US History, 1945-Present

Instructor: Jeff Woods
Office: Witherspoon 265A
Office Hours: 1:00-2:00 p.m. M-F
Phone: (479)968-0266(Office)
E-mail: jwoods@atu.edu
Web Site: http://lfa.atu.edu/ssphil/people/ssjw

I. Required Text
Paul Boyer, Promises To Keep.
Read the assigned text and whatever handouts you receive carefully; you will be tested on their content.

II. Lectures
Students are responsible for all of the material covered in class. The lectures reflect what I consider to be important; thus the exams will draw heavily from them.

III. Examination
There will be two exams: a midterm (one hour) and a final (two hours). The midterm will count 20% and the final will count 30% of the total course grade. The exams will require essay and identification answers. (Tips: include an introduction, body, and conclusion in your essays; also provide specific examples from the course to support your assertions; for each identification, you must write a complete answer including four elements: who/what, when, where, and significance.) Please bring blue books to the exams.

IV. Reviews
Students will write one movie review and one book review. Both reviews will be approximately 3-5 pages in length and will count 20% of the total course grade each.

The movie review should provide a brief summary of the plot (no more than a page) and evaluate the film’s historical merits. Does the film provide historically accurate content? Does it offer important analyses or perspectives about a certain period of history? What audiences would you recommend see it?

The book review should concisely outline the thesis of the book and provide a brief summary of its content (no more than a page.) It should evaluate the author’s writing style, use of research, and logic (no more than a page). The bulk of your paper should be devoted to assessing the book’s thesis and its relevance/significance for its intended audience.

You will be graded on your writing as well as your understanding of content and analysis.

V. Participation
During the weeks that the book reviews are due, we will discuss the books and your evaluations. Come to class prepared to briefly outline the main points of the book you read as well as your criticisms of the book. Your participation in these discussions and others during the course of the semester will count 10% of the total course grade.
VI. Make-ups
   Sorry, there are none unless negotiated well before the due dates (see Course Outline).

VII. Academic Dishonesty
   The student handbook clearly addresses the issues of plagiarism etc. These issues are serious and will be treated seriously by the instructor.

VIII. Catalogue Description
   “Explores the origins of—and American responses to—the Cold War, the rise of various reform movements in the 1950s-60s, the New Frontier and Great Society programs, the Vietnam War, and the rise of the New Right.”

IX. Supplemental Reading List:
   John Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment.*
   Alonzo Hamby, *Liberalism and Its Challengers.*
   James Patterson, *Grand Expectations.*
   Terry Anderson, *The Sixties.*

X. Course Goals
   A. Rationale
      It is cliché to remind students that “those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it.” But for citizens of the United States near the turn of the century, it is essential to repeat the phrase. Our nation’s political, social, economic, cultural, and intellectual future depends on a thorough understanding of the past, especially the recent past.
      
   B. Basic Objectives
      Improving basic knowledge is the cornerstone of any history course. Students will be asked to acquire an understanding of fundamental terms, concepts, and issues. They also will be asked to apply critical thinking and analytical skills.
      
   C. General Education Objectives
      The General Education curriculum is designed to enable students to analyze problems, arrive at intelligent conclusions, and make reasoned choices. This course will meet these goals by requiring students to demonstrate advanced critical thinking, reading, and writing skills.

XI. Course Outline

Week 1
   7/12 American Identity
   7/13 The Bomb
   7/14 The Bomb
   7/15 Dr. Strangelove
   7/16 Dr. Strangelove
Week 2
7/19 Conformity
7/20 Paranoia
7/21 Rock and Roll
7/22 Camelot
7/23 Conspiracy, Movie Review Due

Week 3
7/26 Civil Rights
7/27 Great Society
7/28 Midterm Exam
7/29 Vietnam
7/30 Black Power

Week 4
8/2 Law and Order
8/3 Watergate
8/4 Oil and Energy Crisis
8/5 Reagan
8/6 Character, Book Review Due

Week 5
8/9 End of the Cold War
8/10 Bush and Clinton
8/11 Bubbles and Busts
8/12 September 11
8/13 Final Exam