

## **The United States in the 1960s**

History 352 (CRN 12968)

Fall Semester, 2009

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 - 1:20pm

Fenton 110

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(and most any time at your request -- just ask!)

Graduate Teaching Fellows:

### **Melissa Ruhl**

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## Course Description

Why do the 1960s matter? What were the 1960s about? Often described as the most controversial decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the 1960s has meant different things to different people. We'll examine as many viewpoints as possible and energetically debate these issues among ourselves, always asking -- as would any good student of history -- what parallels can be drawn to current events and what lessons can be learned from the 1960s.

As you embark on your own chosen paths toward creating the kind of society and the kind of world which reflect the best of humankind, can the 60s and their aftermath -- the successes and the failures, short and long term -- help to guide you in the future?

## Required Readings

Isserman and Kazin, *America Divided: The Civil War of the 1960s*, (Oxford University Press, 2008);

Levy (editor), *America in the Sixties -- Right, Left and Center*, (Greenwood Press, 1998);

Harrington, *The Other America* (Macmillan Press, 1963).

and various articles to be assigned.

## Grading

50% -- 8 twenty-minute, in-class quizzes during weeks #2 through #9 based on the assigned readings and class lectures.

25% -- A five-page paper to be assigned, based on Harrington's *The Other America*, class lectures and your additional research. Due before or at the commencement of class on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

25% -- An in-class final exam on December 9<sup>th</sup>

## Policy on Attendance and Class Participation

Learning the lessons of history is a collaborative process. Your class

attendance and participation is extremely important to us all. I expect each of you to come to class prepared to make intelligent and informed contributions to class discussions. If it becomes necessary for you to arrive late, depart early or miss class entirely, please let me know in advance by telephone or email. (In the case of a last-minute emergency, of course, let me know as soon as possible after class.) Also, understand that class attendance and participation may be a factor in determining your course grade. A word of caution: If you have conflicting obligations this semester and think that thorough class preparation and regular class attendance could be a problem, this is probably not the course for you.

With the intention of promoting thought, deliberation and participation, laptops will not be permitted in class. I understand that this may present an inconvenience for some hard-working students, but let me suggest that if you come to class well-prepared and print out your reading notes beforehand, heavy additional note-taking is not likely to be necessary. In short, computers in class can be a distraction; I want you to be fully engaged, to speak your mind and to contribute to our wild and provocative discussions. (For these very same reasons, all other personal electronic devices may not be used in class, as well.)

### Other Course Rules

Academic honesty is expected and required; plagiarism and other forms of cheating are very serious infractions. If you are uncertain about what plagiarism is and/or have questions about how to cite sources, please consult the brief guides to plagiarism and to citation on Professor Ellen Herman's web site ([uoregon.edu/~eherman/writing/Plagiarism.htm](http://uoregon.edu/~eherman/writing/Plagiarism.htm)).

No makeup quizzes (or final exam) will be given, nor will any unexcused late submissions of the research paper be accepted.

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please arrange to see me during the first week of this term and request that Disability Services send a letter of verification.

### Course Calendar and Reading Assignments

Tuesday, September 29: Isserman, chapter 1; Levy, chapter 1;  
Thursday, October 1: and Harrington, chapters 1-3.

Tuesday, October 6: Isserman, chapters 2 & 3; Levy, chapter 2;  
Thursday, October 8: and Harrington, chapters 4-6.

Tuesday, October 13: Levy, chapters 3 & 4, and Harrington, chapters  
7-9 and Appendix.  
Thursday, October 15:

Tuesday, October 20: Isserman, chapters 4 & 5, and Levy, chapter 5.  
Thursday, October 22:

Tuesday, October 27: Isserman, chapter 6, and Levy, chapter 7.  
Thursday, October 29:

Tuesday, November 3: Isserman, chapters 7, 9 and 10.  
Thursday, November 5:

Tuesday, November 10: Isserman, chapters 11 & 12; Levy, chapter 8;  
and poverty research paper due.  
Thursday, November 12:

Tuesday, November 17: Isserman, chapters 8 & 13, and Levy, chapter 6.  
Thursday, November 19:

Tuesday, November 24: Isserman, chapter 14.  
Thursday, November 26: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Tuesday, December 1: Isserman, *Conclusion and Critical Events*  
and Levy, chapter 9.  
Thursday, December 3:

FINAL EXAM --- Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am.