

---

## U.S. Cold War Culture

History 600

---

Monday 11am – 1pm  
Humanities 5255

Spring Semester 2013

Professor: Cindy I-Fen Cheng  
E-mail: CICHENG@wisc.edu  
Office: Humanities 5106  
Office Hours: Wednesday 9:15am – 11:15am and by appointment

### Course Description

This senior capstone seminar will examine the many contradictory facets of U.S. Cold War culture. For instance, some scholars consider the early Cold War years to be among the most repressive times in U.S. history. They detail how America during the 1950s witnessed the rise of anti-communist hysteria and of a domestic suburban culture that was forged through strict gender roles and racially segregated neighborhoods. However, other scholars note the early Cold War years to be a time when *Playboy* magazine was first issued and when the beat generation rose in popularity. They highlight how the postwar years witnessed the prominence of the civil rights movement, the formation of the first gay rights group, and the publication of Betty Friedan's feminist manifesto, *The Feminine Mystique*. In light of these many happenings, the study of U.S. Cold War culture promises to uncover a fascinating period that charts the development of social mores along with the attempts to resist and challenge these mores.

At the end of this semester, you will write a research paper that contributes to the ongoing conversation over the significance of U.S. Cold War culture. Our intimate class size aims to foster a more in-depth discussion of assigned texts and a greater attention to the progress of your research project. It is my hope that you will find this senior capstone seminar a rewarding experience.

### Course Requirements

**Overview:** This course consists of attendance, discussion of assigned readings, weekly 1-2 page write ups of assigned readings, two one-on-one meetings with the professor, preliminary proposal of research paper, submission of rough draft of research paper, peer review of paper draft, class presentation of research paper, and submission of final research paper.

**Participation and Discussion:** Because a critical component of this course involves the discussion of assigned readings and of your research, please be respectful of the different viewpoints of your classmates. In this class, we will do our utmost to foster an open environment where everyone feels at ease to express their ideas. Additionally, your active

participation is critical to ensuring an effective seminar. This includes keeping up with assigned readings and making steady progress on your research throughout the semester.

**Weekly Write-ups:** There will be a total of \*eight\* weekly write-ups, each worth 25 points for a total of 200 points. All write-ups are due at the beginning of each class meeting. There will be no late work accepted. These write-ups aim to help you process and make sense of an assigned text and stimulate classroom discussion. For each prompt, the first sentence should re-state \*in your own words\* the thesis of the assigned text. Please DO NOT quote from the reading. Your write-up should also include a thoughtful discussion of two key examples that the text used to support, complicate, and/or expand on its argument(s).

**Research Proposal:** Your Research Proposal is due during the first ten minutes of Week 10's seminar meeting. The Research Proposal is a 5-7 page write-up that clearly states your research topic, its main argument(s), and the examples that you intend to use to support and/or complicate that argument. The write-up should also include a discussion of what previous scholars have said about your topic. Additionally, you need to turn in a list of 5-7 sources of at least three books and two journal articles published on your topic. You are also encouraged to list some primary sources that you would like to look at for your research project.

**Rough Draft of Research Paper:** At the end of Week 13, you will submit electronically the first draft of your research paper. I along with a fellow classmate will review this draft and provide feedback to help guide the writing of the final draft of your research paper.

**Final Research Paper:** You will submit electronically the final draft of your research paper during finals week. Before submitting your final copy, you will do an in-class presentation of your project during Week 15.

Participation and discussion of assigned texts	200 points
Weekly 1-2 page write-ups of assigned texts	200 points
Research proposal	100 points
Rough Draft of Research Paper	100 points
Final Research Paper	400 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

**Required Readings/Texts**

- Please see the attached “Reading List” for a detailed listing of assigned readings. Your readings are also listed in the Course Schedule.

**Films Viewings to be Scheduled:**

- *Manchurian Candidate*
- *Rebel Without a Cause*

## **Course Schedule**

### **WEEK 1**

---

M 1.28 Introduction  
Write-up #1 DUE

Reading:

- Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era* (USA: BasicBooks, 1988).

### **WEEK 2**

---

M 2.4 Write-up #2 DUE

Reading:

- Barbara Ehrenreich, *The Hearts of Men: American Dreams and the Flight from Commitment* (New York: Anchor Press, 1987).

### **WEEK 3**

---

M 2.11 Write-up #3 DUE

Readings:

1. Lewis Carolyn Herbst, *Prescription for Heterosexuality: Sexual Citizenship in the Cold War Era* (North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 2010).

### **WEEK 4**

---

M 2.18 Write-up #4 DUE

Reading:

- David K. Johnson, *The Lavender Scare: the Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004).

### **WEEK 5**

---

M 2.25 Write-up #5 DUE  
Discussion of Research Proposal

Reading:

- Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and Image of American Democracy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000).

## WEEK 6

---

M 3.4 Write-up #6 DUE  
Discussion of Writing Kit

Reading:

- Penny M. Von Eschen, *Race Against Empire: Black Americans and Anticolonialism, 1937-1957* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997).

## WEEK 7

---

M 3.11 Write-up #7 DUE; One-on-one meetings with Professor Cheng

Reading:

- Christina Klein, *Cold War Orientalism: Asia in the Middlebrow Imagination, 1945-1961* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003).

## WEEK 8

---

M 3.18 Write-up #8 DUE

Reading:

- Jack Kerouac, *On the Road* (New York: Penguin Books, 1999).

## WEEK 9

---

M 3.25 **SPRING BREAK ☺**

## WEEK 10

---

M 4.1 **RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE**  
Presentation of Research Proposals  
Discussion of Final Write-up

## WEEK 11

---

M 4.8 NO CLASS MEETING

## WEEK 12

---

M 4.15 NO CLASS MEETING

### **WEEK 13**

---

M 4.22 Check-in Seminar

**Saturday, April 27, 2013 at \*NOON\***  
**Electronic Submission of First Draft of Research Paper Write-up**

### **WEEK 14**

---

M 4.29 Peer Review of Research Project Write-up;  
One-on-one meetings with Professor Cheng

### **WEEK 15**

---

M 5.6 Class Presentation of Research Project

**Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at \*NOON\***  
**Electronic Submission of FINAL Research Project Write-up**