HIST 376: The United States since 1945

Grant Madsen
2145 JFSB
gmadsen@byu.edu

Office Hours: Wed 10-Noon (or by appt)

Course Description
This course explores the politics, social movements, economics, culture and foreign policy of the U.S. since 1945. Thematically, it considers the challenges that resulted from America’s postwar role of leader of the free world and exemplar of a free, democratic society. In particular, we will examine the meaning of “free and democratic” within the two significant political ideologies of the postwar years: liberalism and conservatism. As a result, some of the readings are particularly challenging and demand a high level of intellectual engagement.

Outcomes:
In taking this course you should be able to:

• explain and analyze the major political, social, diplomatic, economic, cultural, and constitutional developments in U.S. history from 1945 to the present.
• analyze, interpret, and debate the meanings and historical significance of primary source documents.
• produce an original, analytical, and primary source based historical essay examining a key issue, theme, or individual from U.S. history since 1945.

Texts
• James T. Patterson, Grand Expectations, (Oxford: 1996)
• Robert Griffith and Paula Baker, eds., Major Problems in American History Since 1945 (Wadsworth)
• Articles and excerpts found on blackboard.byu.edu

Grading
20% 8 20-question online “Flash Quizzes” about the weekly reading. These will be administered on Blackboard, they are timed (but should be easy if you’ve done the reading) and are due by the time of class.
50% 10 Page Paper. For this paper you need to find one or several related primary documents, use the document(s) to offer an historical argument, while using course readings to contextualize the document(s). You should discuss your choice of document(s) with me by the end of October.
30% Final exam in the testing center
University Policies

BYU Honor Code
In keeping with the principles of the BYU Honor Code, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. Academic honesty means, most fundamentally, that any work you present as your own must in fact be your own work and not that of another. Violations of this principle may result in a failing grade in the course and additional disciplinary action by the university. Students are also expected to adhere to the Dress and Grooming Standards. Adherence demonstrates respect for yourself and others and ensures an effective learning and working environment. It is the university’s expectation, and my own expectation in class, that each student will abide by all Honor Code standards. Please call the Honor Code Office at 422-2847 if you have questions about those standards.

Preventing Sexual Discrimination and Harassment
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU’s policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university, but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Students with Disabilities
Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified, documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the SSD Office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures by contacting the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-285 ASB.

Plagiarism Policy
Writing submitted for credit at BYU must consist of the student’s own ideas presented in sentences and paragraphs of his or her own construction. The work of other writers or speakers may be included when appropriate (as in a research paper or book review), but such material must support the student’s own work (not substitute for it) and must be clearly identified by appropriate introduction and punctuation and by footnoting or other standard referencing.
Week 1  Aug 30: Intro and Lecture: Why 1945?

Sep 1: The Manifestos of 20th Century Politics
• John Dewey “History of Liberalism,” (Blackboard)
• Selection from Fredric Hayek, The Road to Serfdom (Blackboard)

Week 2  Sep 6: Origins of the Cold War
• Grand Expectations, Chaps 4 and 5 (82-136)

Flash Quiz #1

Sep 8: Korean War and NSC 68
• “George F. Kennan’s ‘Long Telegram,’ 1946” and “Soviet Ambassador Nikolai Novikov Reports on the U.S. Drive for World Supremecy, September 1946” Major Problems (39-46)
• Selections from NSC 68, (Blackboard)
[Optional Reading: Grand Expectations Chap 8 (207-242)]

Week 3  Sep 13: Truman Agonistes
• Grand Expectations, Chaps 2 and 6 (39-60; 137-164)

Flash Quiz #2

Sep 15: “1948: The Last Year of the 1930s”
• Grand Expectation, Chap 7 (165-205)
• “Senator Joseph McCarthy Charges the Democrats Are ‘Soft on Communism,’” Major Problems (49-51)

Week 4  Sep 20: Eisenhower Election
• Grand Expectations Chap 9 (243-275)

Sep 22: The Affluent Society
• Major Problems (82-124)

Week 5  Sept 27: Normalizing the Cold War
• Grand Expectations Chaps 10 & 14 (276-310; 407-441)

Sep 29: Liberal Consensus and Dissent
• Selection from Louis Hartz, Liberal Tradition in America (Blackboard)
• Selection from David Riesman The Lonely Crowd (Blackboard)

Flash Quiz #3

Week 6  Oct 4: Launching the Civil Rights Movement
• Brown v. Board of Education (Blackboard)
• Grand Expectations Chap 13 (375-406)
Oct 6: Civil Rights Abroad
  • Selection from Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights* (Blackboard)

Week 7  Oct 11: A “New Frontier”
  • *Grand Expectations* Chap 16 (458-487)
  • “Franklin McCain Remembers the First Sit-Ins, 1960” and “Martin Luther King Jr., ‘I Have a Dream,’” *Major Problems* (180-185)

Oct 13: The New Left
  • Port Huron Statement
  • Selection from Herbert Marcuse *One-Dimensional Man* (Blackboard)

Flash Quiz #4

Week 8  Oct 18: Lyndon Johnson and the Great Society
*Grand Expectations* Chaps 18 & 19 (524-592)

Oct 20: From Cuba to Vietnam
*Grand Expectations* Chap 17 (486-523)
“President Dwight D. Eisenhower Explains the Domino Theory, 1954” *Major Problems* (327)

Week 9  Oct 25: Vietnam as War and Wedge
  • *Grand Expectations* Chaps 20, 22 (593-636; 678-709)
  • “The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, 1964” *Major Problems* (331)

Flash Quiz #5

Oct 27: War at Home
  • *Major Problems* (250-278)

DISCUSS YOUR PAPER TOPIC WITH ME NO LATER THAN OCT 29

Week 10  Nov 1: Nixon
  • *Grand Expectations* Chap 24-25 (743-790)

Flash Quiz #6

Nov 3: The Politics of Gender
  • *Major Problems* (281-321)

Week 11  Nov 8: The Collapse of Liberalism
  • *Time*, “The American Underclass” Aug, 1977 (Blackboard)
  • “Chapter 12: A Crisis of Confidence” *It Seemed Like Nothing Happened* (Blackboard)
  • “President Jimmy Carter and the Crisis of American Spirit, 1979” *Major Problems* (353ff)

Flash Quiz #7
Nov 10: Rise of Reagan
  - “1980 Cleveland,” *Morning in America* (24-50)

Week 12
Nov 15: Reaganomics
  - “1984 Los Angeles” and “1986 Wall Street” *Morning in America* (147-174; 204-234)

Nov 17: Culture Wars

Week 13
Nov 22: The End of the Cold War
  - “1987 Mourning in America” *Morning in America* (235-264)

**DUE: NOV 23: 10-PAGE PAPER**

Nov 24: THANKSGIVING

Week 14
Nov 29: A New World Order?

**Flash Quiz #8**

Dec 1: The “New Economy”
  - *Major Problems* (395-433)

Week 15
Dec 6: A “Postmodern” World?
  - *Major Problems* (471-507)

Dec 8: Into the next Millennium…

**FINAL: IN THE TESTING CENTER, DECEMBER 12-14**