

History 19: The United States Since 1945

Dr. Scott Howlett

Fall 2009

MW

10:30-11:50 pm

Office Hours: Sm 337 (TBA)

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Library 213 Computer Code: User name: Password:

Webpage: <http://socccd.blackboard.com>

Website Code: user name: first initial last name Digit Password: Student I. D.

Course Description: This course examines the history of the United States from the end of World War II to the present. We will focus on the principal political, social, economic and cultural challenges and achievements in American life since 1945. Special emphasis will be given to the use of the atomic bomb at the end of WWII, the Cold War at home and abroad, prosperity and conformity in the 1950s, the social turmoil of the 1960s, the Civil Rights Movement, the impact of the Vietnam War, Watergate and the political cynicism of the 1970s, the rise of Feminism & Multi-Culturalism, the Reagan Era and the domestic and foreign policy developments since the 1990s.

Course Structure: Three hours per week for 13 weeks. In addition, you are required to complete assignments based on 9 hours of internet/ outside reading assignments. Class format includes lectures and discussions/debates interspersed with documentaries, CD programs, and use of selected internet sites. It is imperative that you arrive at each class meeting having read the assigned reading and prepared to actively discuss the significance of the history of the United States since 1945. Plan on spending 6 hours per week outside of class reading the texts and working on assignments.

Course Requirements:

Quizzes- (20%)

Oral Presentation- (5-10 minutes, Group or Individual) - 20%

Research Paper (topic of your choice)- (7-10 pages) -30%

Class Discussion, short writing assignments, in class/online computer projects- 30%

Required Reading:

William H. Chafe, **A History of Our Time: Readings on Postwar America- 6th Edition** (Oxford University Press, 2008) ISBN: 978-0-19-532036-7

Stephen M. Gillon, **The American Paradox: The History of the United States since 1945:- 2nd Edition** ISBN: 10: 0-618-66086