HISTORY 360, CONFLICT & CONFORMITY IN POSTWAR AMERICA: 1945-1963
Fall 2015, Monday-Wednesday 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Instructor: Neil Lanctot, Ph.D. (pronounced “Lank-toe”)
e-mail address: nlanctot@comcast.net
Office hours: Monday/Wednesday after class or by appointment

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:** Through readings, lectures, videos, discussion, and written assignments, students will achieve a deeper understanding of the complexity of postwar America, an era marked by both conflict and conformity.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

*(INCOMPLETE - TO BE FINALIZED IN AUGUST 2015)*


*Course reader* available from University Readers.com

**REQUIREMENTS:** Final grades will be based upon the following:

1. **Mid-term test** on October 12 (25% of final grade).
2. **Essay** due November 23 (25% of final grade).
3. **Final examination** (25% of final grade).
4. **Discussion questions (based on assigned readings)** (25% of grade).

Tentative schedule of classes and readings:

*(INCOMPLETE - TO BE FINALIZED IN AUGUST 2015)*

**August 26**
Introduction - The Atomic Bomb/The Cold War begins
Video:
*Comrades (1917-1945)* (part 1 of *The Cold War*)

**Aug. 31/Sept. 2, 9**
The Cold War
John Lewis Gaddis, "Nuclear Weapons and the Early Cold War," 85-112 (from *We Now Know - Rethinking Cold War History*).


Video:
*Iron Curtain (1945-1947)* (part 2 of *The Cold War*) or *Korea (1949-1953)* (part 5)
Sept. 14, 16  McCarthyism and the domestic Cold War


Video: *The Atomic Cafe* (part 1)

Sept. 21, 23  McCarthyism and the domestic Cold War (continued)

Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism*, 244-257.


Video: *The Atomic Cafe* (part 2)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS #2 DUE (SEPTEMBER 22)**

Sept. 28, 30  The early Civil Rights movement

Whitfield, *A Death in the Delta*, chapters 1-4

October 5, 7  The early Civil Rights movement (part 2)


Excerpts from John Howard Griffin, *Black Like Me*.

Video: *Ain't Scared of Your Jails (1960-1961)* (episode 3 of *Eyes on the Prize*)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS #3 DUE (OCTOBER 6)**

October 12  Midterm exam

Oct. 14, 19, 21  Suburbia, the baby boom, and the changing face of American life


Wolfinger, James, "'The American Dream-For All Americans': Race, Politics, and the Campaign to Desegregate Levittown," *Journal of Urban History*, 38 (May 2012), 430-51.


Video: *Selling the American Way or Let's Play House* (volumes 2 and 3 of David Halberstam's The Fifties)
Oct. 26, 28 The Rise of Television


Video: Samples of 1950s television programming

Nov. 2, 4

Nov. 9, 11 Teenagers and the music revolution of the 1950s

James Gilbert, A Cycle of Outrage - America's Reaction to the Juvenile Delinquent in the 1950s, 11-23, 196-211.

Glenn C. Altschuler, All Shook Up - How Rock 'n' Roll Changed America, 35-66, 197-200.

Video: Renegades (episode 1 of Rock & Roll)

Nov. 16, 18 Women in postwar America


Betty Friedan, "The Problem That Has No Name," (chapter 1 of The Feminine Mystique), 15-32.


Video: A Burning Desire (volume 4 of David Halberstam's The Fifties)

Nov. 23 Postwar popular culture

Savage, Jr., Commies, Cowboys, and Jungle Queens - Comic Books and America, 1945-1954.

ASSIGNMENT DUE

Nov. 30/Dec. 2 The American Path to Vietnam


Dec. 7 Review for final exam