

DOWLING COLLEGE  
Department of History

**The United States, 1945-1968**

Dr. Mieczkowski

HST 3024A

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Fall 2004

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office hours: Mon. 8:00-9:00; 3:30-4:30

Wed. 8:00-9:00; 4:30-6:00

Fri. 9:00-9:30

Tues: e-mail responsive after 5:00 pm

**Books:**

- Moving On: The American People Since 1945, by George Moss
- The Age of Great Dreams: America in the 1960s, by David Farber
- Sputnik: The Shock of the Century, by Paul Dickson
- Lunch at the 5 & 10, by Miles Wolff
- A Pocket Guide to Writing in History (4th ed.), by Mary Lynn Rampolla.

**Required Readings:**

- Moss chapters listed below
- all of Dickson (except chapter 2) for the midterm exam and research paper
- all of Farber and Wolff for the final exam

**You must complete the required readings to pass this course.**

**Evaluations:** A mid-term exam (October 13); a research paper (due October 27; explained on a separate sheet); a final exam; two quizzes (October 6 and November 17); an oral history (due October 28; explained on a separate sheet).

- Attendance 4%
- Participation 3%
- Mid-term exam 25%
- Final exam 35%
- Research paper 22%
- Oral history 11%
- Quiz grades will be incorporated into the exams

You must take exams on the announced dates. Make-up exams are administered only for documented problems, such as a medical illness or a family emergency.

Please note: Grades will be based on performance, not on need. If you are having problems with any material in the course, see me immediately. Do not wait until the day of the exam.

That is too late. I cannot answer questions or provide help on exam day.

Course dates and assignment weights are subject to revision. I will notify the class accordingly.

Please remember your responsibility in keeping track of assignments and deadlines and making up missed work.

**Academic Dishonesty:** I have no tolerance for academic misconduct. Students found cheating on an exam or paper will receive an "F" for the course.

**Attendance:** Class attendance is required, and I will take roll at the beginning of class. Absences will hurt your final course and exam grades, because the exams contain lecture material. Excused absences are given only for the documented problems described above. If you expect a sports-related absence, please see me in advance. In the unlikely event that you must miss class, please get the notes and assignments from other students. More than five unexcused absences will result in zero credit for the attendance portion of your final grade. I will explain the attendance policy on the first day of class.

**Punctuality:** Class will begin promptly at 11:30 am. Please be seated before 11:30. More than two late arrivals during the semester will make any lateness thereafter tantamount to an absence. If you expect to leave class early, please inform the professor before class begins.

**Participation:** Please try to be alert and engaged in class. You can participate in a number of ways besides being attentive--by answering questions that I pose to the class, asking an occasional question or raising an issue, or being active in discussing documents, articles, and Writing Workshop exercises. Participation also means good citizenship and courtesy. Please try to raise your hand when you wish to speak, rather than blurt out comments or questions. Conversation during class and other discourtesies will adversely affect your participation grade. Respect toward your fellow classmates is critical to classroom citizenship. Listen carefully to their questions and comments as if you were the one speaking. I understand that some of you may be shy. If you feel uncomfortable about speaking in class, please see me during my office hours, and we can develop strategies to overcome your diffidence and improve the participation portion of your grade.

**Weapons of Mass Distraction:** Cell phones, pagers, and beepers. Please deactivate them before coming to class!

The following is a planned lecture schedule. Chapter numbers refer to the chapters in the Moss text that you should read to accompany the lectures. You should complete the reading before the corresponding lecture to increase your understanding of it.

In reading the text and other course assignments, do not simply highlight or underline. Such reading is passive. Be an active learner! Take notes, write the ideas in your own words, ask yourself questions. This kind of active reading may take more time, but the pay-off will come when it is time to study and learn the material.

Please keep up with the reading and try to review your lecture notes on a weekly basis. Do not wait until the notes get "cold" in your mind.

Sept. 1: Course introduction; World War II legacy and cold war (chapter 1)

Sept. 8: Containment; Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan (chapter 2)

Sept. 13: Berlin Blockade and Airlift; national security in the cold war (chapter 2)

Sept. 15: Postwar economy and politics (chapter 3)

Sept. 20: Election of 1948; Fair Deal; cold war intensifies (chapters 3 and 4)

Sept. 22: Korean War; Red Scare (pp. 49-55; pp. 74-81)

Sept. 27: McCarthyism (pp. 110-112)

Sept 29: Alger Hiss; Rosenbergs (pp. 74-81)

Oct. 4: Postwar economic boom (chapter 4)

Oct. 6: **Quiz**; Quiz show scandals; suburbanization (chapter 4)

Oct. 11: Suburbanization, shopping malls, and franchises (chapter 5)

Oct. 13: **Midterm exam** (chapter 6) 1950s automobiles, Preston Tucker, Harley Earl; Election of 1952

Oct. 18: Eisenhower presidency (chapter 5)

October 20: Eisenhower foreign policy; election of 1956; assessment and conclusion of Eisenhower presidency (chapter 5)

Oct. 25: Election of 1960; Flexible Response and Kennedy foreign policy (chapter 6)

Oct. 27: **Term papers due**; ELECTION OF 1956 FINISHED Kennedy image; election of 1964 (chapter 6)

Nov. 1: CRM: causes, overview; Brown decision; Montgomery (relevant sections in chapters 5 and 6)

Nov. 3: Little Rock; Kennedy and CRM (relevant sections in chapters 5 and 6)

Nov. 8: END DE PRESIDENCY, ELECTION 1960 Birmingham; battle for voting rights; legislative triumphs; end of CRM (relevant sections in chapters 5 and 6)

Nov. 10: No classes

Nov. 15: JFK PRESY First Indochina War; Ngo Dinh Diem (pp. 116-120)

Nov. 17: **Oral history due**; Kennedy and Vietnam; Gulf of Tonkin (chapter 7)

Nov. 22: CRM: EMETT TILL, LITTLE ROCK Vietnam War (chapter 11; also pp. 416-419)

Nov. 24: Vietnam War (chapter 13)

Nov. 29: The 1960s

Dec. 1: **Quiz**; LBJ's Great Society

Dec. 6: The counterculture; domestic turmoil in the 1960s (chapters 7 and 8)

Dec. 8: The events of 1968 (pp. 212-217)