HIS 305 Recent History of the United States
Autumn Term – 2012
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
Recent America: The United States Since 1945, 1/E, Irwin Unger, Pearson, 2002

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

- Understand and 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.
- Analyze the factors that gave rise to the Civil rights Movement and its subsequent impact on political and social issues.
- Evaluate and articulate 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 *Recent America: The United States Since 1945, 1/E*. 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 four 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**

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

- Students will be responsible for completing several ‘response to readings’ over the duration of the course. Written assignments should use APA style, 12 point font, double spaced, grammatically correct with proper use of citations and reference page. All written assignments will be graded using a rubric that will be given out the first day of class.

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

- 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.
Grading Scale
The following grading scale will be used:

97% - 100%: A+
94% - 96%: A-
90% - 93%: A
86% - 90%: B
79% - 85%: C
70% - 78%: D
0% - 69%: F

Late Papers/Assignments
Late papers or assignments will 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 – Chapters 1

The World’s Superpower – Postwar Adjustments – Eisenhower Republicanism –

Week #2
Text – Chapters 2

The Eisenhower Years

Week #3
Text – Chapter 3 & 4


Take Home Mid-Term Exam (chapters 1-4)
Week #4

Text – Chapters 5

Nixon and Watergate.

Week #5

Text – Chapter 6


Week #6

Text – Chapter 7

George H.W. Bush and the Gulf War.

Week #7

Text – Chapter 8

The 1990's.

Week #8

In class Final Exam