

History 398
The United States Since 1945
Spring 2009

Lectures: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00-12:15

Lecture Location: 1641 Humanities

Professor William P. Jones

Office: 5133 Humanities

Email: wjones3@wisc.edu

Phone: 263-1784

Office Hours: T/TH 1-3 & by appt.

Teaching Assistant: Jennifer Holland

Office: 5268 Humanities

Email: jlholland@wisc.edu

Phone: 263-1868

Over the past half-century, 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 six 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.

A few additional articles and book chapters will be posted on Learn@UW. Students should print them out, read them, and bring them to discussion section on the week they are assigned.

Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumers' Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America* (Vintage Books, 2003)

Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Time* (Cambridge University Press, 2005)

Barbara Ransby, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision* (University of North Carolina Press, 2003)

Lisa McGirr, *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right* (Princeton University Press, 2002)

John D'Emilio, *The World Turned: Essays on Gay History, Politics, and Culture* (Duke University Press, 2002)

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	Remembering the "Greatest Generation"
Jan 20	Introduction
Jan 22	Film: The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter

No discussion sections this week

Week 2 Rise of the New Deal Order

Jan 27 Making a New Deal

Jan 29 World War II

Section: Cohen, *Consumers' Republic*, 1-109

Week 3 The Affluent Society

Feb 3 The New Middle Class

Feb 5 The New Inequality

Section: Cohen, *Consumers' Republic*, 112-191

Week 4 "The American Century"

Feb 10 Origins of the Cold War

Feb 12 Containment and Competition

Section: Westad, *The Global Cold War*, 1-109

Short Paper #1 Due: Did the United States become more or less democratic during the Cold War? Explain how you define democracy

Week 5 The Cold War at Home

Feb 17 Nuclear Families

Feb 19 Un-Americanism

Section: Cohen, *Consumers' Republic*, 194-289

Week 6 Social Rights and Civil Rights

Feb 24 **Midterm Exam**

Feb 26 Origins of the Civil Rights Movement

Section: Ransby, *Ella Baker*, 1-195

Week 7 The New Feminism

March 3 Gender and Sexuality in Postwar America

March 5 **Film:** "Step By Step: Building a Feminist Movement"

Section: Cohen, *Consumers' Republic*, 292-410
D'Emilio, *The World Turned*, 3-22

Week 7 Hot Wars in the Cold War

March 10 Wars in Vietnam
March 12 Many Vietnams

Section: Westad, *The Global Cold War*, 110-206

Short Paper #2 Due:

Week 8 Spring Break

Week 9 The New Left

March 24 Personal Politics
March 26 Rejecting Liberalism

Section: Ransby, *Ella Baker*, 209-374
D'Emilio, *The World Turned*, 23-63

Week 10 The New Right

March 31 The Southern Strategy
April 2 Gender and the New Right

Section: McGirr, *Suburban Warriors*, 1-273

Short Paper #3 Due: Compare and contrast the New Left's and the New Right's critique of the New Deal order, and explain which had a more lasting impact on the United States.

Week 11 Dismantling the New Deal Order

April 7 Globalization and its Discontents
April 9

Section: D'Emilio, *The World Turned*, 64-119, 174-190

Week 12 The New World Order

AIDS and Gay Liberation

April 14 The Crisis of the Family Detente to Glasnost
April 16 Proxies and the roots of Terror

Section: Westad, *The Global Cold War*, 207-249
Suri, *Henry Kissinger*, 197-274

Week 13

April 21
April 23 The New Economy

Section: Davis, *Magical Urbanism*, 1-67

Week 14 Globalization and its Discontents

April 28 The New Immigration
April 30 The Culture Wars

Section: Davis, *Magical Urbanism*, 69-175
 D'Emilio, *The World Turned*, 123-173

Week 15

May 5
May 7

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