HIST 30400 CRN 14363

America in the 1960s

Fall 2020

TTH 12:00-1:15

UNIV 217

This course surveys the political, social, and cultural history of 1960s America. The "Sixties" is something of a misnomer. The period was defined less by the borders of a single decade than by movements and issues that emerged in the 1940s and were only partially resolved by the time Richard Nixon resigned the presidency in 1974. There also is no consensus about the era's meaning or significance—the 1960s continue to be the subject of passionate debate and political controversy in the United States. The times they were a-changin', but why, how, and to what end? In exploring this turbulent decade, the course examines what did and what did not change in the 1960s. Topics include: the presidencies of John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Richard M. Nixon; the triumph and breakdown of postwar liberalism; the resurgence of conservatism; the many insurgent political and social movements of the decade, including the civil rights and black power movements, the new left, the new right, environmentalism, the chicano and red power movements, feminism, and the gay liberation movement; the counterculture; the sexual revolution; rock 'n' roll; and the Vietnam war. We will investigate these and other issues in a mix of printed, visual, audio, and multimedia sources such as speeches, correspondence, newspapers and magazines, autobiographies and oral histories, photographs, television, movies, and music. Open to all undergraduates. No prerequisites.

HIST 30400

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UNIV 121

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