This course will examine the rise and fall of New Deal liberalism as the dominant political and social order of mid twentieth century America. It will begin with the onset of the Great Depression as the event which sets in motion profound transformations in the economy, in the balance of political power, in the role of the State, and in the relations between social classes and ethnic/racial groups. It will explore the rise of the labor movement and the creation of the welfare state. Classes will analyze the remaking of the Democratic Party and the impact of the Cold War on domestic politics. Discussions will probe the emergence of the civil rights, anti-war, and counter-culture movements as they developed alongside the expansion of the welfare state under Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society. The class will assess the accomplishments as well as the limitations of New Deal reform. It will wrestle with the question of when and why that reform impulse weakened, analyzing the growing conservative reaction against the New Deal culminating in the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980. Classes will deal with the rise of the “Silent Majority”, George Wallace, and the assault on “limousine liberalism”. Students will read primary documents as well secondary sources, and will be asked to prepare two research-based papers.

Course Requirements: Class participation, which may include brief presentations of the week’s readings, is very important. So is attending class. Being absent more than once without very good reason is a bad idea. Students will be asked to write one short, research-based mid term paper (due Feb. 22nd) and one longer, research-based end-of-term paper (due April 26th).

Office Hours: Rm 311B, College Hall, Thursday, 10:00-12:00
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Books to Purchase: Available at House of Our Own bookstore – 39th and Spruce

Coming of Age in Mississippi – Anne Moody
The Age of McCarthyism: A Brief History with Documents – Ellen Schrecker, editor
America in Our Time: From World War II to Nixon; What Happened and Why – Godfrey Hodgson
Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right – Lisa McGirr
Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal – William E. Leuchtenburg
Blood on the Forge: William Attaway
The Rise and Fall of the New Deal Order, 1930-80 – Steve Fraser and Gary Gerstle, eds. Course Packet – available at Campus Copy Center

Week 1
January 11
Course Overview

Week 2
January 18
Crisis of the Old Regime
Chs. 1 & 2, Leuchtenburg; Blood on the Forge; “Triumph of Liberal Reform”/Leuchtenberg (course packet); “The Conservative Achievement of New Deal Reform”/Bernstein (course packet); Major Problems, Ch. 10, Documents 1-5

Week 3
January 25
The First New Deal
Chs. 3 & 4, 6 (pp. 137-42) Leuchtenburg; Major Problems, Ch. 9, Introduction, Documents 1-8 and Ch. 11, Documents 1, 3, 6, and “The Southern Politics of New Deal Reform”, Patricia Sullivan; Film: “Grapes of Wrath”

Week 4
February 1
The Rise of Labor
The Many and the Few; Leuchtenberg, Ch. 5 (pp. 106-17); “Workers Common Ground” (course packet); Major Problems, Ch. 12, Documents 1-6 and “Organizing the Packinghouses” and “Race and Unionism: The CIO in the South”

Week 5
February 8
The Second New Deal
Leuchtenburg, Chs. 5 (pp. 95-106), 6 (pp 118-37), 7,8; Major Problems, Ch. 13, Introduction, Documents 3, 4, 5, and “Dissidents and Demagogues”, “Why Blacks Became Democrats” (course packet)

Week 6
February 15
Consolidation of the New Deal Order
“The New Deal and the Idea of the State” by Alan Brinkley, and “From Corporatism to Collective Bargaining” by Nelson Lichtenstein both in Fraser and Gerstle, The Rise and Fall of the New Deal Order; Leuchtenburg, Chs. 10 & 11; Major Problems, Ch. 14, Introduction, Documents 1, 5, 6, and Ch. 15, Document 4

Week 7
February 22
1st Research Paper Presentation/Discussion on Rise of the New Deal
Week 8
March 1
The Domestic Politics of Anti-Communism/McCarthyism
Schrecker, “The Age of McCarthyism” and Documents 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22; “Cold War—Warm Hearth: Politics and the Family in Postwar America” by Elaine May in Fraser and Gerstle; Hodgson, ch. 2, pp. 34-47; Film – “The Manchurian Candidate”

Week 9
March 15
Anatomy of Consensus Liberalism

Week 10
March 22
The Politics of Race
Moody; Hodgson, Ch. 3, pp. 54-62 and Chs. 9, 10, 13; “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” by Martin Luther King, and “Message to the Grass Roots” by Malcolm X (both in course packet)

Week 11
March 29
Vietnam and the Crisis of the New Deal Order
Hodgson, Chs. 6, 12, 14, 15, 18; “The Failure and Success of the New Radicalism” by Maurice Isserman and Michael Kazin in Fraser and Gerstle; “The Port Huron Statement”; “Up Against the Ivy Wall”; “The Problem That Has No Name”; Roe.v. Wade”(course packet); Film – “Dr. Strangelove”

Week 12
April 5
Blue Collar Blues and the Rise of Conservative Populism

Week 13
April 12
The Rise of the Religious and Suburban Right
The Road to Serfdom by F. A. Hayek – selections (course packet); McGirr; “The Changing Shape of Power” by Thomas Byrne Edsall in Fraser and Gerstle; “The Second
American Revolution” by Ronald Reagan (course packet); “Women Against Feminism” by Rebecca Klatch (course packet)

Week 14
April 19
2nd Research Paper Presentations/Discussion