

**HIST 3770: Contemporary America, 1945-Present**  
**Professor Victoria Grieve**  
**FALL 2008, MWF 1:30-2:20pm**

**Classroom:** AGSC 338  
**Office Location:** Main 323  
**Office Hours:** MWF 11:45-12:30pm or by appointment  
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NOTE: This syllabus is subject to changes and/or additions at the discretion of the professor.

**Course Description:** This course is designed for History majors. It offers students the opportunity to apply knowledge from survey classes and to hone their skills as historians. This course emphasizes critical reading, historical research, and writing skills in relation to a specific historical topic: Modern America (1945-present). This course will focus on the political and cultural history of the post-World War Two era, including the aftermath of the war, the rise of the cold war, anti-Communism, civil rights movements, the Vietnam War, the New Left, the counterculture, feminism, and the rise of conservatism. The lectures will provide a variety of critical perspectives on these movements and events. Students will read both primary sources and scholarly studies, write two primary source analysis papers, take a midterm exam, and write a research paper on the topic of their choice. The end result of the course is a well-researched, well-written, conceptually sound, and scholarly paper, which indicates that you are learning the skills of a historian. Plagiarism will be rewarded with an F in the class. See the USU catalogue for the university's statement on cheating and plagiarism.

**Course Objectives:**

<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
Learn the themes and events of American history from 1945 to the present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend class for lectures</li> <li>• Read required texts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodic quizzes</li> <li>• Midterm exam</li> </ul>
Learn the basic methods, skills, and tools of historical research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze primary sources</li> <li>• Visit NEHMA</li> <li>• Examine the historiography of particular issue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary source analysis paper</li> <li>• Exhibit review</li> <li>• Write 12-15pg research paper based on primary sources</li> </ul>

**Required Readings (Available in the Bookstore):**

Gillon, Steven M. *The American Paradox: A History of the United States Since 1945*. Houghton Mifflin, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2007. ISBN 978-0-618-66086-5.

Griffith, Robert and Baker, Paula, eds. *Major Problems in American History Since 1945*. Houghton Mifflin, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2007. ISBN 978-0-618-55006-7.

**\*\*If you buy the books online, make sure you get the correct edition!**

### **Early Alert Program**

USU has developed a new Early Alert program to assist students who are having difficulties in their classes. I have agreed to participate in this program and to submit the names and A numbers of all students who score less than 70 percent on the first exam, but names will also be referred in cases of frequent absence or lateness, or poor paper scores, language skills, and/or writing ability. This is an excellent program designed to assist students in academic success. How it works: My referrals will be reported to the Retention and First-Year Experience Office. Within 24 hours, a representative of the office will contact the student, and offer a meeting to discuss concerns and to suggest appropriate campus resources for the student's needs. The Retention/FYE Office will conduct ongoing assessment to evaluate student achievement.

### **Disability Resource Center**

Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), which will issue a verification letter. DRC is located in University Inn 101, and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mon-Fri; 797-2444.

### **The Research Paper:**

As stated on page one, research papers for this course will focus on an issue of your choosing (from a list provided) pertaining to modern America (1945-present). You will examine a body of primary sources on a given topic in USU Special Collections and relate that topic to issues we have covered in class. Further information and topics will be provided in class.

You will work toward this final goal in stages:

Stage One: approval of a topic (due September 29)

Stage Two: completion of a rough draft (due Nov. 17); 4-5 pgs

Stage Three: completion of the final paper (due Dec. 8); 8-10 pgs

Paper Topic – Write a short (500 words), clear, and concise introduction to the topic of your paper; be as specific as possible. Use formal language, i.e. do not use first person. What issue/s will you research? What are your main research question/s? What sources (primary and secondary) have you already identified?

The final copy of your paper must adhere to the Chicago Manual of Style, and must be in Word format using 12-point font with one inch margins on all sides, double-spaced, pages numbered, no plastic covers or holders, paper-clipped; 8-10 pages of text plus 1-2 pages of endnotes and 1-page bibliography.

**A copy of your paper is due to the History Dept. by 1:30pm on Monday, Dec. 8.** I will impose a penalty of one letter grade per day on late papers. I will not accept any papers after 4pm on Wednesday, December 10.

NOTE: ANY evidence of plagiarism, will be grounds for automatic failure in the course.

Familiarize yourself with the definition, policies, and penalties regarding plagiarism at:

<http://www.usu.edu/policies/PDF/Acad-Integrity.pdf>

See the helpful tutorial at: <http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/>

ANOTHER NOTE: Throughout the semester, as your paper achieves various stages of completion, make back-up copies of your files. On the day your paper is due, a system crash or lost disk or any other technological failure will not be an acceptable excuse for late submissions. No excuses!

Evaluation of the final paper:

- 1.) Opening paragraphs – strong, clear, precise statement of thesis; clear preview of the body of the paper
- 2.) Main argument – well organized, coherent, logical sequence of points, plausible interpretation of sources, reasonable claims
- 3.) Citations – proper use and format
- 4.) Mechanics – spelling, punctuation, grammar, sentence and paragraph structure


**Components of the Course Grade:**


Your final grade will be based on Professor Grieve’s evaluation of:

- Attendance and class participation – 10 points
- Primary Source Analysis paper – 10 points
- Museum Exhibition Review/Object Analysis – 10 points
- Midterm Exam – 20 points
- Components and Draft of Research paper – 15 points
- Peer reviewer comments – 10 points
- Research paper – 25 points

**Class Schedule:**

Aug. 25 Course Introduction  The Legacies of WWII	Aug. 27 The Origins of the Cold War  Reading: Gillon, p. 7-27	Aug. 29 The Cold War at Home: Truman and McCarthy  Reading: Gillon, p. 30-44
Sept. 1 Labor Day - No Class	Sept. 3 Analyzing Primary Sources	Sept. 5 The Cold War Heats Up  Reading: Gillon, p. 46-68
Sept. 8 Class Discussion <i>Major Problems</i> , Ch. 2	Sept. 10 Conformity & Consumer Society, 1945-1960  Reading: Gillon, p. 70-93	<b>Sept. 12</b> Popular Culture and Dissent – The Beats, James Dean, and Elvis  <b>Primary Source Analysis Paper Due</b>
Sept. 15 Class Discussion <i>Major Problems</i> , Ch. 3	Sept. 17 Postwar American Art/Using Visual Sources for Historical Analysis	Sept. 19 Visit to Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art
Sept. 22 Writing a Research Paper	<b>Sept. 24</b> The Civil Rights Movement Before Brown	Sept. 26 The Mass Movement Gains Momentum  Reading: Gillon, p. 114-137

	<b>Museum Object Review Paper Due</b>	
<b>Sept. 29</b> Civil Rights, Political Rights, and the Constitution  <b>Paper Topic Due</b>	Oct. 1 JFK in the White House  Reading: Gillon, p. 139-155	Oct. 3 JFK, Cuba, and the Cold War  Reading: <i>Major Problems</i> , Ch. 4
Oct. 6 Black Power and Black Nationalism	Oct. 8 Red Power and Brown Power  Class Discussion <i>Major Problems</i> , Ch. 5	<b>Oct. 10 MIDTERM EXAM</b>  Gillon, Ch. 1-7 Major Problems, Ch. 1-5
Oct. 13 LBJ's Great Society	Oct. 15 Politics of Liberal Reform Reading: Gillon, p. 158-187	<b>THURSDAY Oct. 16</b> Vietnam – America Enters the Quagmire
Oct. 20 The War at Home Reading: Gillon, p. 191-214	Oct. 22 The New Radicalism: Politics and Culture in the 1960s Reading: Gillon, p. 245-272	Oct. 24 The Conservative 60s?
Oct. 27 From The Feminine Mystique to <i>Roe v. Wade</i>	Oct. 29 Class Discussion <i>Major Problems</i> , Selected Documents, Ch. 7-8	<b>Oct. 31</b> Nixon and the New Republican Majority <b>Peer Reviewer Assignment</b>
Nov. 3 Nixon and Vietnamization Reading: Gillon, p. 216-243	Nov. 5 Watergate and America's Crisis of Confidence	Nov. 7 Ford and Carter in the White House Reading: Gillon, p. 274-291
Nov. 10 The Reagan Revolution Reading: Gillon, p. 294-318	Nov. 12 Reagan and the End of the Cold War Reading: Gillon, 350-368	Nov. 14 The Modern "Culture Wars"
<b>Nov. 17</b> Class Discussion <i>Major Problems</i> , Selected Documents, Ch. 10 and Gillon, p. 320-334  <b>Paper Rough Draft Due</b>	Nov. 19 Immigration and Diversity Reading: <i>Major Problems</i> , Ch. 12	Nov. 21 The Clinton Years Reading: Gillon, 372-392
<b>Nov. 24</b> Politics and Culture in the Nineties <b>Peer Comments Due</b>	Nov. 26 Thanksgiving	Nov. 28 Thanksgiving 

<p>Dec. 1 9/11 and the New World Order Reading: Gillon, p. 424-434</p>	<p>Dec. 3 The War in Iraq and The Election of 2008</p>	<p><b>Dec. 5</b> <b>In-class peer review of paper</b> <b>Course Evaluations</b></p>
<p><b>Dec. 8</b> <b>PAPERS DUE!</b></p>	<p><i>Enjoy the Holidays!</i></p> 	<p><i>Grades will be posted 96 hours after the time scheduled for the final exam. Due to FERPA restrictions, I cannot email exam results or final grades. Thank you for not asking!</i></p>