Texts:

James Gilbert, ANOTHER CHANCE: POSTWAR AMERICA, 1945-1985
Stephen E. Ambrose, RISE TO GLOBALISM: AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY SINCE 1938
Roger Kahn, THE BOYS OF SUMMER

Examinations and Assignments:

There will be two examinations, one scheduled on July 15th, the second a final examination on August 7th. Both examinations will be essay examinations and will take place in class. Students will receive study questions in advance of each examination.

Each member of the class will write one brief (3-6 pages) essay-review of at least two books (or one book and at least three articles) on a subject appropriate to the course material. Please discuss the choice of reading material with the instructor before undertaking the assignment. This paper will be due on or before August 4, 1986. Suggestions about the essay-review format are attached to this syllabus.

Because of the pressures of time and the amount of material in the course, you must do the reading promptly and regularly. If you fall behind, you will find catching-up difficult. You also will profit more from the lectures and discussion of the material if you have read about the topic in advance.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

LECTURE TOPICS

| Introductory Remarks | June 17 |
| The Great Depression and the Great War | June 18 |
| The Impact of World War II on American Society | June 19 |
| Truman and a Troubled America | June 23 |
| The Birth of the Cold War | June 24 |
| The Asian Connection: Korea and Southeast Asia | June 25 |
| McCarthyism and the Anti-Communist Crusade | June 26 |
| The Affluent Society--America in the 1950s | June 30 |
| Eisenhower and a Tranquil America | July 1 |
Federal Policies in an Urban Nation
Life, Leisure, and Loving in Suburban America
Blacks in White America
Civil Rights in an Uncivil Society
Foreign Policy and Brinksmanship
The Other Dulles: Rise of the CIA

Study Day for Mid-Term
July 14
* * * MID-TERM EXAMINATION * * *
July 15

Readings: (Please read in the order given here)
Another Chance, pp. 7-53, 76-101, 160-90, 127-59, 54-75
Rise to Globalism, chs. 4-9
The Boys of Summer

Kennedy and a Torpid America
A New Frontier for the World
A Great Society?
The Asian Connection: Vietnam
Birth Pangs of a Counterculture
The Feminist Critique
Nixon and a Terrified America
The Fall of a Presidency
America Adrift: The Ford-Carter Years
Adrift in America: Society and Culture
"Return With Us Now to Those Thrilling Days" of Yesteryear: The Reagan Administration
The Directions of Destiny

Study Day for Final Exam
Aug. 6
* * * FINAL EXAMINATION * * *
Aug. 7

Readings:
Another Chance, pp. 191-257, 292-324, 268-291
Rise to Globalism, chs. 10-16
An essay review is a "think-piece," not simply a job of reporting. That is, it should not be a book review which states the author's viewpoint and conclusions on the subject. Rather, an essay review first consists of a brief summarization of the work, then an analytical examination of the author's work. You should deal with such questions as these: What major points are made by the writer? What kinds of questions is the writer asking? What issues does the author consider to be most important? Has the author dealt effectively with these questions and issues? Is the internal logic used by the author convincing, that is, do the author's points seem to hang together and support one another in presenting his or her interpretations? Should other questions and issues be emphasized or asked? What gaps appear to exist in our knowledge of the subject? Is there more to the story than the writer indicates? Does the author raise more points than he or she answers? And if so, why? Can you determine the methodological approach of the writer -- that is, is the work primarily historical, literary, psychological, sociological, institutional, etc.? What are the author's sources and how well does he or she utilize the information available? What kind of evidence does the author rely on? Are there any contradictions in the work? If you were undertaking a study on the same topic, how would you approach it? What kinds of questions would you ask?

Obviously, you cannot write a good essay by taking up each of these questions and answering them. The questions are intended only to describe some of the ways in which you may approach the material you have read. The review essay is to be as much a statement of your position on the issue, on the basis of your knowledge, as it is a review of the author's positions.

Remember, you are analyzing this book from an historical context. Make sure to substantiate your arguments.

The paper should be typewritten, double spaced, with appropriate margins. You may, if you feel it necessary, rely upon brief quotations from the book.