COURSE NO. | COURSE TITLE | INSTRUCTOR
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398 | The United States Since 1945 | Melosh

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Truman's use of the atomic bomb against Japan both reflected and fundamentally transformed the United States's dominant position in world politics, and in turn, the new conditions of "atomic diplomacy" reshaped domestic politics and social life. This course will examine the development, influence, and effects of Post-World War II liberal ideology at home and abroad: the extension of New Deal social programs, the growing power of the executive branch, the retreat from brinkmanship to the foreign policy of "nuclear dread" and its strategies of detente and limited war. In domestic politics, liberalism struggled to maintain its position against the growing protest of those outside its consensus, and the default of disillusioned insiders. The course will explore the challenges to liberal ideology posed by the "personal politics" of the civil rights movement, the counter-culture, the anti-war movement, the New Left and the women's movement; and by the "politics of resentment" of Goldwater, Wallace, Nixon, and the radical right. The course also explores the social and cultural history of these years: the growing influence of mass media, life in the burgeoning suburbs, changes in men's and women's work.

LECTURES

Tues., Thurs., 9:30 AM-10:45 AM

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

- one short paper (3-5 pages)
- take-home mid-term, essay exam (5 pages)
- final paper, 8-10 pages; review essay
- final exam--take-home essay; one hour in-class identification

GRADING SYSTEM

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>short paper</td>
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<td>mid-term exam</td>
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<td>final exam</td>
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And discussion: graded on scale of -3 to 3, to be *** subtracted from or added to final grade

REQUIRED READINGS

SEE NEXT PAGE

Evans, Sara. *Personal Politics*. Study of the emergence of the women's movement from the civil rights movement and the New Left.

Halberstam, David. *The Best and the Brightest*. The advisors and decisions which brought us to Vietnam.


Plath, Silvia. *The Bell Jar.*

Salinger, J. D. *Catcher in the Rye*. Two novels about youthful discontent in the fifties.

Moody, Anne. *Coming of Age in Mississippi*. A young black Southerner's story of the civil rights movement in the South.


Wittner, Lawrence. *Cold War America*. Survey of America since 1945 from critical perspective.