Class Time: Mondays 1:00-3:40 p.m.
354 Filmore

Office Hours:
Mondays 4:30-6:30p.m.
Park Hall 554
Phone: 645-2181-554

Description: Was 1968 a revolutionary year? In this seminar we explore this question by studying the events, social movements, and legacy of 1968 throughout the Western hemisphere. Looking at both the actuality and symbolic character of this crucial year in contemporary history, we analyze the political, social, and cultural meaning of protest and its impact on class, generational, gender, and racial relations in Western and Eastern Europe as well as North and South America. The first part of the course focuses on particular sites, most explicitly but not exclusively, Berlin, Paris, Prague, Chicago, and Mexico City. These case studies will help us gain an understanding of specific events and how they were embedded in contingent national histories, discourses about identity, and particular positions in the geography of the cold war. During the second part of the course, we develop some of the key themes that permeated all of these uprisings, for example civil rights, antiwar agitation, student protest, and counter-cultural experiences, but we also discuss the conservative backlash against these movements. We end the course with a brief exploration of the social movements that grew out of the 1960s. The objective of the course is two-fold: (1) to familiarize students with the history of 1968 and (2) to analyze the intricate connections between politics and violence.

Format and Grading: The format of this course consists primarily of discussions based on the given topics of each week. The materials for this course are drawn from secondary literature and an array of primary texts by influential figures of the time, including Vaclav Havel, Janis Joplin, Herbert Marcuse, Che Guevara, Martin Luther King, and Allen Ginsberg. The reading assignments, class attendance, and participation are paramount to the success of the class and will count as roughly one third of your course grade. The other two thirds will be derived from your written work and one oral presentation (details to be discussed in class).

1) Discussion and Attendance: 30%
2) Written Work: 50% – one primary source paper (2-3pp) due at the end of week 11
   one research paper on a topic of your choice determined in consultation
   with the instructor by the end of fifth week (10-12pp) due

December 5th.
3) One In-Class Presentation: 20%

Books available for purchase:
Fink, Carol, Philipp Gassert, and Detlef Junker, eds. 1968-The World Transformed.
(all of these texts as well as the other readings will be available on reserve at the library)

**Calendar and Readings:**

**Week One: August 29**

Segment I: **Introduction to the Course**

Segment II: **1968 – A Year of Revolution?**
   *Film:* “Young Bloods” (1998)

**Readings:**
“The Port Huron Statement” in *Sixties Reader*, 50-60.

**Week Two: September 5**

**Labor Day** (no class)

**Part One: Barricades in the West, East, North and South**

**Week Three: September 12**

Segment I: **Western Europe-1: Austria, Germany, Scandinavia**

Segment II: **BERLIN: ‘Liberation through a Haunted Past’**

**Readings:**
Ronald Fraser, *1968: A Student Generation in Revolt* (New York, 1988), excerpts (on reserve)

**Week Four: September 19**

Segment I: **Western Europe-2: Britain, France, Ireland, Italy**

Segment II: **PARIS: ‘Revolution as National Identity’**

**Readings:**
Daniel Cohn-Bendit Interviewed by Jean-Paul Sartre in *The French Student Revolt: the Leaders Speak* (New York, 1968): 73-83. (on reserve)
Week Five: September 26

Segment I: Eastern Europe: Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania

Segment II: PRAGUE: ‘Spring in the Eastern Block’

Readings:


Week Six: October 3

Segment I: Canada and the United States

Segment II: CHICAGO: ‘The Democratic Convention and Violence in the Streets’

Film: “Medium Cool” (1969) excerpts

Readings:
David Farber, Chicago ‘68 (Chicago, 1994) excerpts (Each student should chose one section of the book, e.g., the police, the yippies, or the student protesters, and be prepared to defend that position. The class discussion will consist of a verbal reenactment of the different points of view in order to clarify each side’s specific perspective and arguments. Be ready to debate!)

Jerry Rubin, “Yippie Manifesto” and “Do It” in Sixties Reader, 278-82.

Week 7: October 10

Segment I: Cuba, Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil

Segment II: MEXICO CITY: ‘Massacres and Olympic Games’

Readings:
Elaine Carey, Plaza of Sacrifices (Alberquerque, 2005) excerpts

Che Guevara Reader. Edited by David Deutschmann (New York, 1997), excerpts (on reserve)

Assignment: Research Paper Topics due (title, one paragraph explanation, at least five sources)

Part I – Suggested Readings:

Judith Albert and Stewart Albert, eds. The Sixties Papers: Documents of a Rebellious Decade
Part Two: Politics, Culture, and Social Movements

Week Eight: October 17

Segment I: Freedom, Civil Rights and the Great Society

Segment II: From Peaceful Protest to Violent Struggle

Readings:
Cass Sunstein, “What the Civil Rights Movement Was and Wasn’t” in Reassessing the Sixties: Debating the Political and Cultural Legacy. Edited by Steven Macedo (New York, 1997), 253-82.


Week Nine: October 24

Segment I: Vietnam and the Cold War Order at Home and Abroad

Segment II: Hot, Cold, and Anti-War
Readings:

Week Ten: October 31

Segment I: **Student Protests and Workers Strikes**

Segment II: **Generational Conflict and Class Relations**

Readings:
Herbert Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man* (Boston, 1964) excerpts

Week Eleven: November 7

Segment I: **Counter-Culture and Sexual Revolt**

Segment II: **Sex, Drugs, and Rock ‘n’ Roll**

Readings:
Guy Strait, “What is a Hippie?” in *Sixties Reader*, 268-70.

Assignment: Primary Source Paper due

Week Twelve: November 14

Segment I: **Women Take Center-Stage**

Segment II: **Gendered Liberations**

Readings:
Alice Echols, “Nothing Distant About It: Women’s Liberation and Sixties Radicalism” in *The
Betty Friedan, “The Problem That Has No Name,” in Sixties Reader, 388-93.
"No More Miss America," in Sixties Reader, 404-6.
Frances Beal, “Double Jeopardy: To Be Black and Female,” in Sixties Reader, 438-42.

Week Thirteen: November 21

Segment I: The Conservative Backlash
Segment II: Elections, Power, and Identity Politics – Right, Left, and Center

Readings:

Week Fourteen: November 28

Segment I: In the Aftermath of ’68: Effects and Consequences
Segment II: Emerging Social Movements


Readings:
Jeremy Varon, “Agents of Necessity: Weatherman, the Red Army Faction, and the Turn to Violence,” in his Bringing the War Home (Berkeley, 2004), 20-73. (on reserve)

Week 15: December 5

Segment I: Remembering 1968
Segment II: 1968 Today– A Reassessment

Readings:
Kristin Ross, *May ’68 and Its Afterlives* (Chicago, 2002), chapters 1, 2, and 4.

**Assignment:** Research Paper due
Part II–Suggested Readings:


Michael Belknap, *The Vietnam War on Trial: The My Lai Massacre and the Court Martial of Lieutenant Callany* (Kansas, 2002)


Peter Braunstein and Michael Doyle, eds. *Imagine Nation: The American Counterculture of the 1960s and 1970s* (New York, 2002)


Jürgen Habermas, *Toward a Rational Society: Student Protest, Science, and Politics* (Boston, 1970)


Martin Lee and Bruce Shlain, *Acid Dreams* (New York, 1985)

Mary Levine and John Naisbitt, *Right On! A Documentary on Student Protest* (New York, 1970)


Seymour Lipset and Gerald Schaflander, *Passion and Politics: Student Activism in America* (Boston, 1971)

Michael Miller and Susan Gilmore, eds., *Revolution at Berkeley* (New York, 1965)


Jeffrey Walsh and James Aulich, eds. *Vietnam Images: War and Representation* (New York, 1989)