

MWF 10:30-11:30

Fall, 2014

**Swarthmore College
Department of History**

Professor M. Murphy
History Department
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Office Hours: Wed 2-4

History 45
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History 45: America Since 1945

This course is a survey of social, political and cultural history of the United States since 1945. Topics include: The Cold War, McCarthyism, Civil Rights, Rock n' Roll, TV, Baby Boomers, JFK, Gender, LBJ, the Viet Nam War, Nixon and Watergate, The Oil Crisis, The rise of the New Right, Ronald Reagan, George Bush I & II; Bill Clinton, 9/11, the Iraqi War. We will use the presidencies to help generalize the political climate, discuss the sensibility of each era and select some cultural and social events. The entire era is heavily documented with film of actual events, especially the Atom Bomb, McCarthyism, Civil Rights, the Vietnam War, Ronald Reagan, and the Gulf War, the Election of 2000. We will view portions of these documentaries in class and you are urged to finish viewing them in the library.

Papers: There are four written assignments in the class: first a 7 page essay on McCarthyism based on the Ellen Schrecker documents and readings in class; then a mid-term which consists of one essay and ten identifications; Third the analysis of a set of documents on 9/11, 7-10pp.; fourth a final examination consisting of two essay questions and ten identifications. No late papers will be accepted for any reason. Ample time has been provided for the completion of these essays on the due date.

Requirements: Reading the weekly reading material, preparing carefully for class and participation in class discussions are also part of the requirement. Failure to attend more than three classes will cost one half grade for each additional absence. Students who have a history of incompletes are strongly encouraged not take this course; I do not do incompletes. There are no late papers in this course. Attendance is required, this is a departmental rule: your grade will go down if you miss classes. You may use the computer to take notes in class, but if I catch you surfing the net, emailing or doing anything other than note taking, the privilege will be revoked.

Due Dates: McCarthyism paper,(20%) September 29. (7pp.); midterm (30%) October 27th in class exam ; 9/11 Papers (30%) Dec. 12^h (7-10pp); Final examination (20%) {Take Home Examination, ten ID's in class, December 8th, essay due Dec. 15th No late papers, no exceptions!

Books:

Robert Caro, *LBJ: The Passage of Power*

David Halberstam, *The Fifties*

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

Ellen Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism*

Bruce Schulman, *The Seventies*

Tom Wolfe, *Bonfire of the Vanities*

Stephen Coll, *Ghost Wars; the Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan and Bin Laden*

Bob Woodward, *Shadow*

Documentaries: We will be viewing about ten documentaries in class during the semester. We will not by any means see the entire film so you are encouraged to take out films after class. In many cases you will see excerpts from a series. I urge you to take notes, to pay attention to the content and if you miss class with a documentary presentation you must email me to confirm that you have seen it.

Articles, Chapters and Electronic Readings: You are responsible for reading all of the required texts, but additional credit goes to students who are willing to delve into various topics more deeply. Those readings are to be found in Moodle. Reading is lighter in the weeks before your final papers and exams. I will refer to all of the reading in class but will not go over the details: that is your job. The exams are designed to allow you to give me a sense of the depth of your reading.

Special Speakers: September 11th 4:30 pm in Pearson Theatre, Lang on the Legacy of Brown v. Board; also on October 1 on the Legacy of the Swarthmore Uprising, 1969.

Schedule of Classes, assignments, documentaries.

WEEK 1**September 1**

Movie, "Saving Private Ryan," The Normandy Invasion, June 6, 1944

These Moodle readings are required:

Paul Boyer, *By the Bombs Early Light* (Moodle)

George F. Kennan, "*The Necessity for Containment*;" Harry S. Truman, "*The Truman Doctrine*;" National Security Council, "NSC-68."

September 3 The Post War Scramble

September 5 Truman and Stalin at Potsdam

These Moodle readings are required:

Richard Freeland, *The Truman Doctrine and the Origins of McCarthyism*.

David McCullough, *Truman* ch. 10-13. (after this read for the day assigned)

WEEK 2

September 8 Truman's Foreign Policy, 1947-49

David Halberstam, *The Fifties*, ch 1-2

James E. Cronin, "Reviews of the Marshall Plan," use Jstor to download this review from *Social History*, (15:1) 1990, pp. 135-139.

September 10 Nuclear War and Soviet Spies

David Halberstam, *The Fifties*, ch 6, 23-24

Ellen Schrecker, *Age of McCarthyism*, Introduction

Movie, "Atomic Café"

September 12 Movie, "Atomic Café"

David Halberstam, *The Fifties*, ch 3

WEEK 3

September 15 The Cold War at Home

Ronald Radosh and Joyce Milton, *The Rosenberg File* ch. 1,2 30

Walter and Miriam Schneir, *Invitation to an Inquest*, ch 1, 9 & 23

Ellen Schrecker, *Age of McCarthyism*

David Halberstam, *The Fifties*,4-8, ch 18,33, 32, 34,35

September 17 Eisenhower in the Atomic Age

Movie: Death of a Witch Hunter: Joe McCarthy in the Army-McCarthy Hearings

September 19 Marilyn Monroe in Levittown

David Halberstam, *The Fifties*,4-7, ch 18

Movie: Death of a Witch Hunter

WEEK 4

September 22 Elvis Presley, Suburban Culture, Rock'n'Roll

These Moodle Readings Are required:

Landon Jones, *Great Expectations*

Fred Friendly, "This is What TV is For."

David Halberstam, *The Fifties*, ch.,8-11,16-17, 31

September 24

Movie, "That Rhythm, Those Blues"

David Halberstam, *The Fifties*, ch.,12-15

September 26

Movie, "That Rhythm, Those Blues"

David Halberstam, *The Fifties*, ch., 19-22

Robert Caro, *LBJ: The Passage of Power*, 3-108

McCarthy Papers Due Monday, September 29

WEEK 5

September 29 JFK and the Second Reconstruction

These Moodle Readings Are required:

Taylor Branch, *Parting the Waters*, ch 4& 5; *Pillar of Fire* ch. 39 & 40

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

David Halberstam, *The Fifties*, ch., 25-30

Robert Caro, *LBJ: The Passage of Power, Part 1* 109-158.

October 1 MLK and Medgar Evers

Movie, "Eyes on the Prize" part 1 and 4

David Halberstam, *The Fifties*, ch., 35, 44

Theodore White, *The Making of the President, 1960: Six Seconds in Dallas*; the Zapruder and four other films. *The Warren Report*; the Kennedy Nixon Debates.

October 3 Cuba, Vietnam and LBJ
Movie, "Eyes on the Prize"
David Halberstam, *The Fifties*, ch 25-.27,
Robert Caro, *LBJ: The Passage of Power*, p. 159-307

WEEK 6

October 6 Civil Rights, the Cold War and Confrontational Politics

Robert Caro, *LBJ: The Passage of Power, Part 3 & 4*, pp. 307-391

David Halberstam, *The Fifties*, finish.

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, finish

Mary King, *Freedom Song*, ch. 3 & 4.

Movie, "Eyes on the Prize"

October 8 Gender Politics in War Time

Joanne Meyerowitz, ed. *Not June Cleaver:*

Women and Gender in the Postwar America, 1945-1960

Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*;

Philip Wylie, "Common Woman," in *A Generation of Vipers*

Radio Documentary, Miss America, 1968

David Halberstam, *The Fifties*, ch 19-20

October 10 The Tragedy of LBJ

Robert Caro, *LBJ: The Passage of Power*, Part 5

Michael Herr, *Dispatches*

Robert McNamara, *In Retrospect*

David Halberstam, *The Fifties*, ch., 23

Movie, Vietnam part 1 & 3

WEEK 7

October Break: October 10-20

WEEK 8

October 20 Richard Nixon and the Politics of Division: 1968

Movie "Vietnam a Television History"

Bruce Schulman, *The Seventies*, Intro., &ch.,1

October 22 The Election of 1972 and Politics of Impeachment

Nixon and Watergate

Movie, " All the Presidents Men"

Bruce Schulman, *The Seventies* ch 2-4

These Moodle Readings Are required:

Fred Emery, *Watergate: The Corruption of American Politics*, ch1-3, 15-18.

John Opie, "The Santa Barbara Oil Spil, 1969"

Charles Issawi, "The 1973 Oil Crisis and After,"

October 24 Nixon, Ford Carter: 1974-1980

Bruce Schulman, *The Seventies Part II-III*

Bob Woodward, *Shadow*, ch.1-2

WEEK 9

October 27 Midterm Examination

October 29 Ronald Reagan

Movie: Ronald Reagan

Read: Wolf, *Bonfire of the Vanities*

Richard Viguerie, *We're Ready to Lead!*

October 31

Movie: "RR in the American Experience"

Daniel Yergen, *The Prize*, ch. 27-34

Tom Wolfe, *Bonfire of the Vanities*

Bob Woodward, *Shadow*, ch.3

WEEK 10

November 3 Irangate

Stephen Coll, *Ghost Wars, Prologue and Part 1*

November 5 Rust Belt America

Randy Shilts, *And the Band Played On: Politics, People and the Aids Epidemic*, ch 13-21; 28-30. 40-41, 47, 50, 54-55, 57-58

November 7 The End of the Cold War

WEEK 11

November 10 George Herbert Walker Bush

Stephen Coll, *Ghost Wars, Prologue and Part 2, to ch. 19*

Movie: Frontline: The Gulf War

November 12

Movie: Frontline: The Gulf War

Bob Woodward, *Shadow*, ch.4

November 14 Oil and the Environment

Movie: Frontline: The Gulf War

WEEK 12

November 17 Bill Clinton

Stephen Coll, *Ghost Wars, Prologue and ch. 20 and Part 3 to ch. 28*

Bill Clinton, *My Life* Ch 28-47.

Sydney Blumenthal, *The Clinton Wars*, ch 5-7, 11-13

November 19 Truth to Power: the Monica Lewinsky Thing

Bob Woodward, *Shadow*, ch.5

November 21

Movie: Frontline: The Clinton Years

WEEK 13

November 24 Election of 2000

Movie, "Recount Democracy"

Stephen Coll, *Ghost Wars, Prologue and ch. 20 and Part 3 ch 29 to the end.*

These Moodle Readings Are required:

Daniel Yergin, *The Quest: Energy, Security and the Remaking of the Modern World*

Michael T. Klare, *Blood and Oil: The Dangers and Consequences of Dependency on Imported Petroleum*, ch. 1-3

November 26 George Bush

Movie: "W"

Thanksgiving: November 27

WEEK 14

December 1 "9/11 and the National Security State"

The War in Iraq: 2003-2008

Movie: "Rumsfeld's War"

December 3 Iraq, Afghanistan and Lady Gaga

December 5 The Election of 2008

9/11 **Papers Due December 12**

WEEK 15

December 8 In Class ID examination

This class ends on Monday December 8 There will be a Take Home Final Examination due on December 15th but you will do the ten ids in the last class on December 8th . Your take home exam is Due on December 15th at noon. If the paper is not turned in to me in hard copy by this deadline you will not pass the course.