

HISTORY 305 01: Contemporary American History, Politics,
and Culture

Chaminade University of Honolulu
Fall Semester 2002

Instructor: James H. Fujita
Office: To Be Announced
Class Room: Henry 225
Class Meetings: Fridays, 2:00-4:50 pm
Instructor Pager: 583-3440

Course Description: History 305 analyzes the forces that have shaped contemporary America, 1945 to 1980. A companion course, History 420: Cold War and After, covers the 1980s and beyond. This course will focus on such events as the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Counter-Culture Movements of the Sixties. It Fulfills the interdisciplinary course requirement. It is cross-listed as Pol. 305.

Prerequisites: Any 100 or 200 level History course.

Required Text: Miller, Douglas T., On Our Own:
America in the Sixties

Course Requirements: Students will be required to attend classes regularly. This is primarily a lecture course with some discussion as well as the viewing of documentaries. Students who attend regularly will be rewarded with attendance points. There will also be two examinations, a book review, and a project due at the end of the semester.

Requirement Breakdown and Point Distribution:

1 Mid-Term Examination	100 Points
1 Final Examination	100 Points
1 Book Review	100 Points
1 Project	80 Points
Attendance	20 Points

A TOTAL OF 400 POINTS ARE POSSIBLE.

Point Scale: A = 400-360 Points
 B = 359-320 Points
 C = 319-280 Points
 D = 279-240 Points
 F = 239-000 Points

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

MID-TERM EXAMINATION: The Mid-Term Exam will be worth 100 Points. It will be divided into 2 parts. Part One is a short Identification exercise worth 50 Points. There will be a list of at least 8 terms in this section. They will be names of people, places and things. You will pick FIVE (5) of the terms and write a short identification for each selection. You will include such information as who or what, where, roughly when, historical description, and historical significance for each selection. Each answer will be worth up to 10 points. Part Two will be an essay question. You will be given two essay questions. Pick ONE(1) and write a detailed essay worth up to 50 points.

FINAL EXAMINATION: The Final Examination will be the same format as the Mid-Term Exam. It will not be cumulative. It will cover the second half of the course. All materials covered after the Mid-Term Exam.

ATTENDANCE: To reward students with good attendance 20 points have been allocated to students who have perfect attendance. Points will be deducted based on number of days absent. Attendance will be taken regularly.

BOOK REVIEW: Students will be asked to select a history book (non-fiction) dealing with the time period of this course. It can be a biography, a study of a specific event or movement, scholarly or pop culture. Books must be approved by the instructor. The book must be college-level and at least 200 pages in length. Once approved you will read the book and write a college-level book review worth 100 Points.

PROJECT: Students will be asked to search periodicals, newspapers, magazines as well as watch TV documentaries dealing with the time period covered in our course. You are to find 10 items and write a half-page review of what you saw or read. Include a complete citation of what you read or saw. (name of magazine, issue date or number, title of article, page number article can be found). Include a paragraph summarizing the content of the article and a paragraph describing interesting facts you learned from reading that article. Do the same for TV documentaries. This will be worth 80 Points.

ALL PROJECT ITEMS MUST BE NO OLDER THAN
ONE MONTH BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE
SEMESTER

BOOK REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS

1. Your typed review should be about 1000 words in length.
(About 4 pages).
2. Your review should be headed with a full citation identifying the book.
For example: Alfred W. Crosby, Jr., The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Publishing Co. 1972.
3. Your review should touch upon the following items:
 - A. A brief statement about the author of the book. Make your comments about the author relevant to the review. Mention the author's educational background. Occupational background. Other works published. Expertise on the subject.

Some relevant questions you might consider are:
 - 1) Did the author participate in the events described?
 - 2) Is he related to any of the book's subjects?
 - 3) Is he expanding on a doctoral dissertation?
 - 4) Does he have any reason to be biased?
(Introduction, Preface, jacket-cover of the book, may be good places to find information).
You might also consult sources like Who's Who in American Education, Directory of American Scholars, Twentieth Century Authors, Current Biography, Who's Who in America, and other biographical guides.
You may also want to read other reviews of the book which can be found in newspapers and journals.
 - B. A statement on the subject and scope of the book is essential. What type of book are you reviewing? (Is it a biography, political history, memoir, military history, intellectual history)?
 - C. What is the Thesis of the book? Rare is a history book without a major theme or thesis. What is the author arguing? Trying to prove?
 - D. The Value of the Book. Did the author do everything he/she set out to do? Are his conclusions valid? Are his conclusions significant? For whom is this book intended? For Scholars? For students?
 - E. What are your criticisms of the book? Is it poorly researched?
4. Your review should represent your best writing. Proofread and edit your work before submitting it. Before writing your review you might want to go to the library and read examples of reviews in such scholarly journals as the American Historical Review, Journal of Asian Studies, Journal of World History, etc.

HISTORY 30501 SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
Aug. 30	Introduction	
	The Forties: Post-War Readjustment	Chap. 1
Sep. 6	The Fifties: Cold War, Politics, and Diplomacy	Chap. 2
Sep. 13	The Fifties: The Homefront, Consumer Culture, and Anxiety	
Sep. 20	The Fifties: Civil Rights Movement	
Sep. 27	The Fifties: Assessed	
Oct. 4	MID-TERM EXAMINATION	
Oct. 11	The Sixties: Kennedy and the New Frontier	Chap. 3
Oct. 18	The Sixties: Politics and Diplomacy	Chap. 6,7
Oct. 25	The Sixties: The Homefront	Chap. 4,5,7
Nov. 1	The Sixties: The Counter-Culture, Pluralism, and a Nation in Crisis	
Nov. 8	The Seventies: Politics and Diplomacy	Chap. 9
Nov. 15	The Seventies: The Homefront	Chap. 10,11
	PROJECTS DUE	
Nov. 22	The Seventies Assessed	
	BOOK REVIEWS DUE	
Nov. 29	HOLIDAY: THANKSGIVING RECESS	
Dec. 6	FINAL EXAMINATION	