

SE 02

**Contemporary U.S. History, Culture, Politics - 305**

PS/HIS 305<sup>60</sup> - Chaminade University (cross listed History and Political Science)  
Text: On Our Own – Americans in the Sixties by Douglas T. Miller

This course will help us to examine what happened in the United States between the end of WW II and the 1980's. In order to learn from history we should also look at the currents of change and forces in effect at the time that influenced actions and decisions. No decision is made in a vacuum. External forces influence action. Some are positive - some are not. History records. Political science analyzes. I ask, for this semester, that we focus on the United States, it's decisions and relations both internal and external, as a learning experience for the future.

Facilitator: Blair Craig.  
Masters of Arts, Political Science (Asia), University of Hawaii.  
Telephone: 395-2003, FAX 395-9493  
Availability: Please call if you have questions or concerns on any course issues. I prefer that you call between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Philosophy: This is your course. You're paying for the opportunity to participate in a group learning process. I'm here to help you achieve that goal.

Focus: America's history, culture, and politics.

Required: Each person will conduct research during the semester on a topic of interest AND approved by the instructor. You will give two presentations and turn-in two papers during the course. The final exam will be an essay.

Grading: Class participation 10%, Quizzes 10%, Presentations 30%, Papers 30%, Final Exam 20%

Grading Scale:	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Grade</u>	
	91-100	A=	Excellent performance.
	81-90	B=	Above average performance
	71-80	C=	Average performance. Accomplishes only the minimum requirements. Oral and written communication is at an acceptable level for an undergraduate student.
	65-70	D=	Meets minimally levels of performance.
	<65	F=	Does not meet the most minimal requirements of the course.

Your grade will be based on content, style, and format including such items as clarity of communication, sentence and paragraph construction, punctuation, spelling, and grammar. Students are graded on achievement, rather than effort. It is the responsibility of the student to come to class prepared to participate. All assignments must be turned in on the date due, and presentations on the date and time specified by the instructor. No late assignments will be accepted unless approved in advance by the instructor. If unable to complete the individual course work by the last day of the course, you, the student, may negotiate an "incomplete contract" before the end date of the course.

The University trusts that each student will maintain high standards of honesty and ethical behavior. All assignments submitted in fulfillment of course requirements must be the student's own work. All assignments except those designated by the instructor as "group" are meant to represent the effort of each individual student. Group projects and assignments should represent equal efforts by all group members.

**Attendance:** Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory.

**Absences:** If an absence is necessary, the student must contact and get agreement from the instructor. However, any work which is due from the student at that class period must be presented at the designated time - it is the student's responsibility to live up to their obligation to the class. Each student must have someone in the class that they will contact to get notes or handouts from any missed instruction.

**Please note: An absence will affect the student's grade.**

## WHERE WE'RE GOING - AND HOW WE'LL GET THERE

- Class 1 Introduction, course overview, philosophy, focus, requirements.  
Post WW II. Communism VS. Capitalism. The Cold War.
- Class 2 The 50's. Topics & research outline due (Have read Ch.1-2).
- Class 3 The 50's. Quiz #1. (Have read Ch. 3 and 4)
- Class 4 The 60's. (Have read Ch. 5 and 6)
- Class 5 The 60's. (Have read Ch. 7 and 8)
- Class 6 Presentations #1, and papers due.
- Class 7 The 70's. (Have read Ch. 9 and 10)
- Class 8 The 70's. Quiz #2. (Have read Ch. 11 and Epilogue)
- Class 9 Presentations #2, and papers due. Review for Final Exam
- Class 10 **Final Exam** - you may bring any course material.

## **POSSIBLE RESEARCH TOPICS**

Two presentations (15 min. each) and two papers (3-5 pages). The first will provide the “history” of your topic thru the 50-70’s, while the second will be a “political science” analysis of the impact on America and her people

Nuclear Arms Race and SALT

Civil Rights / Non-violence vs. Militancy

Music as an influence on American, and expression of the times

Television’s Impact on America and information

Women’s Movement / Social and Society

Vietnam – a Flash Point in the Cold War, and America

The Cold War Dominates American Politics and Society

Newspapers – Investigative Reporting / Impact on America

U.S. Foreign Policy, What / Where / Why

Welfare and LBJ’s “War on Poverty”

The social fabric of America – frayed or torn

The Economy – “the highs, the lows, and why” / IMF and World Bank

Education’s impact on the generations, and America

The Judicial System and Civil Liberties

(The World’s Policeman, Space Race, The Environment, Corporate America, Espionage)