

Postwar America, 1945-present

Fitchburg State University

Term Spring 2015

Location PERC 202

Instructor Katherine Jewell, PhD
Office: Miller 310
OH WF 12:30-1:45

DESCRIPTION

This course will cover American history since 1945, exploring through documents and primary sources the key political, social, cultural, economic, and intellectual developments of the era. Topics will include the evolution of liberalism, the rise of conservatism, the development of America's role as a global superpower, the implications of the Cold War on domestic and cultural affairs, the evolution of youth rebellion and youth culture, the expanded role of the presidency in politics, and the rise of new forms of political culture and the role of the media in American politics.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course students will be able to:

- * (Knowledge Level) recognize key figures and events related to American political, economic, social, cultural, and intellectual history since 1945
- * (Knowledge Level) identify key terms and
- * (Comprehension Level) discuss their significance to the developments we learn about in class
- * (Application Level) interpret novels, memoirs, and primary sources in their historical context
- * (Analysis Level) analyze the origins, meaning, and significance of these documents in light of historical contexts and arguments made by historians
- * (Synthesis Level) combine primary sources to create a full picture of past events and developments
- * (Evaluation Level) argue, with complexity, interpretations about American history in the recent past with regard to change over time, causation, and contingency

REQUIREMENTS

20% - Paper 1: topics to be handed out in class

20% - Midterm Exam: in class, consisting of short answers and essays.

20% - [Paper 2](#): topics to be handed out in class.

20% - Final Exam: in class, consisting of short answers and essays.

10% - Class Preparation and In Class Discussion: For each class there will be reading, listening, and/or watching assignments. Lecture will be much more relatable and discussions more productive for all involved if you prepare these in advance. Midterm and final exams WILL have questions related to these readings *whether or not they are brought up directly in class*. Occasionally, students will be asked to contribute ideas and sources to class-generated lists, such as playlists on Spotify.

10% - Memoir/Novel Discussion Preparation and Participation: for each of the memoir/novel discussions, students will contribute to a crowdsourced list of discussion questions, and students will be the discussion leaders for these sessions. These lists will be hosted using Google Documents, with links to the documents posted on Blackboard.

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COMMUNICATION

The best way to communicate with me is via email: kjewell1@fitchburgstate.edu. Please allow 24 hours for a response and 48 hours over the weekend.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Readings from the online, open source textbook, *American Yawp* (www.americanyawp.com) or Gillon, *The American Paradox*.

Grace Metalious, *Peyton Place* (Amazon has paperback used as low as \$3.15, and ebook and audio) [Discussion Guide](#)

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi* (Amazon, lots of cheap copies)

Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail '72* ([this](#) or the newer printing is fine)

Michael MacDonald, *All Souls* (Amazon, any printing is fine)

David Brooks, *Bobos in Paradise* (Amazon, also tons of cheap copies)

William Finnegan, *Cold New World* (Amazon, same deal)

A Spotify account (free is fine)

GRADING CRITERIA

Exams and papers in this course are designed for students to explore their historical reasoning and use of evidence. Questions posed will ask students to extend their interpretations of sources, events, conflicting perspectives, historical change, and arguments by historians to construct plausible, well-supported arguments about the meaning of events, causation, and Americans' experiences in the postwar era.

Grading, as such, will be based on the mechanics of the arguments made, their logical presentation, as well as incorporation of relevant evidence and examples.

A level work will exhibit excellence in all three areas, at all levels of learning, from knowledge to synthesis and argumentation.

Knowledge: A papers, exams, and discussion contributions use relevant historical data and examples without excluding pertinent counterexamples or arguments.

Comprehension: A papers, exams, and discussion contributions understand the meaning and detail of these examples with precision.

Application: A papers, exams, and discussion contributions apply relevant details to their argument at appropriate points.

Analysis: A papers, exams, and discussion contributions ably analyze these examples and connect them to the author's point of view or argument

Synthesis: A papers, exams, and discussion contributions draw from the relevant data to synthesize and articulate their views of the evidence and their collective meaning

Evaluation: A papers, exams, and discussion contributions exhibit arguments that assess the relevant arguments and counterarguments from contemporary sources as well as historians in the construction of the position held.

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Creativity and Nuance: A level work demonstrates a sophisticated approach to research and inquiry, and a student doing A work engages with the content, readings, and activities persistently and evenly throughout the course. A students demonstrate intellectual curiosity regardless of the assessed work.

Papers are written elegantly, making use of thoughtful prose, and all sources are documented according to citation rules and academic conduct policies.

B level work may do some of the above quite well, with deficiencies in two or three of the categories listed. Arguments may be obvious or unoriginal, but are well supported and still demonstrate adequate knowledge, comprehension, application, and analysis. Papers are written in competent college level writing with all rules of documentation observed. Students are generally interested, but are perhaps unevenly engaged.

C level work may also do some of the above well, with deficiencies in four to five of the categories listed. Arguments may be based on summary of events rather than the student's reflection and synthesis of material, and analysis and full comprehension of the examples presented may not be present or fully realized. Mechanics of the writing may be flawed, with some difficulty in grammar and expression, and documentation may display ignorance of the conventions of citation. These students are attentive, but offer few creative comments or constructive contributions.

D level work contains significant errors in mechanics and contains misreading of events, sources, or demonstrates incomplete knowledge of events and documents. These students may be missing or have late work.

F level work is incomplete and not pertinent to the assigned tasks, or contain plagiarized ideas, phrases, sentences or sections. These students are frequently not present and do not complete all assignments.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Class will be in a lecture-discussion format, and students are expected to complete all assigned readings outside of class, take notes, as well as be attentive in lectures and participate in discussions. Students are expected to adhere to all codes of conduct [as laid out by the University](#). Any instances of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism (whether intentional or unintentional) will be reported and could result in failure of the assignment and the course.

ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED. Students are responsible for obtaining or making up all missed work due to illness or emergency absence.

Fitchburg State University encourages the full participation of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of campus living and learning. To support access and inclusion, Fitchburg State offers reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disabilities (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, sensory, etc.). If you require accommodations for this class, please provide me with a copy of your Accommodation Agreement as soon as possible so that we can discuss your specific needs. Any information that you share with me will be held in the strictest confidence, unless you give me permission to do otherwise.

If you require academic accommodations but do not have an Accommodation Agreement, please contact Disability Services as soon as possible to establish your eligibility for services. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call 978.665.4020. Disability Services is located in the Academic Support Center on the third floor of the Hammond building via the Library Entrance.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

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	Topic	Assigned Reading, Listening, Watching *note that new assignments may be added, or assignments may be modified, over the course of the semester
Wednesday 1/14/2015	Introductions	Update: Someone on Twitter launched my “ice breaker” question: https://storify.com/mkramer/what-s-the-earliest-news-event-that-you-remember
Friday 1/16/2015	Legacy of WWII and Cold War Beginnings	Read <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>American Yawp</i> Chapter 25: http://www.americanyawp.com/text/25-the-cold-war/ Listen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spotify: WWII Legacies; The Cold War Watch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Harry S. Truman Fires General MacArthur, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuLHJzDINP8 • General MacArthur Addresses Congress, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tuagi9kZe8A
Wednesday 1/21/2015	Truman and the Fair Deal *in the interest of time I had to gloss over aspects of Truman’s domestic program, in particular his back and forth relationship with labor. If you want more details, you can find them here: http://millercenter.org/president/truman/essays/biography/4	Read <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truman documents online at the Miller Center: http://millercenter.org/president/truman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Select one of Truman’s speeches and read it. ○ Pick two quotes that you feel are important and bring them to share with the class • Look at the discussion guide for <i>Peyton Place</i>
Friday 1/23/2015	McCarthyism and Cold War Culture	Read <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start <i>Peyton Place</i> and start contributing questions to the discussion guide. Listen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spotify: 1950s Suburbia Watch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe McCarthy on Democrats, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iGGjGSdqf8 • Edward R. Murrow on McCarthy, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEvEmkMNYHY
Wednesday 1/28/2015	Elvis's America	Read

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start <i>American Yawp</i> Chapter 26: http://www.americanyawp.com/text/26-the-affluent-society/ Continue <i>Peyton Place</i> <p>Listen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spotify: Birth of Rock <p>Watch</p>
Friday 1/30/2015		<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All, <i>Peyton Place</i>, review discussion guide and add questions before class. The guide will close after class.
Wednesday 2/4/2015	Paper 1 Topics Handed Out Discussion: <i>Peyton Place</i>	<p>Review paper topics</p> <p>All, <i>Peyton Place</i>, review discussion guide and add questions before class. The guide will close after class. Be sure to add initials or name to get credit for discussion prep.</p>
Friday 2/6/2015	Awakenings in 1960	<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish Chapter 26 <p>Listen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spotify: JFK <p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excerpts from <i>Harvest of Shame</i>, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyrJCIHxzig
Wednesday 2/11/2015	The New Frontier and the Great Society	<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>American Yawp</i> Chapter 27: http://www.americanyawp.com/text/27-the-sixties/ <p>Listen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spotify: The Great Society <p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Kennedy 1961 Inaugural Address - YouTube Lyndon Johnson talks to Sen. Richard Russell, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YE6i2vYbY3I LBJ orders pants, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zNMo8kl7Ac
Friday 2/13/2015	Civil Rights	<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start reading Moody. Post quotes you find interesting here. <p>Listen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spotify: Civil Rights <p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Children's March, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5c113fq3vhQ LBJ and MLK discuss civil rights, Jan 15, 1965: http://millercenter.org/presidentialrecordings/lbj-w6501.04-6737
Wednesday 2/18/2015	Discussion: <i>Coming of Age in Mississippi</i>	<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of Moody. Before class, be sure to have posted your quote here.

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Wednesday 2/25/2015	Paper 1 Due	<p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Berkeley in the Sixties</i> documentary
Friday 2/27/2015	New Left and the Counterculture	<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>American Yawp</i> Chapter 28 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/28-the-unraveling/ documents online <p>Listen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spotify: The Counterculture <p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodstock on CBS News, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WehjMZcQqPA “California Dreamin’” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-aK6JnyFmk “White Rabbit” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WANNqr-vcx0
Wednesday 3/4/2015	Annus Mirabilis; Annus Horribilis	<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> documents online, Cowie essay, “Something is happening to people like me.” <p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dan Rather on DNC floor 1968, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wltUjFU1i4M Chicago, 1968 footage, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_9OJnRnZjU&list=PL8CF5405185CFBBB7&index=13 1968 Olympics Black Power Salute, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S49Tw679AKC <p>Bring your questions about the midterm.</p>
Friday 3/6/2015	Midterm	Be sure to review the list of terms from lectures as you prepare. Study Guide . ID Answer Guide
Wednesday 3/11/2015	Spring Break	
Friday 3/13/2015	Spring Break	
Wednesday 3/18/2015	The Trickster	Listen

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remarks on Being Reelected to the Presidency (November 7, 1972) Start reading Hunter S. Thompson
Friday 3/20/2015	Nixon and Kissinger	<p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nixon learns of Pentagon Papers, Haig, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6dytU1gJM8 <p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue w/ Thompson
Wednesday 3/25/2015	The Fragmentation Begins	<p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Smoking Gun" tape, Watergate scandal, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WANNqr-vcx0 <p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish Thompson
Friday 3/27/2015	Discussion: <i>Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail '72</i>	<p>Paper 1 Revision Statement Due Select three scenes/passages from <i>Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail '72</i> that you think exemplify Thompson's style of journalism, and find a current example from journalism today that you think represents the continuation of this style. Post your passages and current examples here.</p>
Wednesday 4/1/2015	Paper 2 Topics Passed Out	Review Paper 2 topics.
Friday 4/3/2015	Turning Inward in the "Me" Decade	<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> documents online <p>Listen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spotify: Cultural Nationalism and Watergate and Me Decade
Wednesday 4/8/2015	Jimmy Carter and the Crisis of Confidence	<p>Listen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> crowdsourced Spotify list: add songs to this list on Spotify to create a soundtrack for the Carter years. <p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jimmy Carter's "Crisis of Confidence" speech, 1979, exerpt, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IIRVy7oZ58
Friday 4/10/2015	Discussion: <i>All Souls</i>	
Wednesday 4/15/2015	Gender Politics in the 1970s	<p>Listen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spotify: Feminism <p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virginia Slims commercial, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PlktDvdl4c Running in High Heels: Intro to Schlafly, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z36SkdYdfN0 Running in High Heels: The F Word http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOUQkEHQIfU
Friday 4/17/2015	Red States Rising	<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heather Thompson, "Why Mass Incarceration Matters: Rethinking Crisis, Decline, and

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		<p>Transformation in Postwar American History” <i>Journal of American History</i> December 2010. Find through the library’s website.</p> <p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dukes of Hazzard opening, Dukes Of Hazzard Theme Tune • <i>Dallas</i> Opening http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFN-LHYNYWU
Wednesday 4/22/2015	Thunder on the Right Paper 2 Due	<p>Read: <i>American Yawp</i> Chapter 29 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/29-the-rise-of-the-right/</p> <p>Start reading <i>Bobos in Paradise</i> and <i>Cold New World</i></p>
Friday 4/24/2015	A Reagan Revolution?	<p>Listen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spotify: Reagan's America (and further crowdsource it!) <p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ronald Reagan’s 1981 inaugural address, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpPt7xGx4Xo • Ronald Reagan's Remarks on the Challenger Shuttle Explosion, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mt_6S25JsV4 <p>Continue reading <i>Bobos in Paradise</i> and <i>Cold New World</i></p>
Wednesday 4/29/2015	Trouble in Lakewood	<p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Blood (Trailer 1982) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjptQSfuTy8 <p>Continue reading <i>Bobos in Paradise</i> and <i>Cold New World</i></p>
Friday 5/1/2015	Bill Clinton and the 1990s	<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>American Yawp</i> Chapter 30 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/30-the-recent-past/ • Continue reading <i>Bobos in Paradise</i> and <i>Cold New World</i> <p>Listen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spotify: The Internet Age <p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinton plays saxophone on Arsenio Hall Show, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TwSXvucsJ4 • Newt Gingrich on <i>Firing Line</i>, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDhP4IDbdKE
Wednesday 5/6/2015	Discussion: <i>Cold New World/Bobos in Paradise</i> Paper 2 Revision Statement Due	<p>Finish BOTH <i>Cold New World</i> and <i>Bobos in Paradise</i>.</p>

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