

Macalester College  
Peter Rachleff  
X 6371

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Old Main 316  
[rachleff@macalester.edu](mailto:rachleff@macalester.edu)

History 244-01  
The U.S Since 1945:  
The U.S. in the Vietnam War Era, 1954-1975  
Old Main 009 (class and films) T/Th 1:20 – 2:50PM

This is a course about “the long 1960s,” a period in which social movements confronting racism, sexism, inequality, and war interwove with new cultural formations. No sooner had the Keynesian state and its demand-driven economics taken hold in the post-World War II United States than a series of challenges arose – from a business leadership which was threatened by the new power of unions; a political establishment which was threatened by the power of the New Deal state and the left, particularly the Communist Party; African Americans and Latinos who were unwilling to sit by as the Keynesian tide lifted all boats but theirs; women who were unwilling to settle for second class citizenship, from the workplace to the political arena; and young people who were unwilling to serve as cannon fodder for yet more wars and who came to question the very culture of consumerism that was underpinned by Keynesianism’s demand-driven economics. At key moments, these currents intermingled, sometimes undercutting each other, sometimes inciting each other; sometimes they threatened to meld into a movement which challenged the direction of U.S. society from top to bottom and from the public sphere to the private sphere. These movements, their contexts, their roots, their courses, and their consequences, will be our focus in this course. My framework is deeply influenced by Raymond Williams, the late British cultural studies scholar, and his concept of “the structure of feeling.”

We will use a variety of readings and films, and we will listen to music and occasional speeches. There will be a film a week, scheduled for a group viewing on Tuesday evenings at 7PM, and then available for individual and small group check-out from the History office. Discussion of the films will be folded into our larger class conversations, so you will need to be responsible about watching them. You will also be asked to write about some of the films as well as to incorporate analysis of them into your papers. The reading load is substantial, but I am confident you will find it varied, challenging, and engaging. It is important that you come to class faithfully, and that you come prepared to discuss the reading assignment. I will lecture occasionally, particularly to set contexts, and we might, now and then, watch a film or listen to a recording in class. But, most of the time, our format will be discussion-driven, sometimes small groups, sometimes full-class. I will try to email possible discussion questions to you at least 24 hours ahead of a session, and I will welcome, even reward, your use of email to raise and argue issues in between class sessions. These communications will be via Macalester email, not Facebook, My Space, Twitter, Moodle, or any form of extrasensory perception, so please keep up with your emails. Your participation in class discussions will play a significant role in making this class a success, and I will evaluate your contributions accordingly. Your grade will also depend, of course, on writing assignments. I am spacing and

locating due dates for these assignments in relationship to class sessions, so I will expect papers when they are due. In emergencies, we can discuss extensions.

I expect that our conversations will touch upon such sensitive topics as race, racism, gender, sexism, sexuality, homophobia, and the like, and it will be important that we maintain a respectful, civil, and safe atmosphere in class and in movie-viewing. I expect you to provide not only an active and intelligent voice to our conversations, but also a thoughtful and empathic ear to your colleagues' voices. I expect us to create a body of knowledge and understanding this semester that is greater than the sum of its parts. We all must contribute to make this work.

The following books are available for purchase at the college bookstore. They should also be available on two hour reserve at the Library:

W.T. Lhamon, Jr., DELIBERATE SPEED: THE ORIGIN OF A CULTURAL STYLE  
IN THE 1950s  
Mary Dudziak, COLD WAR CIVIL RIGHTS: RACE AND THE IMAGE OF  
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY  
Young, THE VIETNAM WARS, 1945 - 1990  
Pekar and Buhle, SDS: A GRAPHIC HISTORY  
Evans, PERSONAL POLITICS: THE ROOTS OF WOMEN'S LIBERATION IN THE  
CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND THE NEW LEFT  
Cobble, THE OTHER WOMEN'S MOVEMENT: WORKPLACE JUSTICE AND  
SOCIAL RIGHTS IN MODERN AMERICA  
Maclean, FREEDOM IS NOT ENOUGH: THE OPENING OF THE AMERICAN  
WORKPLACE  
Young, SOUL POWER: CULTURE, RADICALISM, AND THE MAKING OF A  
THIRD WORLD LEFT  
Avila, POPULAR CULTURE IN THE AGE OF WHITE FLIGHT: FEAR AND  
FANTASY IN SUBURBAN LOS ANGELES

Daily syllabus  
(caution: subject to change)

- T 1/27 Introduction to the course. Discussion of January reading. Those included Betty Friedan, *THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE*; Howard Cruse, *STUCK RUBBER BABY*; David Hilliard, *THIS SIDE OF GLORY*; Clay Carson, ed., *THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.*; *THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X*; Jack Kerouac, *ON THE ROAD*; Mario Garcia, ed., *MEMORIES OF CHICANO HISTORY*; Carlos Bulosan, *AMERICA IS IN THE HEART*; Tim O'Brien, *THE THINGS THEY CARRIED*; Robin Morgan, *SISTERHOOD IS POWERFUL*
- T 1/27 7PM: Film: *Salt of the Earth*

### Setting the Stage: A New Cultural Formation

- Th 1/29 Post-War America: Politics, Economics, Social, & Cultural Structures  
Read: DELIBERATE SPEED, Preface and Preface 2002  
Sean Matthews, "The Structure of Feeling of Raymond Williams" (e)
- T 2/3 Blackness, Whiteness, and the Dynamics of Popular Culture  
Read: DELIBERATE SPEED, One, Two, and Three, pp. 1-97
- T 2/3 7PM: Film: *Hair Spray*
- Th 2/5 Visual Culture and Poplore  
Read: DELIBERATE SPEED, Four, pp. 98-135
- T 2/10 Towards an Oppositional Culture  
Read: DELIBERATE SPEED, Five and Six, pp. 136-252
- T 2/10 7PM: Film: *Scandalize My Name*

### Race, Civil Rights, and an Oppositional Culture

- Th 2/12 The Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement  
Read: COLD WAR CIVIL RIGHTS, Intro, 1 & 2, pp. 3-78
- T 2/17 Domestic and International Dimensions of Race and Racism  
Read: COLD WAR CIVIL RIGHTS, 3 & 4, pp. 79-151  
\*\*Hand out paper assignment: American Studies Conference
- T 2/17 7PM: Film: *Nothing But a Man*
- Th 2/19 Cultural Formations and Racial Formation  
Read: COLD WAR CIVIL RIGHTS, 5, 6 & Conclusion, pp. 152-254
- F 2/20 – Sat 2/21: American Studies Conference: "Whiteness in the Age of Obama"
- T 2/24 Whiteness and Blackness: Now and Then  
\*\*Papers on American Studies Conference due in class
- T 2/24 7PM: Film: *On the Waterfront*

### From Cold War to Hot War

- Th 2/26 US and Vietnam  
Read: THE VIETNAM WARS, One – Three, pp. 1-59  
\*\*Hand out paper assignment (student activism), due 3/13

- T 3/3 Getting in Deeper  
Read: THE VIETNAM WARS, Four – Nine, pp. 60-191
- T 3/3 7PM: Film: *Medium Cool*
- Th 3/5 The War at Home  
Read: THE VIETNAM WARS, Ten – Fifteen, pp. 192-330
- T 3/10 The Student Movement  
Read: SDS, Intro and Section I, pp. vii-53; selectively pp. 54-211
- T 3/10 7PM: Film: *Berkeley in the Sixties*
- Th 3/12 The Student Movement  
Discussion of films and readings
- F 3/13 Noon – papers due
- 3/14 – 3/22: SPRING BREAK  
Read: PERSONAL POLITICS

Women's Movement(s)

- T 3/24 From Civil Rights to Women's Rights, Anti-Racism to Anti-Sexism  
Read: PERSONAL POLITICS, 1-5, pp. 3-125
- T 3/24 7PM: Film: *Love Field*
- Th 3/26 Towards a Women's Movement  
Read: PERSONAL POLITICS, 6-9, pp. 126-232
- T 3/31 Gender & Class: Workers' Rights and Women's Rights  
Read: THE OTHER WOMEN'S MOVEMENT, Intro, One – Five, pp.1-144  
\*\*Hand out paper assignment (anti-racism and anti-sexism), due 4/13
- T 3/31 7PM: Film: *Norma Rae*
- Th 4/2 Towards a Labor Feminism  
Read: THE OTHER WOMEN'S MOVEMENT, Six – Eight & Epilogue,  
pp. 145-228

Class, Gender, Race, and Social Struggle

- T 4/7 Black Workers Challenge Racism at Work  
Read: FREEDOM IS NOT ENOUGH, Prologue, 1-3, pp. 1-116

- T 4/7 7PM: Film: *Finally Got the News*
- Th 4/9 Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Struggles in the Workplace  
Read: FREEDOM IS NOT ENOUGH, 4-5, pp. 117-184
- M 4/13 Noon: Paper due
- T 4/14 Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Struggles in the Workplace  
Read: FREEDOM IS NOT ENOUGH, 6-7, pp. 185-264  
\*\*Hand out paper assignment (films), due 4/27
- T 4/14 7PM: Film: *At the River I Stand*
- Th 4/16 Race, Culture, and Internationalism  
Read: SOUL POWER, Intro, 1-2, pp. 1-99
- T 4/21 Culture as Activism  
Read: SOUL POWER, 3-4, pp. 100-183
- T 4/21 7PM: Film: *Killer of Sheep*
- Th 4/23 Towards a New Representation  
Read: SOUL POWER, 5-6 and Coda, pp. 184-252
- M 4/27 Noon: Papers due
- Culture of Politics and Politics of Culture
- T 4/28 Race, Space, and the New Culture  
Read: POPULAR CULTURE IN THE AGE OF WHITE FLIGHT, 1-2,  
pp. 1-64  
\*\*Hand out final paper assignment, due 5/11
- T 4/28 7PM: Film: *A Huey P. Newton Story*
- Th 4/30 Who Controls Representation?  
Read: POPULAR CULTURE IN THE AGE, 3-4, pp. 65-144
- T 5/5 Reorganization of Space, Culture, and Politics  
Read: POPULAR CULTURE IN THE AGE, 5-6 & Epilogue, pp.145-242
- Th 5/7 TBA: Final discussion
- M 5/11 Noon: papers due