The Radical 1970s: Global Shocks, Local Violence
History 601 / Prof. William Gray / Fall 2015

This reading seminar considers the 1970s as a formative era in the advent of the contemporary world. Topics include new social movements, multinational corporations, terrorist violence, the “oil shock,” the crisis of the welfare state, and the challenges of governance in the Global South. Although coverage is global in reach, participants will have opportunities to choose readings relating to their geographic areas of interest. The final project is a historiographic essay intended to prepare the ground for research projects in this time period.

Provisional Course Outline

I. Transnational Protest in the Late 1960s (USA, Germany)
II. Nixon & Kissinger (Vietnam, Watergate)
III. Multinationals & the Global South (Chile)
IV. New Social Movements (Feminism, Environmentalism, Gay Rights)
V. Terror and Violence (PLO, IRA, RAF)
VI. The Oil Shock
VII. The Crisis of the Welfare State (Britain, France)
VIII. Stagnation in the Communist World (Poland, USSR, China)
IX. Global Human Health (Population Control)
X. Crises of Governance (India, Iran, Brazil)
XI. Carter’s America
XII. Human Rights & NGOs
XIII. The Resurgent Cold War (Africa, Afghanistan, Central America)
XIV. Thatcher, Reagan, and the “Neoliberal” Turn