

## **History 245: America Since 1945 Moravian College, Spring 2009**

Dr. Francis Ryan

Office: Comenius Hall 301

[ryan@moravian.edu](mailto:ryan@moravian.edu)

Office Phone: 610-861-1402

Office Hours: Thursday 1-2, Wednesday 10-Noon, and by appointment.

History 245 gives a detailed survey of the most significant emerging historical interpretations of American society from 1945 to 1974.

Please note that several films will be shown as part of our class activities. These will be shown on campus at a time to be yet to be determined. I am aware that scheduling film viewings outside of regular class meeting times will pose a hardship for many who have work demands and other activities on campus. Please note that if you have a conflict viewing these films with the class, you are responsible for viewing these films on your own. (All of these films are easily available through most rental establishments or *Netflix*.)

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (ex 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Office of Learning Services.

Please be aware of Moravian College's standard for grades. It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for the course.

### **Required Texts:**

The following books are available for purchase at the Moravian College Bookstore:

William H. Chafe, *The Unfinished Journey: America Since World War II*.

George Lipsitz, *Rainbow at Midnight: Labor and Culture in the 1940s*.

Adam Rome, *The Bulldozer in the Countryside: Suburban Sprawl and the Rise of American Environmentalism*.

Thomas Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Post-war Detroit*.

Lance Hill, *The Deacons for Defense: Armed Resistance and the Civil Rights Movement*

Kathy Dobie, *The Only Girl in the Car*.

## **Graded Assignments and Exams:**

**Participation: 10%** As this class is discussion based, it is important that you attend each meeting period. Excessive absences will negatively impact your final grade.

**Mid-term Exams 30% (15% Each)** This course will have two exams on the dates specified.

**Final Exam: 20%** A cumulative final exam will be held at a time and place designated by the College Registrar.

**Historiographical Paper: 30%** Each student will write a 15-20 page paper focusing on how historians have interpreted a specific issue related to the period under study. I will provide a selection of possible topics to choose from in the first week of class. Students are encouraged to begin research on this project as soon as possible, as they may want to take advantage of interlibrary loan services in securing the necessary secondary source materials (books, articles). The paper must be appropriately documented according to Chicago style guidelines (footnotes), it must adhere to the rules and principles of Standard American English (grammar, spelling, usage, and rhetoric), and it must use a *minimum* of ten scholarly sources. Additional information will follow. Out of justice to the class, all late papers will be downgraded one letter grade for each day of lateness. An exception to this would be serious illness verified by a physician. Also, cases of plagiarism will result in an "F" grade.

**In class presentation: 10%** In addition to the historiographical paper, each student will present in class a 10 minute overview of a selected text which gives an alternative methodological or theoretical interpretation to that week's selected reading class. As part of this assignment, students should read at least one review of the book and print it out to hand in. In some cases, a student may select an article published in a scholarly journal. In this case, please be sure to consult with me for further guidelines. These presentations will occur at the beginning of our Friday sessions each week.

### **"The House I Live In:" America in the late 1940s**

**Jan 21-Jan 23**

Reading, *The Unfinished Journey*, 1-28, Lipsitz, *Rainbow at Midnight*, 1-15, Chapter 1-2

Class Discussion: Abbot and Costello, "Who's on First?" (1944)  
Frank Sinatra, "The House I Live In"

### **Unrest at Home: Labor Militancy and the Rise of Corporate Liberalism**

**Jan 28-Jan 30**

Lipsitz, *Rainbow at Midnight*, Chapters 4-7

Library session, Jan 30: *Life Magazine* and the promise of consumption

In class presentation: Robert Rodgers Korstad, *Civil Rights Unionism: Tobacco Workers and the Struggle for Democracy in the mid-Twentieth Century South*

### **The Origins of the Cold War**

**Feb 4-Feb 6**

Reading, *The Unfinished Journey*, The Origins of the Cold War, Truman and the Cold War, Lipsitz, *Rainbow at Midnight*, Chapter 8

Film: *Good Night and Good Luck* (2006) Time and location to be determined.

In class presentation: William Appleman Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*. Paul Seabury, "Cold War Origins, I." *Journal of Contemporary History* 3:1 (January 1968): 169-182.

### **A House Divided: Race and the Politics of Housing in Post-war America**

**Feb 11-Feb 13**

Reading: *The Unfinished Journey*, Chapter 5; Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis*. (entirety)

In class screening: *Happy Days* "The Lemon." (1974)

In class presentation: Joe William Trotter, *Black Milwaukee: the Making of an Industrial Proletariat, 1915-1945*.

Elaine Tyler May, "Cold War-Warm Hearth: Politics and the Family in Postwar America," in *The Rise and Fall of the New Deal Order, 1930-1980*.

### **Suburban Nation**

**Feb-18-Feb 20**

Reading, Rome, *Bulldozer in the Countryside*, 1-152.

In Class Screening: *I Love Lucy* "Job Switching," 1952

In class presentation: James Howard Kunstler, *The Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape*

"Beyond the Feminine Mystique: A Reassessment of Postwar Mass Culture, 1946-1958," *Journal of American History* 79:4 March 1993: 1455-1482.

**Feb 25:** Overview

**Feb 27: Midterm 1**

**March 4-6: Spring Break**

**Youth Culture and Rebellion in the Eisenhower Era**

**March 11**

Readings: *The Unfinished Journey*, Chapter 5,  
Lipsitz, "Aint Nobody Here But Us Chickens: The Class Origins of Rock and Roll."  
Sean McCann, "Why I'll Never Teach Rock and Roll Again," *Radical History Review* 66 (1996):  
191-202

Remembering the Youth Culture of the 1950s: Special Guest, Dr. Tom Egan.

### **March 13**

The Beat Movement: Literary and Cultural Critiques in the 1950s.  
Lipsitz, "Corporate Culture, Conformity and Commodities."

In class presentation: Glenn C. Altschuler, *All Shook Up: How Rock and Roll Changed America*  
Chester J. Pach, Jr. and Elmo Richardson, *The Presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower*.

### **The Civil Rights Movement**

#### **March 18-March 20**

Reading, *The Unfinished Journey*, Chapter 6  
Clayborne Carson, "Martin Luther King, Jr.: Charismatic Leadership in A Mass Struggle," *Journal of American History*, Vol. 74. September 1987, 448-454.

In class presentation: David L. Chappell, *A Stone of Hope: Prophetic Religion and the Death of Jim Crow*.  
George Lipsitz, *A Life in the Struggle: Ivory Perry and the Culture of Opposition*.

In class documentary: *Eyes on the Prize: America in the Civil Rights Years*

### **The Black Freedom Movement: Alternative Views**

#### **March 25-March 27**

Reading, Lance Hill, *The Deacons for Defense: Armed Resistance and the Civil Rights Movement*.

In class presentation: Robin G.D. Kelly: "Birmingham's Untouchables: The Black Poor in the Age of Civil Rights," *Race Rebels: Culture, Politics and the Black Working Class*, 77-102.

Peniel E. Joseph, *Waiting 'Til the Midnight Hour: A Narrative History of Black Power in America*.

Film: *Malcolm X* (1999) Time and location to be determined.

### **John F. Kennedy and the Hope of the 1960s**

#### **April 1-April 3**

Readings, *The Unfinished Journey*, 7-8, Rome Chapters 5-9

In class presentation: Robert Dallek, *An Unfinished Life: John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963*.  
Nick Bryant, *The Bystander: John F. Kennedy and the Struggle for Black Equality*.  
Ira Katznelson, "Was the Great Society a Lost Opportunity?" in *The Rise and Fall of the New Deal Order, 1930-1980*.

John A. Andrew III, *The Other Side of the Sixties: the Young Americans for Freedom and the Rise of Conservative Politics*.

## **Midterm 2: April 8**

### **The Vietnam War**

**April 15-17**

Readings, *The Unfinished Journey* 9-10

In class presentation: Mary Sheila McMahon, "The American State and the Vietnam War," *The Sixties: From Memory to History*, 45-89.

Chester J. Pach, Jr. "And That's the Way It Was: The Vietnam War on the Network Nightly News," *The Sixties: From Memory to History*, 90-118.

Christian G. Appy, *Working Class War: American Combat Soldiers in Vietnam*.

Andrew J. Rott, *The Path to Vietnam: Origins of the American Commitment to Southeast Asia*.

Kendrick Oliver, "Toward a New Moral History of the Vietnam War?" *The Historical Journal* 47:3 (September 2004): 757-774.

### **The Late 1960s**

**April 22-24**

Readings, *Unfinished Journey*, 11-12.

Gael Graham, "Flaunting the Freak Flag: 'Karr v. Schmidt' and the Great Hair Debate in American High Schools," *Journal of American History* 91:2 (2004): 522-543

*Film: Easy Rider* (1969) Time and location to be determined.

In class presentation: Thomas Frank, *The Conquest of Cool: Business Culture, Counterculture, and the Rise of Hip Consumerism*.

Michael W. Flamm, *Law and Order: Street Crime, Civil Unrest, and the Crisis of Liberalism in the 1960s*.

Kenneth Cmiel, "The Politics of Civility," *The Sixties: From Memory to History*, ed. David Farber, 263-290

Andrew E. Hunt, *The Turning: A History of Vietnam Veterans Against the War*.

### **Changes Come to Main Street: Into the 1970s**

**April 29-May 1**

Reading, *Dobie, The Only Girl in the Car, The Unfinished Journey*, 14

*In class screening: All in the Family* (1971)

In class presentation: Alice Echols, *Scars of Sweet Paradise: the Life and Times of Janis Joplin*  
Donald T. Critchlow, *Phyllis Schlafly and Grassroots Conservatism: A Woman's Crusade*.

Beth Bailey, "Sexual Revolution(s)" in *The Sixties: From Memory to History*, ed. David Farber, 235-262.

Marc Stein, *City of Sisterly and Brotherly Loves: Lesbian and Gay Philadelphia, 1945-1972*.

List of suggested historiographical topics for paper:

**U.S. Politics**

Historical Views of the Truman Administration  
Historical Views of the Eisenhower Administration  
Historical Views of the Kennedy Administration  
Historical Views of the Nixon Administration  
Historical Views of the Ford Administration  
Historical Views of the Carter Administration  
Historical Views of the Reagan Administration  
Historical Views of the George H. Bush Administration  
Historical Views of the William J. Clinton

Kennedy and the Bay of Pigs Crisis  
Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis  
Harry Truman and Civil Rights  
Eisenhower and Civil Rights  
John Kennedy and Civil Rights  
Lyndon Johnson and Civil Rights  
Richard Nixon and Civil Rights  
Richard Nixon and Environmentalism  
The Nixon Administration and Foreign Policy  
The Watergate Scandal  
John Kennedy's Vietnam Policy  
President Reagan's economic policies

Historical views of The Dixiecrats  
Historical views of Robert Kennedy  
Historical views of George Wallace  
Historical views of Barry Goldwater  
Joseph McCarthy  
Hubert Humphrey  
Harry S. Truman and the Decision to Use Atomic Weapons  
Robert McNamara  
Henry Kissinger  
US policy and the Irish "Troubles"  
The Marshall Plan  
The Korean War  
The Equal Rights Amendment  
The Gulf of Tonkin Incident

Robert Kennedy and the 1968 presidential campaign  
Eugene McCarthy and the 1968 presidential campaign  
Ronald Regan and the 1976 campaign  
George Wallace and the 1968 election  
George McGovern and the Presidential Election of 1972  
Strom Thurman and the Dixiecrat Rebellion of 1948  
Henry Wallace and the 1948 presidential election.  
Barry Goldwater and the 1964 Presidential Election  
President Truman, General Douglas McArthur and the Korean War  
President Eisenhower's Policy in Vietnam

### **Social and Cultural Themes**

Jackie Robinson and the Integration of Baseball  
The Beat Writers and 1950s America  
Cesar Chavez and the Farm Workers Movement  
Stonewall and the Gay Rights Movement  
The Birmingham Bus Boycott  
Malcolm X and Black Power  
The 1964 Civil Rights Act  
Martin Luther King and Organized Labor  
Martin Luther King and the Vietnam War  
The Sexual Revolution  
Thurgood Marshall, the Supreme Court and Civil Rights  
Environmentalism  
Historical Interpretations of the 1970s  
Historical interpretations of the 1980s.  
Historical Views of American Sports (Football, Baseball, etc)  
The New Left  
Young Americans for Freedom  
1960s student radicalism  
Folk Music  
Rock music and the Counterculture  
Jimmy Hoffa and the Teamsters Union  
Walter Reuther, the United Autoworkers and Post-War liberalism  
Women and Labor since 1945  
Organized Labor and the Civil Rights Movement  
The Rise and Impact of Baseball Unionism  
The Women's Movement  
Television in the Post War Period  
Latino/Latina Movements since 1945  
Stonewall and Gay Liberation  
Fanny Lou Hamer and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party  
A.Philip Randolph

Post-War Environmentalism  
African Americans and Communism

The 1968 Democratic Convention  
Bob Dylan and the 1960s Counterculture  
Folk Music and the New Left  
The Students for a Democratic Society  
The Yippies  
The Black Panthers  
Allen Ginsberg and 1960s Radicalism  
The Weathermen Underground  
Rock music and the Counterculture  
The Young American for Freedom and the Rise of the “New Right”  
The Red Scare and Hollywood  
Betty Friedan and Modern Feminism  
Women and Basketball  
The Campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment  
Roe v. Wade  
Lyndon Johnson and Urban Policy  
The Urban Riots of the 1960s  
The rise of the New Right

### **Politics and Diplomacy**

Robert A. Taft and Post-War Foreign Policy  
Henry Kissinger and American Foreign Policy  
John Foster Dulles and American Foreign Policy  
Robert McNamara and the Vietnam War  
U.S. politics and the Irish “Troubles”  
The Gulf of Tonkin Incident  
The Marshall Plan  
U.S.-Israeli Relations in the Eisenhower Administration  
U.S.-Israeli Relations in the Kennedy Administration  
U.S.-Israel Relations in the Johnson Administration  
U.S. Israeli Relations in the Nixon Administration  
U.S. Israeli Relations in the Carter Administration  
Japanese Internment during World War Two  
U.S. and Puerto Rican relations since 1945



## **Student Activism**

April 10

*The Unfinished Journey*, 11-12.

Alternate Views:

Alan Brinkley, "The Illusion of Unity in Cold War Culture," in *Rethinking Cold War Culture*, ed. Peter J. Kuznick and James Gilbert, 61-73.

Analysis Essay on Diner 10%

Andrew Hurley, "From Hash House to Family Restaurant: The Transformation of the Diner and Post-World War II Consumer Culture," *Journal of American History*, March 1997 Vol. 83, pp. 1282-1308.