

Macalester College

Spring 2012

History 394-01: Minnesota History

C 05

M 1-4 PM

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This course is intended to provide advanced students with an opportunity to conduct primary research and write a substantial original paper. It can be valuable preparation for writing the senior capstone and/or an honors project, but it can also be an opportunity to produce a publishable piece of work. Our inspiration is the Minnesota Historical Society's new 1968 exhibit (in collaboration with historical societies from Oakland, Chicago, and Atlanta), which will provide us with a preliminary touchstone for our work. The parameters for our course will be "the long 1960s," roughly from the emergence of the civil rights movement in 1954 through the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Our readings will engage a range of key topics in this period, and students will be expected, with my help, to develop research projects in this period. The course will open with a series of secondary readings, and our meetings in the first half of the semester will largely explore these readings and the context they set for Minnesota events, activities, and experiences. During this first half of the semester, students will also begin to define their topics and identify their primary sources. During the second half of the semester, seminar meetings will be more flexible, and students will conduct their primary research, develop a thesis statement and an outline, submit an annotated bibliography, and produce the first draft of their paper. Grades will reflect participation in the seminar, the thesis statement, the outline, the annotated bibliography, the range of sources employed, and the quality of the first draft of the paper. Students will be welcome to produce a second/"final" draft of their paper over the summer, if they wish.

Reading list (available at the college bookstore):

David Halberstam, THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST

Shelton Stromquist, ed., LABOR'S COLD WAR: LOCAL POLITICS IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

Thomas Sugrue, SWEET LAND OF LIBERTY: THE FORGOTTEN STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE NORTH

Van Gosse, RETHINKING THE NEW LEFT: AN INTERPRETATIVE HISTORY

Matt Jacobsen, ROOTS TOO: WHITE ETHNIC REVIVAL IN POST-CIVIL RIGHTS AMERICA

Ruth Rosen, THE WORLD SPLIT OPEN: HOW THE MODERN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT CHANGED AMERICA

Weekly syllabus (subject to change)

M 1/23 organizational meeting

M 1/30 What was "new" about the "long 1960s"?

reading: Halberstam, THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST

T 2/1\*\* special session: We will meet at the Minnesota History Center at 6PM for a discussion with 1968 exhibit designer, Brian Horrigan, and director of research, Debbie Miller. We will also tour the exhibit.

M 2/6 Labor in the Long 1960s

reading: Stromquist, LABOR'S COLD WAR

M 2/13 The Struggle for Civil Rights in the North  
reading: Sugrue, SWEET LAND OF LIBERTY

M 2/20 Students, Youth, the Anti-War Movement, and Radicalism  
reading: Gosse, RETHINKING THE NEW LEFT

M 2/27 Ethnicity, Whiteness, and the Transformation of Identities  
reading: ROOTS TOO

M 3/5 The Women's Movement and Changing Gender Notions  
reading: THE WORLD SPLIT OPEN

M 3/12 No class – Spring Break

M 3/19 Organizing research -- Hand in preliminary annotated bibliography

M 3/26 Organizing research -- Hand in preliminary thesis statement

M 4/2 No class – work on research

M 4/9 Pulling the research together – Hand in outline

M 4/16 No class – work on research

M 4/23 Reshaping the project – Hand in revised thesis statement and revised annotated bibliography

M 4/30 Voila! Turn in first draft of research paper