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HSTA 323: U.S. in the 1950s

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SYLLABUS
HISTORY 323
AMERICA IN THE 1950S
SPRING 2018
PROFESSOR MICHAEL MAYER

Office: 253 Liberal Arts
Office hours: Wed., 2:00-4:00
Fri., 2:00-3:00
and by appointment

Required Texts

J. Ronald Oakley, God's Country
Daniel Horowitz, American Social Classes in the 1950s
Martin Luther King, Jr., Stride Toward Freedom
Will Herberg, Protestant-Catholic-Jew
William F. Buckley, God and Man at Yale
Henry Kissinger, Nuclear Weapons and Foreign Policy
(faculty pack)
Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique
Mickey Spillane, The Mike Hammer Collection, Volume 1
Grace Metalious, Peyton Place

This class is intended to provide students with an overview of the America in the 1950s. More particularly, it intends to provide a context for understanding the social and cultural developments of that time, many of which were central in forming the society in which we live. Students will be expected to master the basic events and issues of the 1950s in America, to draw conclusions about those events and issues, and to present their findings in clear, grammatical English.

Requirements:

Essay (50%): "The Eisenhower administration inherited from the Roosevelt and Truman administrations a consensus in domestic and foreign policy. Eisenhower and his administration functioned within that consensus." Agree or disagree.

Papers are due in the History office on **Friday, March 2 at 4:00 PM.**

Unexcused late papers will be penalized.

Make sure that your essay answers the question. Be sure to buttress your thesis and supporting arguments with evidence and specific examples. Use the textbook, other assigned reading, and class notes for information. You need not go beyond the reading assigned on the syllabus and class notes for information. This is not a research paper. If, however, you do consult other sources, be sure to cite them. Formal footnotes are not necessary but all derivative information should be attributed.

Plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty, will not be punished by failure on the exam; it will mean automatic failure for the course.

Limit your answer to seven (7) double-spaced, typed pages.

Final exam (50%): Take home exam.

Due in the History office on **Thursday, May 9, at 4:00 PM..**

CLASS SCHEDULE

January 22	Organization
January 24	Oakley, chapter 1
January 26	Oakley, chapter 2
January 29	Oakley, chapter 3
January 31	Oakley, chapter 4
February 2	Oakley, chapter 5
February 5	Oakely, chapter 6
February 7	Oakley, chapter 7
February 9	Horowitz, pp. 31-190
February 12	Oakley, chapter 8
February 14	Oakley, chapter 9
February 16	Oakley, chapter 10
February 19	NO CLASS

February 21	Buckley
February 23	Oakley, chapter 11
February 26	Oakley, chapter 12
February 28	Kissinger
March 2	Midterm due (no class)
March 5	Oakley, chapter 13
March 7	Oakley, chapter 14
March 9	Spillane, <u>I, The Jury</u>
March 12	Oakely, chapter 15
March 14	Oakley, chapter 15
March 16	Oakley, chapter 16
March 19	Friedan, pp. 9-102
March 21	Friedan, pp. 103-232
March 23	Friedan, pp. 232-378
April 2	Oakley, chapter 17
April 4	Herberg, pp. 1-98
April 6	Herberg pp. 99-210
April 9	Herberg, pp. 211-272
April 11	Oakley, chapter 18
April 13	King
April 16	Oakley, chapter 19
April 18	Oakley, chapter 20
April 20	Oakley, chapter 21

April 23	Oakley, chapter 22
April 25	Oakley, chapter 23
April 27	Oakley, chapter 24
April 30	review
May 2	review
May 4	Metalious