

Course Syllabus

Course Information

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| <i>Course Number/Section</i> | HUSL 7372.501 |
| <i>Course Title</i> | American Cultural Studies: The Cold War |
| <i>Term</i> | Spring 2016 |
| <i>Days & Times</i> | Thurs. 7 – 9:45 pm JO 4.112 |

Professor Contact Information

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| <i>Professor</i> | Dr. Erin A. Smith |
| <i>Office Phone</i> | (972) 883-2338 |
| <i>Email Address</i> | erins@utdallas.edu |
| <i>Office Location</i> | Hoblitzelle Hall (HH) 2.304 |
| <i>Office Hours</i> | Tues. 2:30 – 3:30 Thurs. 5:30 – 6:30 And by appointment |

Course Description

This course offers both an overview of the cultures of the Cold-War United States and an introduction to the interdisciplinary theories and methodologies used by cultural studies scholars. We consider best-selling books, magazines, advertising, television, Hollywood films, sports, material culture, and popular music. Topics include: norms about gender and sexuality; the post-War religious revival and its co-existence with increasingly secular ways of being in the world; efforts to contain communism at home and abroad; race and early civil rights activity; class and consumption in burgeoning suburbs.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

1. Students will be able to describe selected American texts from the Cold-War era and the major issues and questions in American Studies scholarship about them.
2. Students will be able to analyze and evaluate textual and historical arguments made by American Studies scholars.
3. Students will research and write a well-crafted, scholarly argument about some aspect of Cold-War American culture.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Mickey Spillane, *One Lonely Night* (1951)
Evelyn Piper, *Bunny Lake is Missing* (1957)
Valerie Taylor, *The Girls in 3-B* (1959)
John Updike, *Rabbit Run* (1960)

Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* (1963)
Ishmael Reed, *Mumbo Jumbo* (1972)

Lynn Spigel, *Make Room for TV: Television and the Family Ideal in Postwar America* (1992)
Melani McAlester, *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East since 1945* (2005)
Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold-War Era* (2008 rev. ed.)
Dianne Harris, *Little White Houses: How the Postwar Home Constructed Race in America* (2013)
William Maxwell, *F. B. Eyes: How J. Edgar Hoover's Ghostreaders Framed African American Literature* (2015)

Selected readings on e-reserve at

<http://utdallas.docutek.com/eres/coursepage.aspx?cid=1955>

Password:

All texts available at Off-Campus Books or the UTD bookstore or Stanza Books

Additional course materials on eLearning

Course Schedule

Critical Frameworks: Popular Culture / Containment

Thurs. 14 Jan.

John Fiske, "Popular Culture" in *Critical Terms for Literary Study, 2d ed.*, ed. Frank Lentricchia and Thomas McLaughlin (Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1995): 321-35 (eLearning)

Thurs. 21 Jan.

May, *Homeward Bound*

Conformity and Its Discontents: Gender, Consumerism, and the Suburbs

Thurs. 28 Jan.

David Riesman, chapter VI, "The Other-Directed Round of Life: From Invisible Hand to Glad Hand" in *The Lonely Crowd* (Yale UP, 2001): 126-41 (e-reserve)

James Gilbert, "Lonely Men: David Riesman and Character" in *Men in the Middle: Searching for Masculinity in the 1950s* (U of Chicago P, 2005): 34-61 (e-reserve)

Updike, *Rabbit, Run*

Thurs. 4 Feb.

Spigel, *Make Room for TV*

In-class screening of *I Love Lucy* episode, "Pioneer Women"

Thurs. 11 Feb.

Harris, *Little White Houses*

Thurs. 18 Feb.

Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*

Daniel Horowitz, "Rethinking Betty Friedan and the Feminine Mystique: Labor Union Radicalism and Feminism in Cold War America," *American Quarterly* 48.1 (Mar. 1996): 1-42 (e-reserve)

Stephanie Coontz, chap. 5, "I Thought I Was Crazy" in *A Strange Stirring: The Feminine Mystique and American Women at the Dawn of the 1960s* (Basic Books, 2011): 81-100 (e-reserve)

Com mies, Queers, and Other Subversives: Trash Fiction

Thurs. 25 Feb.

Spillane, *One Lonely Night*

Sean McCann, chap. 4, "Letdown Artists: Paperback Noir and the Procedural Republic" in *Gumshoe America: Hard-Boiled Crime Fiction and the Rise and Fall of New Deal Liberalism* (Durham: Duke UP, 2000): 198-250 (e-reserve)

Thurs. 3 Mar.

Piper, *Bunny Lake Is Missing* (including foreword and afterword)

Thurs. 10 Mar.

Taylor, *The Girls in 3-B*

Yvonne Keller, "'Was It Right to Love Her Brother's Wife So Passionately?': Lesbian Pulp Novels and U. S. Lesbian Identity, 1950-1965," *American Quarterly* 57.2 (June 2005): 385-410 (e-reserve)

Lillian Faderman, chap. 5, "'Naked Amazons and Queer Damozels': World War II and Its Aftermath," (118-38) and chap. 6, "The Love that Dares Not Speak Its Name" (139-58) in *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in Twentieth-Century America* (New York: Penguin, 1991) (e-reserve)

Thurs. 17 Mar. – SPRING BREAK / NO CLASS

Race and Popular Culture: Rock & Roll, Civil Rights, and Black Power

Thurs. 24 Mar. – conference abstracts and bios. due

George Lipsitz, chap. 5, “Against the Wind: Dialogic Aspects of Rock and Roll” in *Time Passages: Collective Memory and American Popular Culture* (Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1990): 99-132 (e-reserve)

Nelson George, chap. 3, “The New Negro (1950-1965)” in *The Death of Rhythm & Blues* (New York: Pantheon, 1988): 59-93 (e-reserve)

Susan Douglas, chap. 4, “Why the Shirelles Mattered” in *Where the Girls Are: Growing Up Female with the Mass Media* (New York: Times, 1994): 83-98 (e-reserve)

Penny Von Eschen, chap. 3, “The Real Ambassador” in *Satchmo Blows Up the World: Jazz Ambassadors Play the Cold War* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2004): 58-91 (e-reserve)

Thurs. 31 Mar.

Reed, *Mumbo Jumbo*

McAlister, “Introduction: Middle East Interests” (1-41) and chap. 2 “The Middle East in African American Cultural Politics, 1955-1972” (84-124) in *Epic Encounters*.

Thurs. 7 Apr.

Maxwell, *F. B. Eyes*

God, the Cold War, and the American Way

Thurs. 14 Apr.

Excerpts from Norman Vincent Peale, *Power of Positive Thinking* [Table of Contents, Preface (viii-ix), Introduction: What This Book Can Do For You (xi-xiii), and chap. 2 “A Peaceful Mind Generates Power” (15-28)] (e-reserve)

James Gilbert, chap. 6 “‘My Answer’: Billy Graham and Male Conversions” in *Men in the Middle: Searching for Masculinity in the 1950s* (Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2005): 106-34 (e-reserve)

Erin A. Smith, chap. 6, “The Cult of Reassurance: Religion, Therapy, and Containment Culture” in *What Would Jesus Read?: Popular Religious Books and Everyday Life in Twentieth-Century America* (Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P, 2015): 157-98 (e-reserve)

Anthony Burke Smith, chap. 5, “Performing Catholicism in an Age of Consensus: Fulton J. Sheen, Television, and Postwar America” in *The Look of Catholics: Portrayals in Popular Culture from the Great Depression to the Cold War* (Lawrence: UP of Kansas, 2010): 125-51 (e-reserve)

Timothy Aubry and Trysh Travis, “Introduction: Rethinking Therapeutic Culture” in *Rethinking Therapeutic Culture* (Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2015): 1 – 23 (e-reserve)

Thurs. 21 Apr.

**Screen Cecil B. De Mille, “*The Ten Commandments*” (1956) (approx. 4 hours) before class

McAlister, chap. 1, “‘Benevolent Supremacy’: The Biblical Epic at the Dawn of the American Century, 1947-1960” (43-83) in *Epic Encounters*

Hollywood Musicals: The American Way and the World

Thurs. 28 Apr.

**Screen Rodgers & Hammerstein, *South Pacific* (1958) before class

Christina Klein, chap. 4, “Family Ties as Political Obligation: Oscar Hammerstein II, *South Pacific*, and the Discourse of Adoption” in *Cold War Orientalism: Asia in the Middlebrow Imagination, 1945-61* (Berkeley: U of California P, 2003): 143-90 (e-reserve)

Thurs. 5 May - Presentations of Final Projects

Course Requirements

****seminar attendance, preparation, and participation*** – This is a seminar. You are expected to come to class prepared, to participate actively, and to respond in intelligent and respectful ways to the ideas and contributions of other class members.

****class presentation*** – start / facilitate discussion of the readings on one class session and provide a 1-page handout of 4-6 questions for discussion. Additional guidance on a handout on eLearning.

****book review (5 pages) with oral presentation and 1-page summary handout.*** Additional guidance on a handout on eLearning.

****final project*** – additional guidance on a handout on eLearning.

*abstract (500 words) and brief bio. due Thurs. 24 Mar.

*final conference paper (10-12 pages) due Thurs. 5 May

Grading Policy --Your grade will be based on:

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| Seminar preparation / participation | 25% |
| Final Project / conference paper / presentation | 30% |
| Book Review paper / presentation | 25% |
| Class Presentation | 20% |

You must complete **all** course requirements in order to pass the class (e.g. if you do not hand in a paper or complete a presentation, you will fail the class, even if the other grades average out to a passing grade). Habitual lateness, leaving at the break, absences, or failure to hand in a paper on time will be reflected in your grade. **Anyone missing more than 5 classes (or part of classes that add up to more than 5 classes) for whatever reason will fail the course.** Please consult me in the event of illness, emergency, or other extenuating circumstances.

A NOTE ON CELL PHONES —TURN THEM OFF!!! (This includes texting)

Comet Creed-- *This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:*

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.