This course examines major developments in United States history since the eve of the Great Depression, a tumultuous period that gave birth to many of our contemporary debates about the responsibilities of government, the possibility of radical social change, the rationale for military action, and the meanings of citizenship. Reading primary documents alongside historians’ interpretations, we will address the building of the New Deal state; the emergence of the United States as a superpower; the domestic and international repercussions of the Cold War; the impact of mass consumption, suburbanization, and new technologies; the civil rights movement and other drives for social change; the cultural and political fallout of the Vietnam War; transformations in gender roles and the family; and the end of the “American century.”

Course Texts:

- Elaine Tyler May, Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era (1999)

Books may be purchased at the Penn Book Center, 34th and Sansom Streets; all books are also on reserve at Rosengarten in Van Pelt Library. A course packet of required readings is on sale at Campus Copy, 3907 Walnut Street. Given that many of the subjects we will be studying have ramifications in the present, reading a daily newspaper is strongly recommended.

Students without a solid high school-level background in American history may wish to read the suggested optional chapters from William Chafe, The Unfinished Journey, 5th ed., as indicated on the last page of the syllabus. The textbook is on reserve at Rosengarten, or can be ordered through any book store.
Course Organization:

Please note that History 164 has a Blackboard page that includes the course syllabus and announcements. Log on at http://courseweb.library.upenn.edu/.

Lectures meet every Monday and Wednesday at 11:00 am. There will be time for questions and some discussion during the lecture hours, but students are also encouraged to come to office hours on Monday afternoons (or by appointment). Outlines of the course lectures are not available. Therefore, students who are absent from class should make sure to obtain notes and any relevant announcements from a classmate.

Recitations begin meeting the second week of classes, places and times to be announced.

Course Films:

There are three required films: “The Best Years of Our Lives,” “Eyes on the Prize,” and “Berkeley in the Sixties.” There will be one screening of each film in Annenberg 110.

“The Best Years of Our Lives”
Wednesday, 10/5, 7pm

“Eyes on the Prize,” Episodes 2 & 5
Wednesday, 10/26, 7pm

“Berkeley in the Sixties”
Wednesday, 11/9, 7pm

All three films are on reserve at Rosengarten. With the exception of “Berkeley in the Sixties,” the course films will also be broadcast on the Penn Video Network (PVN). For the schedule of showings, see www.upenn.edu/video/mc.html.

There are several optional films that will be shown alongside the course, as noted on the reading schedule below. Check the Penn Video Network website for details.
Requirements and Grading:

Students are expected to:

- attend all course lectures, recitations, and required films
- complete all assigned readings before sections meet
- hand in all written work on time

These, however, are the minimum requirements. Careful reading and preparation as well as engaged, thoughtful participation in discussion sections are crucial to success in the course.

Grades will be determined as follows:

- Participation in recitations: 15%
- Three 5-6 page, double-spaced, essays: 60%
- Final examination: 25%

Course papers and the final exam will be evaluated on three dimensions: use of evidence, coherence of argument, and style of presentation (including organization, prose, and clarity). Extensions on written work will be granted only in extenuating circumstances and must be approved in advance by the recitation leader.

All course work must be performed in accordance with the Code of Academic Integrity, which can be reviewed at http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html. Penalties for cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misrepresentation are severe. If in doubt about any aspect of university policy in this area, please consult the instructor.
Readings and Class Schedule

* Readings in the bulkpack are denoted by an asterisk

Week 1: Course Introduction

Week 2: The Depression Crisis

Lectures: Boom and Bust
A World in Collapse

Readings: Robert S. McElvaine, ed., *Down & Out in the Great Depression*, ch. 2, 3, 7*
- “Documenting the Depression: The Photographs of Dorothea Lange”

Week 3: New Deals

Lectures: Economic Radicals and Reformers
The Emerging Welfare State

Readings: *The Era of Franklin D. Roosevelt* (pp. 1-24, 39-102, 114-51):
- Introduction (to p. 24)
- “FDR as President”
- “The New Deal”
- “Eleanor Roosevelt and American Women” (first 2 documents only)
- “Right...and Left…Face”
- “Race, Ethnicity, and Reform” (first 4 documents only)

Week 4: The “Good War”

Lectures: Mobilizing Men and Women
Making War

Readings: Michael C. C. Adams, *The Best War Ever*, ch. 1-5
*The Era of Franklin D. Roosevelt* (pp. 24-35, 184-227):
- Introduction (p. 24 to end)
- “Morale in Wartime: A Portfolio of Propaganda Posters”
- “The ‘Good War’?”

Week 5: Postwar Reconstructions

Lectures: Homefront Change
An Elusive Pluralism

Readings: *The Best War Ever*, ch. 6, 7
Studs Terkel, “*The Good War,*” excerpts*
Shana Berger Gluck, *Rosie the Riveter Revisited*, ch. 5, 7, 9*
Film: “The Best Years of Our Lives”

PAPER #1 due at the beginning of lecture

Week 6: Dominoes Toppling

Lectures: The Totalitarian Shadow
          The Politics of the Red Scare

Readings: Henry Stimson, “The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb”*
          Gar Alperowitz, “More on Atomic Diplomacy”*
          William Chafe, Harvard Sitkoff & Beth Bailey, eds., *A History of Our Time* (pp. 1-55):
          -Introduction: The Cold War Abroad and at Home
          -Thomas G. Paterson, “The Cold War Begins”
          -George F. Kennan, “The Necessity for Containment”
          -Harry S Truman, “The Truman Doctrine”
          -NSC-68: A Report to the National Security Council
          -HUAC Investigates Hollywood
          -Joseph McCarthy, “The Internal Communist Menace”
          -John Earl Haynes and Harvey Klehr, “The Venona Project and Atomic Espionage”

Week 7: The Culture of the Cold War

Lectures: No class on 10/17  (Fall Break)
          The Affluent Society

Readings: Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound*, introduction and ch. 1, 4-7
          Allen Ginsberg, “Howl”*

Week 8: The Long Road to Civil Rights

Lectures: From CORE to SNCC
          Civil Rights and the Liberal State

Readings: *A History of Our Time* (pp. 93-129, 146-60):
          -John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address, 1961
          -Lyndon B. Johnson, “The Great Society”: Remarks at the University of Michigan
          -Bruce J. Schulman, “Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism”
          -Introduction: Civil Rights and Racial Justice
          -“Declaration of Constitutional Principles: The Southern Manifesto”
          -Anne Moody, “A Lunch-Counter Sit-In in Jackson, Mississippi”
          -Bayard Rustin, “From Protest to Politics”
          Howell Raines, ed., *My Soul is Rested*, excerpts*
          Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail”*
          Film: “Eyes on the Prize,” episodes 2 & 5
Week 9: The Crisis of Vietnam

Lectures: Cold Warriors and Global Ambitions
The Longest War

Readings: Tim O’Brien, The Things They Carried
A History of Our Time (pp. 247-59, 285-89):
-Introduction: The Vietnam War
-Robert McNamara, “In Retrospect”

PAPER #2 due at the beginning of lecture

Week 10: The War at Home

Lectures: “There Will Be No Class Today” (don’t take this literally!)
Alternative Politics: Black Power and the Counter-Culture

-Students for a Democratic Society, “March on Washington: The War Must Be Stopped”
-John Kerry, “Vietnam Veterans Against the War”
-Introduction: Years of Polarization
-Students for a Democratic Society, “The Port Huron Statement”
-Young Americans for Freedom, “The Sharon Statement”
-Terry H. Anderson, “Counterculture”
-Karin Ashley et al., “You Don’t Need a Weatherman To Know Which Way the Wind Blows”
-Black Panther Party, “What We Want, What We Believe”
-F. Arturo Rosales, “Chicano!”
-Indians of All Tribes, “Proclamation”
Alexander Bloom and Wini Breines, eds., “Takin’ it to the Streets,” excerpts*
Film: “Berkeley in the Sixties”

Week 11: Sexual and Social Revolutions

Lectures: Women’s and Gay Liberation
Social Mores in Conflict

Readings: Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique, ch. 1*
A History of Our Time (pp. 177-245):
-Introduction: Struggles Over Gender and Sexual Liberation
-Jane Sherron De Hart, “The Creation of a Feminist Consciousness”
-Robin Morgan and New York Radical Women, “No More Miss America”
-Enriqueta Longeaux Vasquez, “¡Soy Chicana Primero!”
-Phyllis Schlafly, “What’s Wrong With ‘Equal Rights’ for Women?”
-Justice Harry A. Blackmun, Roe v. Wade
-Martha Shelley, “Gay is Good”
-Beth Bailey, “Sexual Revolution(s)”
Optional Film: “Saturday Night Fever” (PVN)
Week 12: Diminished Expectations

Lecture: Malaise and Fragmentation in the 1970s
        Watergate and the Crisis of Confidence

Readings: 
          *A History of Our Time* (pp. 325-49, 355-73):
          - Peter Schrag, “The Forgotten American”
          - Kim McQuaid, “Watergate”
          - Nicholas Lemann, “How the Seventies Changed America”
          Peter Carroll, *It Seemed Like Nothing Happened*, ch. 4, 8*
          Jimmy Carter, “The Energy Problem” and “Energy and the Crisis of Confidence”*

Optional Film: “All the President’s Men” (PVN)

Week 13: The Reagan Realignment

Lectures: ‘80s Politics: AIDS, Abortion, and Affirmative Action
          The Cold War Ends

Readings: *A History of Our Time* (pp. 374-93):
          - James Tobin, “Reaganomics in Retrospect”
          “A Nation at Risk” (http://www.ed.gov/pubs/NatAtRisk/risk.html)
          Haynes Johnson, *Sleepwalking Through History*, ch. 1-3, 9, 13-16, 19, 20, 22-24, 26, 28, 33

Optional Film: “Red Dawn” (PVN)

PAPER #3 due at the beginning of lecture

Week 14: The End of the American Century

Lectures: New Economies and New World Orders
          Prospects for Public Life

Readings: Bill Clinton, “Statement by the President on Welfare Reform Bill”*
          Benjamin Barber, “[Jihad v. McWorld]”*
          *A History of Our Time* (pp. 443-58):
          - George C. Herring, “From the Persian Gulf War to 9/11/2001: Confronting a New World Order”
          Arlene Stein, *The Stranger Next Door*, ch. 1-2, 4, 6-10

FINAL EXAMINATION: Date to be announced
Supplemental Reading


Week 2: Chapter 1
Week 3: Chapter 4
Week 4: Chapters 2-3
Week 5: Chapter 5
Week 6: Chapter 6
Week 7: Chapters 9-10
Week 8: Chapters 11-12
Week 9: Chapter 11
Week 10: Chapters 13-14
Week 11: Chapter 15
Week 12: Chapters 16-17