

Chaminade University
 Fall Evening Semester, 2002, Schofield
 U. S. History 305:10
 Contemporary American History, Politics and Culture

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ORGANIZATION: The course consists of 10 classes as outlined below. Classes begin at 5:30pm and end at 9:40pm. The format of the course is lecture but there will be film presentations and some class discussion.

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

GRADES: Your grade for this course will be determined by your performance on the mid-term and final examinations and on your research paper. The mid-term and paper will account for 30% each and the final will count for 40%. However, your final exam will be given greater consideration should it demonstrate substantial improvement over your mid-term. Each exam will consist of essay questions that will require you to write a series of paragraphs composed of complete sentences. Please bring paper, preferably 8 1/2" x 11", to the exams. If you would like to have your final returned, and/or you would like to receive your grade for this course from the instructor, please bring a self-addressed stamped envelope during any of the next 9 classes. This is the **ONLY** way to receive your grade from the instructor. Your grade for the course will be written on your final examination paper. No one will pass the course unless both examinations and the research paper are completed.

Research Paper: The purpose of this assignment is to expand your horizons and allow you to pursue an area of particular interest and express your interpretation. You may select any topic within the scope of this course. Your topic **MUST** be relevant to the material covered in this course. Any paper not relevant to this course will receive a failing grade. It is **STRONGLY** preferred that you consult sources with conflicting interpretations. Review the conflicting views and discuss your findings. No paper that does not consult sources with conflicting views of the topic selected will be considered "excellent." The grade for your paper will be determined as follows: 60% on "what" you say and 40% on "how" you say it. The paper should be a minimum of three (3) pages. It should be turned in on or before December 6.

ATTENDANCE: University regulations require that attendance be taken and that instances of two (2) consecutive unexcused/unreported absences be reported to the Dean. This policy will be followed. In addition, it is virtually impossible to be successful in this course without attending the classes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: First: to learn about the history of this period; second: to assist with the development of your formal academic writing skills; third: to help develop your critical thinking ability.

GENERAL OVERVIEW: Analyses of the forces that shaped contemporary America, focusing on the Cold War, the Civil Rights movement and the counter-cultural movements of the 1960's.

- Oct. 11: Introduction; Origins of the Cold War.
- Oct. 18: The Cold War: Korea, Ike and JFK.
- Oct. 25: Domestic affairs under Truman and Ike.
- Nov. 1: Early Civil Rights efforts, the election of 1960.
- Nov. 8: Mid-term Exam; LBJ and the Great Society.
- Nov. 15: Vietnam to the election of 1968.
- Nov. 22: The Sixties!!!
- Nov. 29: The election of 1968; Nixon and the Silent Majority
- Dec. 6: Vietnam (conclusion); Watergate; Carter; the conservative backlash.
- Dec. 13: Final

The following are the criteria which will be employed when evaluating research papers:

The term "Research Paper," by definition, requires the use of sources, citations and a bibliography. The format chosen for the citations is immaterial.

Thesis: The paper should present a clear thesis. After the opening paragraph there should be no doubt in the reader's mind of the direction of the paper.

Historical Content: This includes accuracy and the awareness of and reference to opposing viewpoints.

Analysis: The writer needs to display an understanding of "how" and "why" events occurred rather than merely listing them.

Sources: Appropriate sources should be used and cited when necessary. The "Internet" as a sole source is unacceptable at this time.

Organization: The ideas and topics should be clearly and logically arranged and effective transitions should be used between paragraphs.

Grammar and Mechanics: Sentences should be constructed with due regard for proper grammar. The paper should remove all doubt that it has been carefully proof read. **There is no such thing as a paragraph composed of less than three sentences in a scholarly paper.**