**College of Dupage**

**History 2260-030, United States Since 1945**

**Fall, 2016**

**Time: MWF**, 11:00-11:50 **Place:** BIC 1736

**Instructor:** Sam Mitrani **Contact:** mitraniv@cod.edu, (630) 942-3131

**Office Hours:** MWF 7AM-7:50AM, 10AM-10:50AM; T/Th 8:30AM-9:20AM, 12:30PM-1:20PM; by appointment

**Office:** BIC 2626B

**Required Texts:**

Robert Williams, *Negroes with Guns*

Hector Tobar, *Tattooed Soldier*

Linda Tirado, *Hand to Mouth*

David Finkel, *Thank You for Your Service*

Assorted texts and videos available on blackboard

**Course Description**

This course is an in-depth examination of the United States since 1945. Themes such as the growth of the presidency, economic and social developments, and the United States in the world arena will be analyzed.

**Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of the course the student should be able to do the following:  
Identify and determine the successes and failures of the presidents since 1945. Analyze the effects of social, economic, and technological changes on society in the United States. Interpret the impact of United States foreign policy. Recognize the importance of social and cultural changes in the United States and the world.

**Course Requirements:**

Everyone in this class is an adult, professional student. You are expected to behave accordingly.

Students are expected to come to class on time every day. I have a no-fault attendance policy – I don’t care why you’re absent, but you have missed material in the class. That doesn’t mean you can never be absent (things happen), but no absences are excused.

You are expected to have your phone off. If you have to take an emergency call, please inform me at the beginning of class and sit by the door so you cause minimal interruptions.

If you text in class, you will have to come to the front and dance for 2 minutes to a youtube video of Chinese opera.

Students must come to each class having done the reading.

You are required to write 8 two-page (5 paragraph) response papers on the assigned course materials. Your responses must relate to the topic at hand, and refer directly to the readings and videos.

You are also required to write a final paper of 5-7 pages, for which you should go into one of the topics covered in class in more depth by adding an additional academic source, which you must clear with me in advance.

You are also required to come to class one day with prepared discussion questions on the material at hand to help lead the course discussion.

**You are expected to hand in your own work. Plagiarism will be defined in class. It may earn you a failing grade on the assignment, in the class, and/or disciplinary procedures with the College.**

**Course Design:**

Some days I will give a background lecture. Other days we will discuss readings/videos. You must do the readings/watch the videos for the course to work.

**Grading:**

Eight response papers: 60% (10% each, I will drop your two lowest)

Discussion questions: 10%

Attendance/participation: 10%

Final paper: 20%

**Late Withdrawal Policy:**

A student may drop any course for any reason up to the last day to officially withdraw, and will receive a grade of W on their transcript. After the deadline, students will be required to appeal for late withdrawal and provide appropriate documentation to the Student Registration Services Office for all requests. Students who are granted approval to withdraw by petition will not be eligible for refunds of tuition or fees and will receive a ‘W’ grade on their transcript. Appeals must be submitted prior to the designated final exam period for 16-week classes and before the last class meeting for all other session classes.

**Incomplete Policy:**

I rarely grant incompletes. To receive one, students must have completed at least 2/3rds of the coursework, have at least a C average, and for reasons beyond their control, be unable to complete the course within the academic term. Incompletes will not be granted to students who cannot document extenuating circumstances. For eligible students, an incomplete contract must be completed and signed by the student and instructor.

**Course schedule**

Aug 22

Intro to Class, Go Over Syllabus, Context of 1945

Aug 24

Cold War I lecture

Aug 26

**Readings and videos due:** Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, Nkrumah

Aug 29

Cold War II lecture

Aug 31

**Readings and videos due:** Homer Hall on Korea, Cummings on bombing, Hochschild video

**Response 1 Due**

Sept 1

Cold War at Home lecture

**Sept 5 – No Class, Labor Day**

Sept 7

**Readings and videos due:** McCarthy, Rubin, Robeson

Sept 9

Post War Boom Part I lecture

Sept 12

**Readings and videos due:** Brecher, NYTimes on Reuther, Gilden excerpt (long –give it some time)

Sept 14

Post War Boom Part II lecture

Sept 16

**Readings and videos due:** Father Knows Best, Redbook, Word to the Wives

Sept 19

**Readings and videos due:** Salt of the Earth (full length movie)

**Response 2 due**

Sept 21

Black Movement Part I lecture

Sept 23

**Readings and videos due:** *Brown v Board,* Southern Manifesto, Rosa Parks, Little Rock

Sept 26

**Readings and videos due:** Freedom Riders, Birmingham 63

Sept 28

Black Movement Part II lecture

Sept 30

**Readings due: Negroes with Guns, all**

**Response 3 due**

Oct 3

Vietnam Part I lecture

Oct 5

**Readings and videos due:** *Kill Anything that Moves* excerpt

Oct 7

Vietnam Part II lecture

Oct 10

**Readings and videos due:** *Hearts and Minds*

**Response 4 due**

Oct 12

Feminism lecture

Oct 14

**Readings and videos due:** Freidan, Freeman, NPR

Oct 17

**Readings and videos due:** Tillmon, Firestone, Freeman on rap groups

**Response 5 due**

Oct 19

End of the movements, rise of the right lecture

Oct 21

**Readings and videos due: A Nation of Law?**

Oct 24

Chicano movement/immigration I

Oct 26

Immigration II, Latin America in the ‘80s

Oct 28

**Readings and videos due:** *Tattooed Soldier,* Antonio and the Sergeant, Antonio and Elena

Oct 31

U.S. in the world after Vietnam

Nov 2

**Readings and videos due:** *Tattooed Soldier,* Antonio and Guillermo

**Response 6 due**

Nov 4

Economic changes since the 1970s part I

Nov 7

**Readings and videos due:** *Hand to Mouth* chs 1-5

Nov 9

Economic changes since the 1970s part II

Nov 11

**Readings and videos due:** *Hand to Mouth,* to end

**Response 7 due**

Nov 14

Mass incarceration

Nov 16

**Readings and videos due:** *The House I Live In*

Nov 18

Terrorism up to and including 9/11

Nov 21

War in Afghanistan

**No Class Nov 23 and Nov 25, Thanksgiving**

Nov 28

**Readings and videos due:** *Thank You for Your Service,* through chapter 6

Nov 30

War in Iraq

Dec 2

**Readings and videos due:** *Thank You for Your Service,* to end

**Response 8 due**

Dec 5

2008 financial crisis

Dec 7

**Readings and videos due:** *Inside Job*

Dec 9

Discussion – where do we go from here?

**Final Paper Presentation: 11-12:50 AM, Wednesday Dec 14**