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History 3390: The End of American Century? **Fall 2019**

In 1941, Time-Life Chairman Henry Luce proclaimed the American Century, calling on the United States to transform the world by intervening in both Europe and Asia. This call, along with foreign policy decisions that followed, ensured U.S. intervention around the globe. By the 1970s these actions brought about disastrous results both abroad and at home. This course focuses on the what can be viewed as the demise of the American Century by examining the United States in the era between the end of the Vietnam War and 9-11. Rather than ponder on declension, it instead concentrates on the new notions of peoplehood, politics, and popular culture that emerged in this time. Against the backdrop of politics, this course engages the changes in society and culture during these years in order to gain a greater understanding of how the nation we live in today has come about.

Required Texts:

Kevin M. Kruse and Julian E Zelizer, *Fault Lines: A History of United States since 1974*.
ISBN: 978-0393-088663

Kathleen Belew, *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America*.
ISBN: 978-0674-237698
(The assigned articles are available on Blackboard.)

Course Requirements:

There will be two exams: a midterm and a final. Your midterm will be administered on **October 17** and the final is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 10, 10: a.m. to 12:45 p.m.** In addition, two response papers on articles of your choice will be due throughout the semester and one film review will also be required. There are no designated due dates for the response papers, instead I have divided the course into two parts and each essay will be due during one of those sections. There is no universal due date for film review (I will provide guidelines), but it is due no later than **December 3** and will be based on one of the films available for you to view via the Swank database.

Grade Distribution:

Midterm Exam: 20 %; Final Exam: 25%; 2 Response Papers: 10% each; Film Review Assignment: 15%; Attendance and Participation: 20%.

Plagiarism, Rules, Procedures:

I must remind you that academic dishonesty, including cheating on an exam or quiz, and **plagiarism** of any form, meaning presenting someone else's ideas as your own, will not be tolerated. Cutting and pasting information from a website without citing the data constitutes plagiarism. If anybody is caught committing this egregious offense she/he will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. To prevent you from committing plagiarism, your papers will be submitted

to “Safe Assign,” on Blackboard, which will check your essay to ensure you are not trying to pass someone else’s work as your own.

In addition, I ask that you respect your fellow students and me. If you are compelled to talk while in class—DO NOT. I find this habit annoying and just plain rude. I will not tolerate class disturbances of any kind. This means cell phones and other electronic devices are prohibited. If you do not comply with these rules I will ask you to leave the room. Finally, I must remind you that this class starts when I walk in the classroom; therefore, you should be ready to pay attention and take notes when I start talking. **I urge you to take notes—you will not be able to remember what was said if you do not, and a good deal of the exams are based on class content.**

Schedule

Part One

Week 1: August 27 & 29

Introduction; The Tumultuous 1960s: An Overview.

Week 2: September 3 & 5

“Women’s Liberation,” Roe V. Wade.

Nixon and Watergate.

Readings: Laura Kalman, “Roe at Forty,” *Reviews in American History*, 41, no. 4. (2013): 756-766; Kruse and Zelizer, *Fault Lines*, Introduction and Chapter 1.

Week 3: September 10 & 12

Ending the War in Vietnam; The Man from Plains; 70’s “Malaise;” “Me.”

Readings: Kruse and Zelizer, *Fault Lines*, Chapter 2.

Belew, *Bring the War Home*, Introduction and Chapter 1.

Week 4: September 17 & 19

Popular Culture: Album Oriented Rock; Disco.

Readings: Kruse and Zelizer, *Fault Lines*, Chapter 3 & 4.

Charles Kronengold, “Exchange Theories in Disco, New Wave, and Album Oriented Rock,” *Criticism*, 50, no. 1. (2008): 43-82.

Week 5: September 24 & 26

Popular Culture: “Easy Riders and Raging Bulls”: American Popular Film.

Television: Sitcoms and Saturday Night Live.

Readings: David Thomson, “The Decade When Movies Mattered,” in *The Last Great American Picture Show: New Hollywood Cinema in the 1970s*. Edited by Thomas Elsaesser, Alexander Horwath and Noel King. (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2014), Richard Corliss, “Happy Days are Here Again.” *Film Comment*, 15, no. 4 (1979): 53-57

Week 6: October 1 & 3

A Taxpayers Revolt: California's Proposition 13

Readings: Kruse and Zelizer, *Fault Lines*, Chapter 6.

Belew, *Bring the War Home*, Chapters 2 & 3.

Week 7: October 8 & 10

U.S. Foreign Policy in the 1970s: Latin America; Chile v. Nicaragua; Middle East.

Readings: Larry Hufford, "The U.S. in Central America: The Obfuscation of History."

Journal of Peace Research, 22, no. 2 (1985): 93-100.

Part Two**Week 8: October 15 & 17**

"The Reagan Revolution." Midterm.

Readings: Kruse and Zelizer, *Fault Lines*, Chapter 7

Week 9: October 22 & 24

Losing the Battle for the Equal Rights Amendment

Reagan's Foreign Policy: The Cold War Redux;

Readings: Kruse and Zeliner, *Fault Lines*, Chapter 8; Belew, *Bring the War Home*, Chapters 4 & 5.

Week 10: October 29 & 31

Popular Culture: Music, Punk, New Wave.

The Immigration Control and Reform Act (IRCA)

Readings: Thomas R. Maddux, "Ronald Reagan and the Task Force on Immigration, 11981." *Pacific Historical Review*, 74, no. 2 (2005): 195-236.

Week 11: November 5 & 7

The Rise of the Christian Right

"A Gay Plague": HIV/AIDS and the U.S.

Readings: Film: "United in Anger: A History of ACT UP."

Greg Bardowitz, "Picture a Coalition." *October*, 43 (1987):182-196.

Week 12: November 12 & 14

The 1988 Election

The End of the Cold War

Readings: Kruse and Zelizer, *Fault Lines*, Chapter 8 & 9.

Belew, *Bring the War Home*, Chapters 6 & 7.

Week 13: November 19 & 21

“Our First Black President”: Bill Clinton

Readings: Kruse and Zelizer, *Fault Lines*, Chapter 10 & 11.

Belew, *Bring the War Home*, Chapter 8, 9, & Epilogue.

Week 14: November 26

California’s Proposition 187 and the Attack on Latinx Immigrants

Readings: Phillip Martin, “Proposition 187 in California.” *The International Migration*

Review, 29, no. 1. (1995): 255-263; Film: “Fear and Learning at Hoover Elementary.”

Week 15: December 3 & 5

Bush v. Gore

9-11: It’s causes and outcomes.

A New American Empire?

Readings: Kruse and Zelizer, *Fault Lines*, Chapters 12-14.

In addition, the following films are available for you to watch via Swank Digital Campus or Kanopy, which can be accessed via the UTEP Library database port or links on Blackboard.

The Exorcist (1973)

Blue Velvet (1986)

Hearts and Minds (1974)

Fatal Attraction (1987)

Jaws (1975)

Rain Man (1988)

Rocky (1976)

Do The Right Thing (1989)

Saturday Night Fever (1977)

Coming Home (1978)

Being There (1979)

Ordinary People (1980)

Blow Out (1981)

Blade Runner (1982)

Terms of Endearment (1983)

The Breakfast Club (1985)

Back to the Future (1985)