NYU in the Sixties and Seventies: School & Society (FYSEM-UA 255)

Tuesdays 2-4:30pm in TBA

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Course Description: The decades of the 1960s and 1970s brought profound changes in American society, changes mirrored in the history of the nation, academe, and New York University. It was a time that witnessed the struggle for civil rights, assassinations, war abroad and riots at home, and a youth-led revolution in music, dress, and values. This course aims to develop an appreciation of those years by examining the events and the reactions as they affected campuses and students across America. Students will prepare reports on different aspects of the era. In addition, through shared background reading, class members will work on group projects. In both cases, and in the spirit of the times, the topics will be self-chosen with the approval of the group and the seminar leader. Students will strengthen their skills in writing, debating, and presenting their ideas.

Readings: All readings will be posted on NYU Classes under the resources folder for each week. Each folder has the week’s assignments and readings prior to the reaction papers which are due on Saturdays. For readings or assignments that are due on the day of class, they will be in the folder for that week of class. Throughout the semester you will write 2 book critiques and have 2 quizzes on a total of 4 books. The 5th book is an optional reading from which the term “counterculture” was coined. You should purchase these books ahead of time. The books are as follows:

- Soul on Ice by Eldridge Cleaver
- The Armies of the Night by Normal Mailer
- Revolution for the Hell of It by Abbie Hoffman
- The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test by Tom Wolfe
- The Making of a Counter Culture: Reflections on the Technocratic Society and its Youthful Opposition by Theodore Roszak

Assignments: Below are the general outlines for the assignments you will have throughout the semester. More in-depth prompts for the assignments below can be found on NYU Classes in the week they are assigned.

Reaction Papers: Reaction papers are frequent and more informal papers about your ideas and reactions to a specific reading or something learned or watched in class. After writing this 2-3 page paper, you will discuss it in the class following.

Core Papers: Core papers are at least 5 pages and explore a topic introduced in class. You will use what you have learned in class and scholarly references to strengthen your views and ideas on the topic. Make sure to cite all of your sources.
**Book Critiques & Quizzes:** You will write two book critiques on your choice of the four books listed above. A book critique is not the same as a book report. A book report tells the reader what was in the book, a critique judges whether the book accurately reflects the times it is reporting about. The papers should be approximately five pages. The book quizzes will be on the other two books you did not write book critiques on. They will be short multiple-choice quizzes just to test your understanding and recall of the books. For the first critique and quiz you will need to decide between *Soul on Ice* and *The Armies of the Night* for which one you want to write about and which you want to be quizzed on. The second critique and quiz at the end of the semester will be for *Revolution for the Hell of It* and *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*.

**Molly Pitcher:** This purpose of this assignment is to learn about the life and influence of Molly Pitcher. It is also to see discrepancies in information between different sources. Different primary and secondary sources will give you varying information and it is your job to see what the discrepancies are. This will help your judgement skills of if information is correct and how reliable a source is.

**Cultural Biography:** This will be a five minute presentation on a specific topic or person from the 1960s that was impactful on the culture of the time. The presentation will be in front of the class and you can use media if you like. The purpose of the project is to explain why your topic portrays the spirit, politics, and tensions of the times.

**Music Presentation:** Each student will pick a song or artist that is representative of the 1960s. They will present to the class about the message and influence of the music. A list of some suggested songs will be emailed to you and there are also some suggestions on NYU Classes in the Resources folder under 60s Resources. Each student will get assigned a different week to present at the beginning of class.

**Group Projects:** The class will be split into three groups that you will present all three of the group projects will. These presentations can be given on PowerPoint, Prezi, or any other program. Be creative! Try not to just have blocks of text on your slides and don’t just read from the slides.

**Grading:** Your final grade will be based on many factors including the written work, group work, reaction papers, class discussion, and oral reports. The term “final grade” is an oxymoron to the education process which is all about growth. In a world that I would prefer, you would be assessed in a different way. The goal for this is to learn, create a community with your fellow classmates, and be confident presenting your ideas. A good life is more important than a grade point average. The following is a rough and not exact guideline of how your efforts will be graded in this course:

- Participation 10% (Music Presentation and Cultural Biography)
- Core Papers 10% each (3 total)
- Reaction Papers 5% each (6 total)
- Group Presentations 10% each (3 total)

Concerning late assignments, they are unacceptable except in the case of an emergency. You can ask for one extension if you are really struggling with an assignment, as long as you email us prior to the deadline.
**Academic Integrity:** All students are responsible for understanding and abiding to the NYU College of Arts and Sciences Statement on Academic Integrity. Here is a link to that statement: [https://cas.nyu.edu/content/nyu-as/cas/ewp/writing-resources/statement-on-academic-integrity.html](https://cas.nyu.edu/content/nyu-as/cas/ewp/writing-resources/statement-on-academic-integrity.html). Academic dishonesty and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course.

**Disability Disclosure Statement:** Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. The Moses Center website is [www.nyu.edu/csd](http://www.nyu.edu/csd). Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

**Class & Assignment Schedule**

**Week 1 - September 3:** Course Introduction  
**Class:**  
- Nature of course  
- NYU Classes  
- Tour of Village  
**Assignments:**  
- Reaction Paper #1 (due 9/7)  
- Read American Decades (due 9/10)

**Week 2 - September 10:** Education  
**Class:**  
- Lecture on reference materials  
- Educational Views of the 1960’s  
- Tour: University Archives; Tamiment  
- Discussion: Reaction Paper #1 and American Decades reading  
**Assignments:** Reaction Paper #2 (due 9/21)

**Week 3 - September 17:** Civil Rights  
**Class:**  
- Film: *No Easy Walk*  
- Educational Views of the 1960’s  
- Class breaks into 3 groups for future projects  
**Assignments:**  
- Reaction Paper #2 (due 9/21)  
- Read Civil Rights articles (due 9/24)  
- Group 1 Project #1 on Civil Rights in *No Easy Walk* (due 9/24)  
- Group 2 Project #1 on Civil Rights in *Mississippi* (due 10/1)  
- Group 3 Project #1 on Civil Rights in *Bridge to Freedom* (due 10/1)  
- Optional to watch movie *Mississippi* (due 10/1), would be helpful for Group 2

**Week 4 - September 24:** Biographies  
**Class:**  
- Lecture on biographies  
- Film: *Bridge to Freedom*  
- Discussion: Reaction Paper #2  
- Group 1’s Presentation on Civil Rights in *No Easy Walk*  
**Assignments:**  
- Reaction Paper #3 (due 10/5)  
- Group 2 Project 1 on Civil Rights in *Mississippi* (due 10/1)  
- Group 3 Project 1 on Civil Rights in *Bridge to Freedom* (due 10/1)  
- Optional to watch movie *Mississippi* (due 10/1), would be helpful for Group 2
Week 5 - October 1: The Fight for Freedom
Class: -Film: San Francisco State
-Group 2’s Presentation on Civil Rights in Mississippi
-Group 3’s Presentations on Civil Rights in Bridge to Freedom
-Discussion: Oral report from your seat on research methods you are using to write your Core #1 Paper
Assignments: -Reaction Paper #3 (due 10/5)
-Forward Paper #1 (due 10/8)

Week 6 - October 8: Different Approaches to Education
Class: -Lecture on styles of teaching and education
-Film: Breaking Boundaries
-Discussion: Reaction Paper #3 & Core #1
Assignments: -Book Critique #1 (due 10/22) on either Soul on Ice or The Armies of the Night
-Book Quiz #1 (due 10/22) on whichever book you did not write your critique, either Soul on Ice or Armies of the Night
-Reaction Paper #4 (due 10/26)

*NO CLASS ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15 BECAUSE OF MONDAY SCHEDULE*

Week 7 - October 22: Critical Thinking
Class: -Film: Kent State
-Lecture: Critical Thinking
-Book Quiz #1
-Discussion: Book Critique #1
Assignments: -Reaction Paper #4 (due 10/26)
-Molly Pitcher Assignment (due 10/29)

Week 8 - October 29: Free Speech
Class: -Film: Kent State #2
-Discussion: Reaction Paper #4 & Molly Pitcher Assignment
Assignments: Group Project #2 (due 11/5)
 Group 1: SDS
 Group 2: Black Panthers/Weathermen
 Group 3: Yippies

Week 9 - November 5: Kent State Tragedy
Class: -Film: Kent State #3
-Film: The Weather Underground
-Group Presentations of Project #2
Assignments: -Readings from Radical Left (due 11/12)
-Reaction Paper #5 (due 11/16)
-Core Paper #2 (due 11/19)
-Watch Rebels with a Cause (due 11/19)
Week 10 - November 12: The Young People’s Perspective
Class: -Film: *In a Dark Time*
-Film: *Letter to the Next Generation*
-Discussion: Kent State
-Brief progress reports on Radical Groups from Groups 1-3
-Discussion: Readings from *Radical Left*
Assignments: -Reaction Paper #5 (due 11/16)
-Core Paper #2 (due 11/19)
-Watch *Rebels with a Cause* (due 11/19)

Week 11 - November 19: 60s Trends
Class: -Film: *Young Blood*
-Discussion: Popular culture
-Discussion: Reaction Paper #5 & Core Paper #2
Assignments: -Cultural Biography (due 11/26)

Week 12 - November 26: College Life
Class: -Discussion: University culture
-Presentations of Cultural Biographies
Assignments: -Book Critique #2 (due 12/3) on *Revolution for the Hell of It* or *The Electric Kool Aid Test*
-Book Quiz #2 (due 12/3) on whichever book you did not write your critique, either *Revolution for the Hell of It* or *The Electric Kool-Aid Test*
-Reaction Paper #6 (due 12/7)

*THANKSGIVING BREAK FROM NOVEMBER 27-29TH*

Week 13 - December 3: Protesting
Class: -Film: *Abbie*
-Film: *Inciting to Riot*
-Book Quiz #2
-Discussion: Book Critique #2
Assignments: -Reaction Paper #6 (due 12/7)
-Core Paper #3 (due 12/10)
-Group Project #3 on Dissent, 30 minutes for each group (due 12/10)

Week 14 - December 10: Course Conclusion
Class: -Wrap-up and maybe eat wraps
-Group Project #3 Presentations on Dissent, 30 minutes for each group
-Dress in 60’s clothing
-Discussion: Core Paper #3
-Discussion: Reaction Paper #6