

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Winter/Spring, 1987

HISTORY 398
The History of the United States, 1945 - 1987

Professor John Sharpless
History Department
263-1800

COURSE CONTENT:

The intent of History 398 is to provide an overview of economic, political and social trends since World War II. Naturally, the course will draw heavily on other social science disciplines (economics, political science and sociology) for much of its material. However, we will attempt to chart cultural and artistic trends as well.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance at both lectures and discussion section is required. To "test" for attendance at lectures, there will be occasional surprise quizzes. Although the points allotted to the lecture quizzes are few, they could make the difference at the end of the course. Discussion points will be awarded to students who attend discussion section regularly. There will also be occasional short assignments to encourage reading and discussion on a weekly basis.

There will be an "in class" mid-term examination and a "take-home" essay examination, in addition to the final examination. The contribution of each component of the course will be weighted by the following percentages:

Discussion Section Points.....	15%
Lecture Quizzes.....	5%
Mid-term Exam (in class).....	25%
Take-Home Essay Problem.....	25%
Final Examination.....	30%

REQUIRED READING:

Students should be warned that the reading requirements for the course are considerable. In addition to the books on order at the University Bookstore, there will be a photocopied booklet of materials and/or some reserved readings. The books on order at the bookstore are:

- N.L. Rosenberg & E.S. Rosenberg, I Our Times (Prentice-Hall).
- Sohnya Sayers, et al., The Sixties Without Apology (U of Minn.).
- Peter Carroll, It Seemed Like Nothing Happene (Holt Paperback).
- Steven Ambrose, Rise to Globalism (Penguin).
- Myra MacPherson, Long Time Passing (Signet).

- *Sara Evans, Personal Politics (Vintage).
 - *R. N. Bellah, et al., Habits of the Heart (Harper Paperback).
 - *Paul Conkin, Big Daddy From the Pedernales (Twayne).
- (* = purchase optional)

I realize that for some students a book list of this size may pose a financial burden. I have requested, therefore, that these books be placed on three (3) hour Reserve at both H.C. White Library and the Historical Society Library.

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADES:

In order to avoid any confusion over the direction and content of the course, we will be distributing the questions for midterms and the final (in class) on January 28. It should be stressed that these are not simply study questions. They are the examination questions just as they will appear on the examination.

The total number of points possible for all assignments, tests and quizzes is 500. The number of points necessary to attain each grade level are as follows:

Grade	Points Total
A	460-500
A/B	410-459
B	360-409
B/C	310-359
C	250-309
D	220-249
F	0-219

We reserve the right to give the grade of "F" to any student who fails to meet the basic requirements of the course, regardless of their point total. In other words, you are expected to attend all lectures and all sessions of your assigned discussion section. You are expected to complete all assignments on time. You are expected to take the examinations at the prescribed time and the designated place. If you fail to meet these basic expectations, you will receive an "F" for the course even though you may have accumulated more than 220 points by the end of the term.

While exceptions to these basic requirements may (very occasionally) be granted, the student is obligated to request that such an exception be granted three days prior to the due date (for assignments) or one week prior to the examination period (for tests). There will be no "Incompletes" or extensions beyond the end of the term. Please, no exceptions on this score.

PLAGIARISM:

Unfortunately, it appears necessary to comment on plagiarism and cheating. Obviously, it is expected that examinations and assignments will reflect your own original efforts. We do not discourage studying together, however,

in the final analysis your essays, assignments and answers to the questions on the examinations must represent your ideas and be written in your own words.

If it is shown that your work in the course does not represent your own efforts, the consequences of can be serious. Cheating could cost you your college career or, at the very least, it could mean an "F" in this course. But equally important, even if you are not caught I believe that cheating is a sign of a serious lack of respect for the people teaching the class, your fellow students and yourself. Enough said. If you make a sincere effort to meet the demands of the course, we will make a sincere effort to help you pass the course. Cheating is quite unnecessary.

OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN:

Office Hours

The Teaching Assistants will post their office hours on their office door. Professor Sharpless will hold office hours by appointment on Wednesday afternoon. His office is 4110 Humanities.

History on Television

During the term there will be a number of programs on PBS (WHA, Channel 21) which will relate directly to topics discussed in this course, notably the rise of the Civil Rights Movement and the developments in modern warfare (including Vietnam). I recommend that you watch these programs whenever possible; it is a relatively easy way to learn a little history without a lot of work.

Be forewarned, however, the quality of these show can vary considerably. They often reflect the bias of the people who put the series together. "Bias" does make the program "bad". A "perspective" or "point of view" is what makes a show interesting. Nonetheless, it should be remembered that, if you are interested in "the whole story," you had better do some reading and not depend on these programs alone.

"Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954 -1965"
Wednesdays, 9:00 p.m. January 21 - February 25

"The Soldiers"
Sundays, 9:00 p.m. January 4 - March 29
(Particularly February 15, March 1, March 8, March 15,
March 2 and March 29.)

Date and Time of the Final Examination

The final examination is scheduled for May 16 at 2:45 p.m. The location will be announced the final week of class.