HIS 305 Recent History of the United States
Winter Term – 2014
3 credits

Instructor:
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Course Description
Examine selected topics in U.S. history from the 1950’s to present. Student will gain a deeper understanding of Cold War culture, popular culture, gender roles, the modern civil rights movement(s) and other social movements. Particular attention is paid to domestic politics, from the rise of Lyndon B. Johnson’s “Great Society” to Ronald Reagan and the rise of the “New Right.” Students who complete this course also will gain a deeper understanding of the interplay of culture, politics, and society (and the analytical constructs of race, gender, and class), as they study the origins of issues relevant to contemporary society.

Intended Audience
HIS 305 fills a Doane Plan, Heritage Studies or Liberal Learning requirements

Text

Course Goals and Objectives
Upon completion of this course the student will:

- Analyze the major events, personalities, and trends in the history of the United States from the 1950’s to the present and relate them to current political and social issues.
- Evaluate the factors that gave rise to the civil rights movement and its subsequent impact on political and social issues.
- Understand the issues surrounding the rise of the United States as a world power and analyze this in terms of present day political movements and issues.

Course Structure
The course goals and objectives will accomplished through a variety of strategies. Class will consist of Lecture, Cooperative Learning, Discussion, Presentations, Reflection, and Application. There will be time for group work as well as individual. The class will be interactive and engaging with many opportunities for student input and participation. The class will be structured in chunks around specific learning segments. The foundational text for this
course will be **In Our Times: America Since World War II (7e)**. Other resources we will use, but are not limited to include film, online sources, speakers and other media as appropriate. Each class will examine differences of opinion and will consider diversity and change in historical thought. Illustrations will accompany lectures and discussions will be encouraged.

**Methods for Assessment of Student performance**
Student participation and interaction in the class will be a part of the final grade. Students are required to complete all assignments to meet the stated objectives of the course. Each assignment will correspond to one of the stated course goals and objectives. Students will be evaluated on: **class participation; written projects; class assignments; examination/quiz; presentations.**

**Writing Expectation**
All assignments must be keyboarded and grammatically correct. Topic research project should use APA style.

**Assignments and Projects**

a  Readings will be assigned to the class. Students will be expected to have read these and will be able to discuss the material.

b  Students will be responsible for group and individual presentations, as well as in class assignments

c  Two exams, short answer and multiple choice

**Attendance Policy**
Students are expected to attend all classes. Each student is responsible for all work missed, regardless of the reason for the absence. If there is going to be an absence the student is expected to contact the instructor prior to the absence. Since this course is taught once a week it is critical that students attend every class. It will be very difficult to make up a class that is missed. Absence from class may jeopardize a student’s understanding of the course and may result in a reduction of grade.

**Grades will be based on the following Grading Scale**

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<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>97% - 100%</td>
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<td>70% - 78%</td>
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Late Papers/Assignments
Late papers or assignments may be accepted but there will be a significant reduction in points corresponding to each day late, at the discretion of the instructor. Students are strongly encouraged NOT to turn in later assignments but to turn in all work on the due date.

Academic Integrity Policy
The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and tests will represent your own work. Any use of others’ ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies.

Class Schedule

Week #1
Text – Chapter One

The World’s Superpower – Collapse of the Old Order, Rise of the New; The Onset of the Cold War; Cold War Crisis; Shifts in Policy Making; A Foreign Policy Establishment

Week #2
Text – Chapter Two

Postwar Adjustments – The Reconversion from War to Peace; The Fair Deal; Anticommunism at Home; The Promise of Perils of Progress

Week #3
Text – Chapter 3

Eisenhower Republicanism – Domestic Politics; Republican Foreign Policies; The Third World and the Cold War

Week #4
Text Chapters 4 & 5

Life During the 1950’s – Gender and Family; Commercial Culture; Race, Ethnicity, and Urban Issues
The Promise and Perils of the 1960’s – The President we Hardly Knew; The Great Society; From Civil Rights to Black Power; Kennedy’s Foreign Policies; The Struggle in Vietnam; Fallout from the War

Week #5

Mid Term Exam #1 (chapters 1-5)

Text Chapter 6


Week #6

Text Chapters 7 & 8


Week #7

Text Chapters 9 & 10


New Democrats, A New Economy, and New Americans – Politics and Culture during the Clinton Presidency; The ‘New Economy’; Fashioning Post-Cold War Foreign Policy; New Americans; The Election and Early Presidency of George W. Bush

Week #8

Final Exam #2 (chapters 6-10)