

**Carleton University**  
**Fall 2011 / Winter 2012**  
**Department of English**  
**ENGL 3702A: United States Culture, 1945-1979**  
**Instructor:Franny Nudelman**  
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Course Description:

In the United States, the decades following World War Two were marked by unprecedented military and economic expansion. In the realm of culture, innovation was afoot as writers, painters, filmmakers, and musicians cultivated an aesthetic of spontaneity, intensity, and interiority that might adequately represent the strange conditions of modern life. In this course, we will consider major trends in the culture of the era (including abstract expressionism, beat poetry, new journalism, and direct cinema) in light of foreign wars, movements for gender and racial equality, and the advent of live television, rock music, and recreational drugs.

Please note: The texts on this outline, as well as the assignments, may change over the course of the summer. Feel free to contact me at my e-mail address if you have any questions.

Reading:

James Baldwin, "Notes of a Native Son" (1955)  
Joan Didion, "Slouching Toward Bethlehem"(1968), "The White Album" (1979)  
Dwight Eisenhower, "Farewell Address" (1961)  
Tom Englehardt, *The End of Victory Culture: Cold War America and the Disillusioning of a Generation* (2007)  
Betty Friedan, "The Problem that Has No Name" (1963)  
Michael Herr, *Dispatches* (1977)  
John Hersey, *Hiroshima* (1946)  
Martin Luther King, "I Have a Dream" (1963)  
Sylvia Plath, *Ariel* (1965)  
Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49* (1968)  
Students for a Democratic Society, "Port Huron Statement" (1962)  
U.S. Supreme Court, *Brown vs. Board of Education* (1954)

Viewing:

John Frankenheimer, *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962)  
Francis Ford Coppola, *Apocalypse Now* (1979)  
Norman Jewison, *The Thrill of it All* (1963)  
David and Albert Maysles, *Gimme Shelter* (1970)  
Jackson Pollock, selected paintings  
Sol Saks, "Bewitched" (1964)  
William Wyler, *The Best Years of Our Lives* (1946)

Listening:

The Doors, "Break on Through" (1967)

Marvin Gaye, "What's Going On" (1971)

The Grateful Dead, *Live/Dead* (1969)

Jimmy Hendrix, "Star-Spangled Banner" (Woodstock, 1969)

Charles Mingus, *Mingus Ah Um* (1959)

Assignments and Evaluation:

Your grade will be based on these three components, in equal measure: class participation; short writing assignments (2-5 pages); one in-class exam.