The Village of Ben Suc (Podcast)

Life Magazine, One Ride with Yankee Papa 13 (Photo Essay)

McNaughton Memo

Tuesday, November 26-In Class Movie: The Fog of War

Thursday, November 28-Civil Rights: Civil Rights in the South, Civil Rights in the North

Readings

Walking with the Wind, Chapters 15-16

Blackboard Reading

The Atlantic, How Could Vietnam Happen?

Reporting on Civil Rights, The Conservative Militant

Tuesday, December 3-Civil Rights: Unrest, the Long Hot Summer, and the Death of MLK

Thursday, December 5-New Voices and the Silent Majority

Readings

The War Council, Chapter 9

Walking with the Wind, Chapter 17-18

Blackboard Readings

NOW Statement of Purpose

Black Panther Party's Ten Point Program

Tuesday, December 10-1968

Blackboard Material

The New Yorker, Letter from Chicago

The Making of the President 1968, Chapter 7

In Class Final: 3:00-5:00, Wednesday, December 18