

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
SUMMER 1986

HISTORY 398

MR. SCHULTZ

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	DATE
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	July	2
Life, Leisure, and Loving in Suburban America	July	3
Blacks in White America	July	7
Civil Rights in an Uncivil Society	July	8
Foreign Policy and Brinksmanship	July	9
The Other Dulles: Rise of the CIA	July	10

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	July	16
A New Frontier for the World	July	17
A Great Society?	July	21
The Asian Connection: Vietnam	July	22
Birth Pangs of a Counterculture	July	23
The Feminist Critique	July	24
Nixon and a Terrified America	July	28
The Fall of a Presidency	July	29
America Adrift: The Ford-Carter Years	July	30
Adrift in America: Society and Culture	July	31
"Return With Us Now to Those Thrilling Days" of Yesteryear": The Reagan Administration	Aug.	4
The Directions of Destiny	Aug.	5

Study Day for Final Exam

Aug. 6

* * * FINAL EXAMINATION * * *

Aug. 7

Readings:

Another Chance, pp. 191-267, 292-324, 268-291

Rise to Globalism, chs. 10-16

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Essay Review Format

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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.