HIST 349 UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1945

SPRING 2013

MWF 11:00-11:50 Prof. J. Ore

Clark C359 Clark B366

Office Hours: MWF 2:00-3:00, or by appointment.

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REQUIRED READINGS: Joshua Freeman, *American Empire: The Rise of a Global Power, the Democratic Revolution at Home, 1945-2000*

Elizabeth Fraterrigo*, Playboy and the Making of the Good Life in Modern America*

Jeremy Kuzmarov*, The Myth of the Addicted Army: Vietnam and the Modern War on Drugs*

Alice Echols*, Hot Stuff: Disco and the Remaking of Remaking of American Culture*

Jefferson Cowie*,* “From the Hard Hats to the NASCAR Dads,” *New Labor Forum,* 13 (Fall 2004): 9-17*.* Access through JSTOR

Hanna Rosin, “The End of Men,” *The Atlantic Magazine,* (July/August 2010). Available at http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/07/the-end-of-men/308135/

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course covers the period of U.S. history from the end of World War II until the present. It takes a thematic approach to the diplomatic, political, economic, social, and cultural developments that characterized the era. A main goal of the class is to illuminate our understanding of the contemporary United States by examining the post-World War II period. At the conclusion of the class, students will have gained the following abilities: (1) to understand broad historic developments in the post-WWII era, (2) to critically analyze historical material, (3) to clearly articulate historical interpretations, both verbally and in writing.

REQUIREMENTS: Class requirements reflect these course objectives. Lectures and readings will be the main thrust of the class. Because lecture material will not always directly parallel the readings, it is important that students attend class and take good notes.

DISCUSSIONS AND QUIZZES: We will have four discussions about the required readings. See the following schedule for dates. To encourage reading and attendance, I will give THREE short quizzes over the readings at the beginning of three of the four discussions. Plan to conscientiously attend discussions as absences will seriously affect your overall grade. I WILL GIVE NO MAKEUP QUIZZES. Participation in discussions will be a consideration in the final grade.

EXAMS: The class will have two in-class mid-term essay exams and a final take-home-exam/research paper (see outline for exact dates). Exams may include questions from lectures and assigned readings. Students must appear for all exams. I will only give makeup exams for reasons authorized by official sources in writing. Make travel plans and work-related decisions now so that you can attend all exams. Each exam will count 20% of the overall course grade. The final take-home-exam/paper is due NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, MAY 16, BY 4:00 PM. BECAUSE OF THE LATE DATE OF THIS FINAL, I WILL GIVE NO EXTENSIONS BUT STUDENTS MAY HAND IN THEIR PAPERS ANYTIME IN FINALS WEEK.

FINAL TAKE-HOME-FINAL EXAM/PAPER: For this assignment, students will write a 7-8 page, typewritten, double-spaced paper. The goal is to use products of popular culture—in this case, Vietnam War literature—as primary sources that reveal important understandings of their historic contexts. In addition to assigned readings and lectures, students will use materials from the Vietnam War Literature Collection housed in Morgan Library’s Special Collections for this research. The essay will concertedly relate to course materials presented in the last month of the class. I will present more detailed instructions for this assignment in a separate handout.

POP QUIZZES: I will randomly give unannounced pop quizzes at the beginning of class. These will ask students to answer a question about the readings assigned in the text book or from previous lectures with a sentence or two. I will grade them pass/fail. Pop quizzes help students keep current on the assigned readings and reward those who attend class regularly. Pop quizzes will count 10% of the final course grade. I will give NO MAKE-UP POP QUIZZES.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Academic dishonesty, such as cheating on exams, papers, or quizzes, and plagiarism will not be tolerated. The American Historical Association defines plagiarism as “the expropriation of another author’s work, and the presentation of it as one’s own.” Most obviously, this refers to directly copying another author’s words without quoting or citing the author. But it also includes borrowing another author’s ideas and interpretations without crediting him/her in a proper citation. (See the American Historical Association’s website for further discussion of professional standards of conduct.) Plagiarism is unacceptable. All cases of academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary action according to the principles published in the CSU General Catalog (see page seven, column two: (<http://www.catalog.colostate.edu/front/policies.aspx>). This class adheres to the Academic Integrity policy of the CSU General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code.

GRADING: Each mid-term exams will constitute 20% (40% total) of the final grade. The take-home-final/paper will make up 30%, an average of the quizzes/participation 20%, and the pop quizzes 10% of the final grade. Assignment of final grades follows this scale: 100-93 A, 92-90 A-, 89-87 B+, 86-83 B, 82-80 B-, 79-77 C+, 76-70 C, 69-60 D, below 59 F. Please note that university policy has eliminated the categories of C-, D+, and D- for final grades. Therefore, on these grades, I will not round up any average. Thus, if a student receives a 69.9%, he/she earns a D rather than a C. Students must complete all assignments to receive a passing grade. In assigning final grades, I will take into consideration students’ attendance, participation, and improvement over the semester.

CLASS ETIQUETTE: I expect students to follow the rules of courtesy in class. Please show respect for the professor and fellow students and refrain from talking, texting, or reading or doing homework during lectures or discussions. Students must TURN OFF CELL PHONES during class, and CELL PHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED in exams. I reserve the right to deduct points from the class grade for continually uncivil and disruptive behavior.

COURSE OUTLINE:

January 23-25: Class Introduction; Origins of the Cold War

Reading Assignment: Freeman, *American Empire*, Intro-Prologue-Chapter 1

BEGIN FRATERRIGO, PLAYBOY

January 28-February 1 : The Cold War Mindset

Reading Assignment: Freeman, *American Empire*, Chapter 2

February 4-8: Cold War at Home: The Second Red Scare

Reading Assignment: Freeman, *American Empire*, Chapters 3-4

February 11-15: Economy and Society of the 1950s

Reading Assignment: Freeman, *American Empire*, Chapters 5

February 18-22: The Cold War under Eisenhower and Kennedy

Reading Assignment: Freeman, *American Empire*, Chapter 7

\*MONDAY, FEB. 18: QUIZ/DISCUSSION ON FRATERRIGO

February 25-March 1: The Civil Rights Movement

Reading Assignment: Freeman, *American Empire*, Chapter 6

Begin reading KUZMAROV, MYTH OF ADDICTED ARMY

\*\*\*FIRST EXAM, FRIDAY, MARCH 1

March 4-8: Resurgence of Liberalism: The Great Society

Reading Assignment: Freeman, *American Empire*, Chapter 8

March 11-15: The Vietnam War

Reading Assignment: Freeman, *American Empire*, Chapter 9

March 18-22: Spring Break

March 25-29: Dissension in the 1960s

Reading Assignment: Freeman, *American Empire*, Chapter 10

\*\*\*FRIDAY, MARCH 29: QUIZ/DISCUSSION ON KUZMAROV

April 1-5: The Economics of Decline & Transformation

Reading Assignment: Freeman*, American Empire*, Chapters 11-12

April 8-12: The Politics of Change

Reading Assignment: Freeman, *American Empire*, Chapter 13

\*\*\*SECOND EXAM, WEDNESDAY APRIL 10

BEGIN READING ECHOLS, HOT STUFF

April 15-19: The Politics of Conservatism

Reading Assignment: Freeman, *American Empire*, Chapters 14

April 22-26: The Fragmented Society

Reading Assignment: Freeman, *American Empire*, Chapter 15

\*\*\*MONDAY, APRIL 22: QUIZ/DISCUSSION ON ECHOLS

April 29-May3: The End of the Cold War

Reading Assignment: Freeman, *American Empire*, Chapter 16

Cowie, “From Hard Hats to the NASCAR Dads”

May 6-10: U.S.-Middle East Relations in Post-WWII Era

Reading Assignment: Freeman, *American Empire*, Chapter 17-18

Rosin, “The End of Men”

\*\*\*FRIDAY, MAY 10: QUIZ/DISCUSSION ON COWIE AND ROSIN

FINAL TAKE-HOME-EXAM/PAPER DUE NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, MAY 16, 4:00 PM. NO EXTENSIONS ON THIS DUE DATE.