

## POLITICS AND CULTURE OF THE 1960s

### POLS 492, Fall 2015

Professor Bradley Macdonald

Office: C366 Clark

Office hours: TR 12:30-2:00 pm; or by appointment

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**Preliminary Remarks:** At a time when the controversial decade of the 1960s is being widely reexamined, our seminar will illuminate fundamental experiences, sensibilities, and themes associated with this volatile and influential epoch. In particular, we will explore the nature and impact of such topics as the national political climate; the political struggles for African American equality; the Vietnam War; student radicalism; the counterculture; rock music; and, the incipient movements associated with women's liberation, the ecology, and the New Right. Students will explore these issues by reading primary documents from the period, secondary sources on the period, and interpreting various mass media (music and films). As we will see, the 1960s provides a fertile ground from which to understand past and present developments in American politics, international relations, and political theory, and is a productive focus for applying our skills and knowledge developed as Political Science majors.

#### Course Objectives:

- 1) Understand and critically engage central political ideas and events of the 1960s.
- 2) Understand and critically appraise the continuing legacy and contemporary relevance of the 1960s.
- 3) Use critical reading skills, and engage in research that exemplifies one's overall knowledge as a Political Science major.

#### Required Books:

(Lory Student Center Bookstore)

- S. Albert and J. Albert, eds. *The Sixties Papers: Documents of a Rebellious Decade* (Westport Connecticut: Praeger, 1984), ISBN 0275917819. (SP).
- Terry Anderson, *The Sixties*, Fourth Edition (New York: Prentice Hall, 2012), ISBN 0205744282.
- Nick Bromell, *Tomorrow Never Knows: Rock and Psychedelics in the 1960s* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), ISBN 0226075621.
- A. Feinberg and J. Freedman, *When Poetry Ruled the Streets: The French May Events of 1968* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2001), ISBN 0791449661.
- Herbert Marcuse, *An Essay on Liberation* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1969), ISBN 0807005959.

#### Requirements and Grading:

- 1) **3 page critical review** of Anderson's *The Sixties*, worth **10%**. This will be an essay that shows adequate understanding of the totality of Anderson's text, and takes a position on some facet within his narrative of the sixties. Will be due at the beginning of class on **September 17<sup>th</sup>**.
- 2) One in-class **essay midterm** exam (60 minutes), worth **20%**, on **October 15**.
- 3) **15-page scholarly paper on a topic related to the 1960s**, worth **50%** (to be settled with instructor). To ensure the student performs successfully on this requirement, we will follow the following schedule:
  - a) **Week 7**: student hands in 2 paragraph description of paper topic and issue, and sets up an appointment with Professor to discuss paper.
  - b) **Week 10**: student hands in an annotated bibliography with at least 12 sources on topic (these sources must be primary sources, scholarly books and scholarly articles).
  - c) **December 17<sup>th</sup>**: Student hands in final paper.
- 4) **Participation/Attendance**, worth **20%**. Given the nature of this seminar, attendance is mandatory, unless there is prior permission from instructor. Your participation grade will be determined as well by the following assignments:
  - a) Presentation of a reading from the *Sixties Papers* (with another student).
  - b) Handing in of weekly questions (2 total) pertaining to the reading. These are to be substantive questions and will be handed to me at the beginning of the class. Make sure to keep a copy for yourself.
  - c) Research presentation related to final paper.

**Academic Integrity:** This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University [General Catalog](#) (Page 7) and the [Student Conduct Code](#). Each student is expected to follow the Academic Integrity Policy, and we will discuss how this applies to our particular course requirements.

**Reminder:** No course earning a grade lower than a C will be permitted to fulfill Political Science Major requirements.

**Outside work expectations:** Students should expect to do at least 2 hours of outside work (reading, studying, etc) for each class hour.

### Course Outline:

#### Week 1: August 27

##### **Introduction: Questioning the Sixties.**

- A) Disciplinary Principles and Definitions
- B) Preliminary Notions of the Sixties: "Three Important Aspects of the Sixties"

#### Week 2: September 3

**No Class!**

**Week 3: September 10****Setting the Stage for the Sixties, I: International Political and Economic Developments**

Readings: Anderson, *The Sixties* (all).

Film: *Dr. Strangelove*.

**Week 4: September 17****Setting the Stage for the Sixties, II: Wonder Bread, Eisenhower and American Life in the Fifties**

Readings: *SP*, Section 1, pp. 68-104.

Film: *Making Sense of the Sixties: "Seeds of the Sixties"*

Anderson paper due.

**Week 5: September 24****"Let Freedom Ring!": The Struggle for African American Equality**

Readings: *SP*, Section 2, pp. 106-171.

Film: *The Black Power Mixtape, 1967-1975*

**Week 6: October 1****Vietnam, I: The Cold War and a Hot Issue**

Readings: *SP*, Section 4, pp. 272-334.

Film: *Hearts and Minds*.

**Week 7: October 8****Vietnam, II: The Anti-War Movement**

Readings: *SP*, Section 4, pp. 335-400.

Film: *Weather Underground*

Paper topics due

**Week 8: October 15****The New Left and the Campus Revolt, I**

*Midterm Essay Exam* (first 60 minutes).

Film: *Berkeley in the Sixties*

**Week 9: October 22****The New Left and the Campus Revolt, II**

Readings: *SP*, Section 4, pp. 174-270.

**Week 10: October 29****France 1968: Radical Visions and Political Traumas**

Readings: Feinberg and Freedman, *When Poetry Ruled the Streets* (all).

Film: TBA

Paper bibliography due.

**Week 11: November 5****Radical Theory in the Sixties: Marcuse**

Readings: Marcuse, *An Essay on Liberation* (all).

Film: *Herbert's Hippopotamus*

**Week 12: November 12****The Counterculture: Sex, Drugs, and Rock N Roll?**

Readings: *SP*, Section 5, pp. 402-458; Bromell, *Tomorrow Never Knows* (all).

Guest Lecture: Professor Enssle.

**Week 13: November 19****The Sixties Legacy: The Women's Movement, the Ecology Movement, and the New Right**

Readings: *SP*, Section 6, pp. 460-529.

**\*\*Thanksgiving Break, November 26\*\***

**Week 14: December 3**

**Research Presentations/Discussions**

**Week 15: December 10**

**Research Presentations/Discussions**

**\*\*Final Paper Due Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>\*\***