

*Lecture Syllabus***AMERICA IN THE SIXTIES: POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND CULTURE, 1954-1974**

Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:45

De Neve P350

*Course Description*

This class is an interdisciplinary exploration of a significant “decade” in American life, from *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) to the resignation of Richard M. Nixon (1974). The goal of the course is to help incoming first year students develop a fair-minded perspective on the American “60s” as well as a sense of that decade’s role in producing the political and cultural orders in which they live today. In the process of becoming familiar with this turbulent period in American history, students will also be introduced to the basic methodologies and subject matter of political science, literature, television, and music.

*Instructors*

**Dr. Jeff Decker** (coordinator), English, [jdecker@ucla.edu](mailto:jdecker@ucla.edu)  
208 Humanities Building, x54174

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 8-9am

**Dr. Joel Aberbach**, Political Science, [aberbach@polisci.ucla.edu](mailto:aberbach@polisci.ucla.edu)  
2133 Rolfe Hall, x63109

Office Hours: Monday, 4-5pm

**Dr. Robert Fink**, Musicology, [rfink@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:rfink@humnet.ucla.edu)  
2445 Schoenberg Music Building, x67549

Office Hours: Thursday, 4-6pm

**Mr. Ajax Peris**, Political Science, [ajaxperis@ucla.edu](mailto:ajaxperis@ucla.edu)  
3244 Bunche Hall

Office Hours: Tuesday, 1-2pm and Wednesday, 11am-12pm

*Teaching Assistants*

**Travis Baker**, Political Science, [travisbaker17@gmail.com](mailto:travisbaker17@gmail.com)  
3288 Bunche Hall

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 1-2pm

**Benjamin Beck**, English, [benbeck@g.ucla.edu](mailto:benbeck@g.ucla.edu)  
A86 Humanities Building

Office Hours: Thursday, 12-2pm

**Wade Dean**, Musicology, [wadefulton@ucla.edu](mailto:wadefulton@ucla.edu)  
A67 Humanities Building

Office Hours: Tuesday, 1-3pm

**Angie Gutierrez**, Political Science, [aegutierrez@ucla.edu](mailto:aegutierrez@ucla.edu)  
3288 Bunche Hall

Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm

**Helen Rowe**, Musicology, [hrowe@ucla.edu](mailto:hrowe@ucla.edu)  
Jacaranda Room – De Neve

Office Hours: Wednesday, 9-11am

**Thomas Sherrer**, Political Science, thomassherrer@gmail.com  
Jacaranda Room – De Neve  
Office Hours: Tuesday, 11-12pm and Friday, 2-3pm

***Inquiry Specialist***

**Gavin Jackson**, gavinjackson@g.ucla.edu  
238 Powell (College Library)  
Office Hours: Wednesday, 10-11am

**Lecture Attendance and Classroom Protocol**

*Attendance:* Lectures are mandatory and last 75 minutes. Attendance may be taken at the beginning or end of class at the discretion of the faculty.

*Entering/Exiting the Classroom:* Plan to arrive by 9:30 AM and stay until 10:45 AM. Do not begin packing your bags to leave before the lecture is finished. If you must leave lecture early, sit near the center aisle in the back two rows of the auditorium and exit as quietly as possible.

*Seating:* Sit toward the front and the center of the auditorium; do not sit along the outside edge or in the back corners of the room.

*Disruptive Behavior (including cell phone and laptop use):* Do not read newspapers or magazines, chat with your neighbor or nap. Turn off any cellular phones or pagers. You are welcome to bring a laptop computer to lecture but it should be used only for taking notes (no official lecture notes will be available) or searching the official course website (<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/classes/cluster60/>). Do not use your computer to check email or surf the web – even for course related materials outside the course website (the latter can be done before or after class). During lecture, give your full attention to the instructor.

*Penalties:* Faculty and TAs will monitor student behavior during lecture. A student who fails to adhere to classroom etiquette will be given a warning; additional infractions will result in a lowering of the student's final grade by one-third of a grade (from B+ to B, for example).

**Requirements and Grading**

Section participation (**20%**) – includes work on 2 Reading Forms as well as attendance  
Midterm Exam (**20%**)

Literature Paper (**30%**)– includes work on Edit Guides

Political Science Paper (**30%**)

It is possible to receive a zero (out of one hundred) in any of these categories, which would do serious damage to your overall grade. You also need to complete all written assignments to pass the course. No Incompletes will be given except under extraordinary circumstances. The grading will be done by the TA, under the supervision of the faculty.

Paper topics will be explained in your discussion sections. The essays should conform to the academic conventions stipulated by the paper topic, and must be scrupulous and thorough in documenting all sources: any persons or writings from which you have derived any of your ideas, sources, or wordings. Papers will be penalized one-third of a

grade (B+ to B, for example) for each day of lateness with the exception of the Peer Review Workshop Draft (which must be completed on time). No papers will be accepted more than one week late. Papers may *not* be submitted by e-mail.

The Midterm Exam will be held during lecture on Thursday, October 27, in De Neve P350 from 9:30-10:45 AM.

All writing assignments and activities are due in section unless otherwise noted in the calendar.

Any cheating or plagiarism will be dealt with mercilessly. As mandated by the university, all suspected cases are automatically forwarded to the Dean of Students. If the dean determines that cheating or plagiarism has occurred, you will automatically receive a zero (out of one hundred) for that assignment with no opportunity to improve the grade.

### ***Course Web***

Access the Sixties cluster course web site at  
<https://moodle2.ssnnet.ucla.edu/course/view/2016-17-GECLST60-1>  
 Bruin OnLine (BOL) accounts are available at  
<https://www.it.ucla.edu/bol>

***Required Books*** – available from ASUCLA textbook store  
 David Farber, The Age of Great Dreams: America in the 1960s  
 Philip K. Dick, Time Out of Joint  
 Alice Walker, Meridian  
 Diana Hacker, A Writer's Reference [8<sup>th</sup> Edition]

***Course Reader (CR)*** – available from Westwood Copies (1001 Gayley Ave.);  
 phone: 310-208-3233.  
 (A copy of the course reader will be placed on reserve at the College Library.)

### ***Evening Screenings***

Movie screenings are typically scheduled on Monday or Wednesday evenings at 7 PM in De Neve Auditorium unless otherwise noted. Attendance at evening screenings is required. If you miss a screening you must complete a make-up assignment (to be determined by your TA). Movies are on reserve at the Media Lab (Powell 270).

### ***Calendar***

#### **POST-WWII AMERICA**

**9/22.**

*Topic:* Star-Spangled Banner

*Reading:* Farber, The Age of Great Dreams, pp. 3-24

Week 1

**9/27.**

*Topic:* Decoding Ads and Politics (Decker and Peris)

*Reading:* Kathleen Hall Jamieson, “Roadsides to Broadcasts” and “1952: The Election of a Popular Hero” (CR)

**9/28.** (Wednesday)

*Screening* (7pm): Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (dir. Stanley Kubrick, 1964) 90 min.  
excerpts from Father Knows Best (1956)

**9/29.**

*Topic:* McCarthyism and the Cold War (Decker and Peris)

*Reading:* Robert Goldston, “The Menace Finds Its Spokesman,” “The Senator Becomes and Ism” and “The Climate of Fear” (CR)

*Screening* (in-class): excerpts from Edward R. Murrow Collection

Week 2

**10/4.**

*Topic:* Paranoia (Decker)

*Reading:* Dick, Time Out of Joint

**10/6.**

*Topic:* Hip vs. Square: Counter Culture in the Era of Conformity (Fink)

*Reading:* John Leland, “Introduction” and “The Golden Age of Hip, Part 1” (CR)  
John Rockwell, “from Sinatra: An American Classic” (CR)  
LeRoi Jones (Amiri Baraka), from Blues People (CR)

#### CIVIL RIGHTS AND MUSIC

Week 3

**10/11.**

*Topic:* Civil Rights Movement (Peris)

*Reading:* Gary Jacobson and Sam Kernell, selections from The Logic of American Politics (CR)  
Farber, The Age of Great Dreams, pp. 67-89

*Recommended Reading:* Sara Evans, “Going South” and “Black Power – Catalyst for Feminism” (**ONLINE** – links webpage)

**10/13.**

*Topic:* Black and Women’s Liberation (Decker)

*Reading:* Walker, Meridian

*Screening* (in-class): excerpts from Eyes on the Prize (“Mississippi: Is this America?” (1962-1964))

Week 4

**10/18.**

*Topic:* Folk Music (Fink)

*Reading:* Dave Van Ronk, “Folk Roots and Libertarian Anarchy” and “Washington Square and Beyond” (CR)

**10/20.**

*Topic:* “Let’s Boogie”: Rhythm & Blues and the Rise of Rock’N’Roll (Fink)

*Reading:* Charlie Gillett, “Five Styles of Rock and Roll” (CR)

Brian Ward, “‘I hear you knocking...’: From R&B to Rock and Roll” and “‘Too Much Monkey Business’: Race, Rock and Resistance” (CR)

Week 5

**10/24.** (Monday)

*Screening* (7pm): The Graduate (dir. Mike Nichols, 1967) 105 min.

**10/25.**

*Topic:* Midterm Review (panel discussion)

*Reading:* Farber, The Age of Great Dreams, pp. 25-66

**10/27.**

**Midterm Exam**

#### NEW FRONTIER AND GREAT SOCIETY

Week 6

**11/1.**

*Topic:* JFK and the New Frontier (Peris)

*Reading:* Paul F. Boller, Jr. “1960: Kennedy and the New Frontier” (CR)

E.E. Schattschneider, “The Contagiousness of Conflict,” “Whose Game Do We Play?” and “The Semisovereign People” (CR)

**11/3.**

*Topic:* LBJ and the Great Society (Aberbach)

*Reading:* Theodore H. White, “Barry Goldwater’s Convention” and “Barry Goldwater’s Campaign” (CR)

James L. Sundquist, “From Gloom to Euphoria” and “Ideas and Laws” (CR)

Farber, The Age of Great Dreams, pp. 90-116

Week 7

**11/8.**

*Topic:* A Whiter Shade of Black: Racial Politics in Trans-Atlantic Popular Music, 1964-1968 (Fink)

*Reading:* Jon Landau, “A Whiter Shade of Black” (CR)

Albert Goldman, “The Emergence of Rock” and “Why Do Whites Sing Black?” (CR)

Suzanne Smith, “The Origins of the Motown Sound” and “The Many Meanings of the Motown Sound” (CR)

**11/10.**

*Topic:* Social Science Inquiry in Practice (Peris)

*Reading:* Earl Babbie, “Human Inquiry and Science” (CR)

Farber, The Age of Great Dreams, pp. 190-211

#### SOCAL, URBAN UNREST, BLACK POWER

Week 8

**11/15.**

*Topic:* Social Science, Protest and Violence (Aberbach)

*Reading:* Stokely Carmichael and Charles V. Hamilton, “Black Power: Its Needs and Substance” and “The Myths of Coalition” (CR)

**11/17.**

*Topic:* Black Power and the Detroit Riots (Aberbach)

*Reading:* Bayard Rustin, “‘Black Power’ and Coalition Politics” (CR)

David Danzig, “In Defense of ‘Black Power’” (CR)

Week 9

**11/22.**

*Topic:* Watts Riots and Local TV News (Decker)

*Reading:* Thomas Pynchon, “A Journey Into the Mind of Watts” (CR)

*Screening (in-class):* excerpts from The Big News (KNXT-TV, 8/13/65)

**11/24. Thanksgiving Holiday**

Week 10

**11/29.**

*Topic:* Funk-Soul Music and Black Power (Fink)

*Reading:* Brian Ward, “‘Tell it like it is’: Soul, Funk, and Sexual Politics in the Black Power Era” and “‘Get up, get into it, get Involved’: Black Music, Black Protest, and the Black Power Movement” (CR)

David Brackett, “The Discursive Space of Black Music” (CR)

Albert Goldman, “James Brown = Black Power” (CR)

**12/1.**

*Topic:* End of Quarter Review (panel discussion)

*Reading:* Farber, The Age of Great Dreams, pp. 117-137, 167-189

*Screening* (in-class): excerpts from Berkeley in the Sixties