
Professor Michael Flamm
Elliott Hall: (740) 368-3634
Office Hours: T/TH 3-4 pm (or by appointment)

Ohio Wesleyan University
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Fall 2004

Texts:

- Bruce Schulman, *Lyndon Johnson and American Liberalism*
- Marshall Frady, *Martin Luther King, Jr.*
- Tim O’Brien, *The Things They Carried*
- Sara Davidson, *Loose Change*
- Eric Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation*
- Steven Gillon, *The American Paradox*

*All texts are available at the bookstore. The * indicates the text is also on reserve in the library.*

Requirements:

- Class participation
- Reading essay (750 words)
- Research paper (1500 words)
- Mid-term exam
- Final exam

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<th>Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading essay</td>
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<td>Research paper</td>
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<td>Mid-term exam</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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*Class participation will include regular attendance, reading quizzes, text memos, and the Reagan debate. Significant progress will receive appropriate recognition.*

Deadlines:

- September 21: Reading essay (required)
- October 5: Issue précis
- October 12: Mid-term exam
- October 26: Research paper (required)
- November 9: Reading essay (optional)
- November 16: Research rewrite (optional)
- December ??: Final exam

*Late work will result in substantial penalties (one full letter grade per day). Academic misconduct will lead to severe sanctions in full accordance with university policy.*

Topics and Readings (due that day):
1. August 24: Course Introduction

2. August 26: America Astir: Abundance and Activism
   Due: “The Feminine Mystique,” “Silent Spring,” and “The Other America” (packet)
   Discussion: 1) What was the main source of the activism of the 1960s? 2) What movement or individual has had the most long-term impact – for better or worse? Why?

3. August 31: Kennedy and the Cold War
   Due: Gillon, chapter 1; “Kennedy Inaugural Address” (packet)
   Discussion: 1) Was the policy of “flexible response” wise or dangerous? 2) Was Kennedy prudent or reckless during the Cuban Missile Crisis?

4. September 2: Kennedy and the Politics of Image
   Due: Gillon, chapter 2; “Kennedy Inaugural Address” (packet)
   Discussion: 1) Why was (is) Kennedy more popular in death than in life? 2) What does Kennedy’s enduring appeal say about American society?

5. September 7: Johnson and the Politics of Power
   Due: Schulman, Lyndon Johnson, 1-103 and 169-191; text memo (Do you admire LBJ?)
   Discussion: 1) What was the chief motivation behind the Great Society? 2) Was the Great Society a success or a failure?

   Due: Frady, Martin Luther King, Jr., 1-97
   Discussion: 1) How and why did the movement evolve in 1961 and 1962? 2) What was the most important shift?

7. September 14: The Transformation of the Civil Rights Movement
   Due: Frady, Martin Luther King, Jr., 98-169; “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” (packet)
   Discussion: 1) How and why was the movement transformed between 1963 and 1964? 2) What was the most important shift?

8. September 16: The Fragmentation of the Civil Rights Movement
   Due: Frady, Martin Luther King, Jr., 170-214; “On Revolution” (packet); Schulman, Lyndon Johnson, 104-124 and 192-208; Gillon, 81-91
   Discussion: 1) How and why did the movement fragment after 1965? 2) What was the most important source of fragmentation?

   Due: Reading essay (required); Gillon, document 5.1
   Discussion: 1) What new issues and groups had emerged by the 1970s? 2) Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the state and future of race relations in America? Why?

10. September 23: The Origins of Vietnam: From Roosevelt to Johnson
    Due: Schulman, Lyndon Johnson, 125-154 and 213-228; Gillon, documents 1.2 and 2.2;
begin O’Brien, *The Things They Carried*, chapters 1, 2, 4, 9, 12, 17
Discussion: 1) Was U.S. intervention in Vietnam logical and/or inevitable? 2) Would Kennedy have withdrawn U.S. personnel if he had lived? 3) Why according to Johnson was the U.S. in Vietnam?

11. September 28:  **The Ordeal of Vietnam (I): The War in Indochina**
Due: O’Brien, *The Things They Carried*, chapters 1, 2, 4, 9, 12, 17
Discussion: 1) What was the main reason Johnson chose to escalate the war? 2) What was the most difficult burden carried by the soldiers in Vietnam? 3) What passage(s) in O’Brien most affected you? Why?

12. September 30:  **“Law and Order”: 1968 and the Crisis of Liberalism**
Due: Gillon, chapter 3; Schulman, *Lyndon Johnson*, 155-165 and 233-245
Discussion: 1) Why was conservatism triumphant in 1968? 2) What were the long-term implications for American politics?

13. October 5:  **The Ordeal of Vietnam (II): The War at Home**
Due: *Issue précis*; Gillon, chapter 4; Schulman, *Lyndon Johnson*, 208-212 and 228-232
Discussion: 1) What was the main impact of the anti-war movement? 2) To what extent should it receive credit or blame for the outcome in Vietnam?

14. October 7:  **The Outcome of Vietnam: “Peace with Honor”**
Due: “Nixon Recalls His Initial Goals” (packet); prepare for mid-term
Discussion: 1) Was Nixon’s approach to Vietnam more successful than LBJ’s? 2) Was Nixon able to achieve “Peace with Honor” in Vietnam? Why or why not?

15. October 12:  **Mid-Term Exam**

16. October 14:  **Nixon and the Cold War**
Due: “Nixon Explains the Five Power Centers” (packet); begin Davidson, *Loose Change*
Discussion: 1) What were Nixon’s foreign policy objectives? 2) Was he able to attain them?

17. October 19:  **The New Left and the Politics of Protest**
Due: Davidson, *Loose Change*, chapters 1-16 (1-174); Gillon, documents 3.1 and 3.2
Discussion: 1) What factors accounted for the emergence of the New Left? 2) What factors accounted for the disintegration of the New Left? 3) Does Davidson portray the New Left in a positive or negative light?

18. October 21:  **The Feminist Movement and the Politics of Sexuality**
Due: Davidson, *Loose Change*, chapters 17-20 (177-230); Gillon, chapter 5 (document 5.2); “NOW Statement” (packet)
Discussion: 1) What factors made possible the emergence of the feminist movement? 2) How was it related to the sexual revolution? 3) How does Davidson explain the emergence and appeal of the feminist movement?
19. October 26:  **Nixon and the Politics of Polarization**  
Due:  **Research paper** (required); Gillon, document 4.1  
Discussion:  1) What was Nixon’s perception of the domestic front?  2) Why was his “search for order” unsuccessful?

20. October 28:  **Watergate and the Politics of Scandal**  
Due:  Gillon, chapter 6 (documents 4.2 and 6.1)  
Discussion:  1) What is the most persuasive explanation for Watergate?  2) What is the most important legacy of Watergate?

21. November 2:  **The Counterculture and the Politics of Authenticity**  
Due:  Davidson, *Loose Change*, chapters 21-28 (235-338); “Raymond Mungo” (packet)  
Discussion:  1) How does the counterculture compare to the New Left?  2) Was the counterculture a radical movement?  3) Does Davidson portray the counterculture in a positive or negative light?

22. November 4:  **America Adrift: Limits and Legacies**  
Due:  Davidson, *Loose Change*, chapters 29-32 (343-367); Gillon, document 6.2  
Discussion:  1) Why were many Americans in the 1970s convinced that they now lived in an “age of limits”?  2) What was the most important consequence of this development?  3) Does Davidson conclude on a positive or negative note?

23. November 9:  **The Anti-Feminist Movement and the Politics of Abortion**  
Due:  **Reading essay** (optional); Gillon, document 5.3; “Roe v. Wade” (packet)  
Discussion:  1) Why did the anti-feminist movement emerge?  2) How was it related to the anti-abortion movement?  3) Were these developments healthy or unhealthy for America?

24. November 11:  **The New Right and the Politics of Reaction**  
Due:  Gillon, chapter 7 (documents 2.1, 3.3, and 7.1)  
Discussion:  1) What were the main groups within the conservative coalition?  2) What was the main reason for the revival of conservatism?

Due:  **Research rewrite** (optional)

Due:  Begin Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation*

27. November 22-26:  **University Holiday**

Due:  Gillon, chapter 10 (document 10.1); Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation* (Part I)  
Discussion:  1) Was the “Reagan Revolution” a success or a failure (short-term or long-term, partial or total)?  2) What was (is) Reagan’s greatest or worst legacy?  Why?  3) What was the most interesting or troubling aspect of *Fast Food Nation* (Part I)?  Why?
29. December 2: **History and Myth in American Cinema**  
Due: Continue Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation*  
Discussion: 1) Do films inevitably distort history? 2) Are historical films on the whole beneficial or harmful?

30. December 7: **Clinton and the Politics of “Triangulation”**  
Due: Gillon, chapter 11 (documents 11.1 and 11.2); continue Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation*  
Discussion: 1) Was Clinton a success or a failure as president? Why? 2) What was Clinton’s greatest or worst legacy? Why?

31. December 9: **America at the Millennium**  
Due: Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation* (Part II); Gillon, chapter 12 and epilogue (Bush address)  
Discussion: 1) What was the most important impact and legacy of the Cold War on America? 2) What is the greatest challenge facing America today? 3) What was the most interesting or troubling aspect of *Fast Food Nation*? Why?

*For changes and updates, please consult the ERes course page. The discussion questions serve as a general guide to reading assignments, class participation, and exam essays.*