The United States has played a leading part in constructing, defending, and dismantling a global political, economic, and social order that touched the lives of nearly every human being. This course traces the origins of that order to efforts to address the Great Depression and the Second World War. Students will learn why leaders of the United States responded to those crises by creating a strong liberal state and by linking national power to networks of liberal governments in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. They will examine the contradictory impact of this new liberalism, which sought to overcome economic differences among some citizens even as it exacerbated race and gender distinctions among others. They will also examine efforts to advance liberal political and economic models and to fight the spread of alternatives during the Cold War. Finally, they will evaluate the forces that have undermined the liberal order—including a backlash against the liberal state, evolving patterns of family and sexuality that challenged liberal notions of society, and changes to the global economic and political orders. Students are expected to complete the course with a sense of how these events shaped the nation and the world in which they now live.

Requirements: Weekly assignments for this course include two lectures, one discussion section, and 100-200 pages of reading. The purpose of discussion is to evaluate student’s understanding of lecture and reading materials so it is critical that they attend all lectures and complete the weekly assignment before their section meeting. Students are encouraged to ask questions during lectures, but they should also bring questions about lecture or reading material for discussion during sections.

Evaluation: Students will be graded according to their participation in discussion sections (25%), a short paper (25%), a midterm (25%), and a final exam (25%). Participation will be measured by a combination of attendance, preparation and contribution to discussions. Every student must answer one of the five short paper questions listed on the syllabus. They will be evaluated for content, argument and style. Exams will consist of two parts; identification of names, places or concepts defined in lectures and essays on lectures and required readings. Essays will be evaluated primarily according to content and argument, although sloppy writing can make it hard to appreciate strong evidence.
**Required Reading:** There are seven required books for this course. They can be purchased at A Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore, 307 W. Johnson St. (257-7888). They are all available in paperback and students can purchase used copies where they are available. Reserve copies are also available for 3 hour loan at College Library.


Mike Davis, *Magical Urbanism: Latinos Reinvent the US City* (Verso, 2001)

**Optional Reading:** There is no required textbook for this course, but students who would like an introductory narrative can turn to one of several college level textbooks on the United States Since 1945. A few copies of William H. Chafe’s *The Unfinished Journey: American Since World War II* are available for 3 hour loan at College Library and for purchase at A Room of One's Own.

**Academic Conduct:** Students will be held to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Instances of Academic Misconduct (including cheating and plagiarism) will be prosecuted according to the "Student Academic Misconduct Campus Procedures" of the UW System Administrative Code. Please familiarize yourself with those procedures and their definition of Academic Misconduct: <http://www.wisc.edu/students/conduct/uws14.htm>

**Abilities:** Students who need special accommodation due to a disability should contact me privately. Please also contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/> at 608-263-2741 (phone); 263-6393 (TTY); 263-2998 (FAX); FrontDesk@mcb.wisc.edu to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

**Week 1**

**The Rise of the Liberal Order**

Tuesday, September 5 – Depression

Thursday, September 7 - War

Section: Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumers’ Republic*, 1-191
Week 2  “Century of the Common Man”  
Tuesday, September 12 - Reconversion  
Thursday, September 14 - Stratification  
Section: Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumers’ Republic*, 195-410

**Short Paper #1 Due:** What is the difference, according to Lizbeth Cohen, between the “citizen consumer” and the “purchaser as citizen?” How does she explain the shift from one to the other and what consequences does she attribute to that shift? Use examples from the book to illustrate her argument.

Week 3  “The American Century”  
Tuesday, September 19 – Origins of the Cold War  
Thursday, September 21 – The Hot War in the Cold War  
Section: Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre*, 1-132

**Week 4**  The Cold War at Home  
Tuesday, September 26 – Nuclear Families  
Thursday, September 28 – The Decline of Organized Labor  
Section: Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre*, 133-198

**Short Paper #2 Due:** What does Greg Grandin see as the source of democracy in Latin America during the Cold War, and how does his view differ from that which shaped U.S. foreign policy? Provide evidence to support each point of view.

Week 5  The Civil Rights Revolution  
Tuesday, October 3 – The Long Civil Rights Movement  
Thursday, October 5 – The Short Civil Rights Movement  
Section: Barbara Ransby, *Ella Baker*, 1-195

Week 6  A Movement of Movements  
Tuesday, October 10 – Feminism  
Thursday, October 12 – Gay Liberation  
Section: Barbara Ransby, *Ella Baker*, 209-374

Week 7  Vietnam  
Tuesday, October 17 – Midterm Exam  
Thursday, October 19 – Origins of the War  
Section: Lisa McGirr, *Suburban Warriors*,

Week 8  New Left/New Right  
Tuesday, October 24 – The Anti-War Movement  
Thursday, October 26 -- The Forgotten Majority  
Section: Lisa McGirr, *Suburban Warriors*,

**Short Paper #3 Due:** How does Lisa McGirr define conservatism and how does she explain its popularity in Orange County during the 1960s?
Week 9       The Late Cold War  
Tuesday, October 31 – The Cold War and Global Trade  
Thursday, November 2 – The New Immigration  
Section: Mahmood Mamdani, Good Muslim, Bad Muslim, 1-118

Week 10      The End of History  
Tuesday, November 7 – Perestroika  
Thursday, November 9 – The Reagan Revolution  
Section: Mahmood Mamdani, Good Muslim, Bad Muslim, 119-260

Short Paper #4 Due: Why did the United States fight “proxy wars” in Africa and the Middle East in the 1970s and 1980s and what, according to Mahmood Mamdani, were the consequences of those wars for the United States and the regions in which they were fought?

Week 11      The End of Liberalism?  
Tuesday, November 14 – The New Economy  
Thursday, November 16 - The End of “Welfare”  
Section: John D’Emilio, The World Turned

Week 12      The Culture Wars  
Tuesday, November 21 – Who Are We and Why Do We Give Thanks?  
Thursday, November 23 Thanksgiving – No Class  
No Section Meeting

Week 13      The New American Family  
Tuesday, November 28 – AIDS and Gay Liberation  
Thursday, November 30 – The “family crisis”  
Section: John D’Emilio, The World Turned

Short Paper #5 Due: Why does John D’Emilio attribute the alarm over same-sex marriage to the decline of the liberal welfare state? What does he see as a solution to the “family crisis?”

Week 14      What did 9/11 change?  
Tuesday, December 5 – Globalization and its Discontents  
Thursday, December 7 – Nationalism and its Lack of Content  
Section: Mike Davis, Magical Urbanism, xi-76

Week 15 – Where Do We Go From Here?  
Tuesday, December 12 – Assessing the American Century  
Thursday, December 14 – Review  
Section: Mike Davis, Magical Urbanism, 77-149

Friday, December 22       Final Exam @ 12:25PM