Overview:

This course surveys the history of the United States since 1929. Topics will include the social effects of technological change, tensions between individualism and community, conflicting understandings of the rights and responsibilities associated with citizenship, shifting visions of America’s role in the world, and the interplay between progressivism and conservatism in domestic political debates.

Assignments and Grading:

25%: Class Participation (including Blackboard postings)
15%: Midterm
30%: Final Exam

Message board: Each week the teaching assistants will distribute questions based on that week’s readings. Students are expected to post a response to one of those questions on Blackboard five times during the semester (once for each of the books read in the course).

Late papers: The grades of late papers will be lowered one level for each day they are late (e.g., a grade of B becomes a B- if one day late, a C+ if two days late, etc.).

Absences: If advance notice is provided to the teaching assistant, students who need to miss section can make up for the absence by writing a 2–3 page response paper on that week’s assigned readings, due in section the following week. No more than two absences will be excused in this manner.

Ethics: The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. Report any violations you witness to the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of student affairs and/or the chairman of the Ethics Board beforehand.

Disabilities: Any student with a disability who may need accommodations in this class must obtain an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services, 385 Garland, (410) 516-4720, studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu. Please notify the professor and your TA of any requirements during the first week of the semester.
Texts: A number of the readings from the course (denoted with an * in the syllabus) will be available on electronic reserve from the course’s blackboard website. The other readings, listed below, are available at the bookstore:


Teaching Assistants:

- Morgan Shahan: morganjshahan@gmail.com
- Sarah Templier: sarah.templier@jhu.edu
- Tara Tran: taraktran@jhu.edu

Office Hours:

- Angus Burgin: Monday from 11:00am–1:00pm in Gilman 338f. Sign up at the following link: [http://doodle.com/85bumvhig6a9e45n](http://doodle.com/85bumvhig6a9e45n). Also available by appointment on Wednesday afternoons.
- Morgan Shahan: Friday from 1:00pm–2:00pm in Mudd Hall atrium.
- Sarah Templier: Monday from 11:00am–1:00pm in Gilman atrium.
- Tara Tran: Thursday from 10:00am–12:00pm in Mudd Hall atrium.

INTRODUCTION

Monday, January 26: The United States in 1929

No Readings

I. MARKET SOCIETY IN DEPRESSION AND WAR

Wednesday, January 28: Radicalism and Conservatism in the Early New Deal

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:
• Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform*, pp. 3–47.

**Monday, February 2: Keynesian Persuasions**

*Primary Readings:*

*Secondary Readings:*

**Wednesday, February 4: Mobilization and War**

*Primary Readings:*

*Secondary Readings:*

**Monday, February 9: The Beginning of the Nuclear Era**

*Primary Readings:*

*Secondary Readings:*

**II: THE CULTURAL POLITICS OF THE COLD WAR**

**Wednesday, February 11: The Origins of the Cold War**

*Primary Readings:*
• *X (George Kennan), "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," Foreign Affairs* 25 (4), July 1947, pp. 566–582.

*Secondary Readings:*

**Monday, February 16: McCarthy and the Postwar Right**

*Primary Readings:*
• *“Publisher’s Statement” and “Credenda,” National Review*, 19 November 1955.

Secondary Readings:
• Elaine Tyler May, Homeward Bound, pp. 58–108.

Wednesday, February 18: Conformity and Autonomy in the 1950s

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:
• Elaine Tyler May, Homeward Bound, pp. 109–152.

* Friday, February 20: FIRST PAPER DUE *

Monday, February 23: Toward a Consumer’s Republic

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:
• Elaine Tyler May, Homeward Bound, pp. 153–216.

III. RACE AND CLASS IN THE AFFLUENT SOCIETY

Wednesday, February 25: Cold War Civil Rights (Lecturer: Morgan Shahan)

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:
• Thomas Sugrue, Origins of the Urban Crisis, pp. 3–31.
Monday, March 2: Segregation and Desegregation after Brown

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:

Wednesday, March 4: The Great Society

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:
• Thomas Sugrue, Origins of the Urban Crisis, pp. 125–152.

Monday, March 9: The Transformation of the Built Environment

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:
• Thomas Sugrue, Origins of the Urban Crisis, pp. 181-229.

* Wednesday, March 11: MIDTERM *

Monday, March 23: The Urban Crisis

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:
• Thomas Sugrue, Origins of the Urban Crisis, pp. 231–258.
IV. ORDER AND DISORDER IN AN AGE OF TRANSFORMATIONS

Wednesday, March 25: New Left, New Right

Primary Readings:
* Young Americans for Freedom, “The Sharon Statement” (1960).

Secondary Readings:

Monday, March 30: Vietnam (Lecturer: Tara Tran)

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:

Wednesday, April 1: The Counterculture

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:

Monday, April 6: Second-Wave Feminism

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:
* Thomas Borstelmann, The 1970s, pp. 72–121.
V. THE CONSERVATIVE ASCENDANCY

Wednesday, April 8: Richard Nixon and the Silent Majority

Primary Readings:
• *Hunter S. Thompson, “August,” in Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail ’72, selections.

Secondary Readings:

Monday, April 13: The Environmental Crisis

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:
• Thomas Borstelmann, The 1970s, pp. 231–247.

Wednesday, April 15: The Culture of Narcissism

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:

* Friday, April 17: SECOND PAPER DUE *

Monday, April 20: The Reagan Revolution

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:
• Daniel Rodgers, Age of Fracture, pp. 1–14, 41–76.
VI. THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION AND THE NEW ECONOMY

Wednesday, April 22: After the End of History

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:
• Daniel Rodgers, Age of Fracture, pp. 15–40.

Monday, April 27: Liberal Democracy and its Discontents

Primary Readings:
• *David Samuels, “Rock is Dead: Sex, Drugs, and Raw Sewage at Woodstock 99,” Harper’s (November 1999), pp. 69–82.

Secondary Readings:
• Daniel Rodgers, Age of Fracture, pp. 180–220.

Wednesday, April 29: The World after September 11th

Primary Readings:

Secondary Readings:
• Daniel Rodgers, Age of Fracture, pp. 252–272.

*Monday, May 11, 9am–12pm: FINAL EXAM *