ANG-1700: Literature & Film

The ‘60s in the United States

Fall 2018, Mondays 16:00-19:00, B-3260 Pav. J-Brillant

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Course Description

This course focuses on the main events that have indelibly marked history in the United States in the 1960s. Instead of looking at works of fiction and their adaptation, this course plans to analyse specific events from the lens of both literature and film. This cultural journey will begin by foregrounding the transition between the ’50s and the ’60s and by considering the importance of the year 1963 both for Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream Speech” and John F. Kennedy’s assassination. From there, films, novels, and poetry evoking paranoia, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, Second Wave Feminism, and the “Space Race” will be covered. Every class will be separated into two parts: the first will be more theoretical, focusing on historical and cultural context; the second part will require your feedback on weekly readings.

Required Texts

The Book of Daniel - E. L. Doctorow
Cat’s Cradle - Kurt Vonnegut
The Sympathizer - Viet Thanh Nguyen
Other texts will be made available on StudiUM. (You are strongly encouraged to print these texts, but, for eco-friendly reasons, I will allow computers in class)

Suggested Texts

An English Dictionary
A Thesaurus
MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th or 8th edition) **online version available at OWL at Purdue owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/**

Evaluation

Journal Entries (5 x 1-2 Pages): 15% (3% each)
Short Essay (4-6 Pages): 25%
Long Essay (8-10 Pages): 40%
Adaptation Project: 10%
Participation: 10%

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. It can jeopardize your academic career. If you are caught plagiarizing, know that it could result in a F on either the essay/exam or even the course. In serious cases, it may lead to a suspension or expulsion from the University. If you do not
know what represents a case of plagiarism, please, do not hesitate to ask me or show it to me. You can also find more information on the University’s official stance here: www.integrite.umontreal.ca.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Sep 10)
Course Introductions + Historical Context

Week 2 (Sep 17)
Towards the 60s:
E.L. Doctorow The Book of Daniel

Week 3 (Sep 24)
11/22/63:
JFK (1991)
Optional: Jackie (2016)

Week 4 (Oct 1)
Paranoia and Cold War:
Kurt Vonnegut, Cat’s Cradle

Week 5 (Oct 8)
Thanksgiving

Week 6 (Oct 15)
Dr. Strangelove (1964)
Elizabeth Cook, “Understanding the Enemy”
Optional: The Death of Stalin (2017)

Week 7 (Oct 22)
Reading Week

Week 8 (Oct 29)
‘Nam:
Viet Thanh Nguyen, The Sympathizer

First Essay Due (25%)

Week 9 (Nov 5)
Apocalypse Now (1979)
Viet Thanh Nguyen, “Just Memories”
Optional: *The Deer Hunter* (1978)

**Week 10 (Nov 12)**

**MLK and Malcolm:**
Sonia Sanchez, “Malcolm”
David Henderson, “They are Killing All the Young Men”
Etheridge Knight, “For Malcolm, A Year After”
Amiri Baraka, “A Poem for Black Hearts”
Nikki Giovanni, “Reflections on April 4, 1968” and “The Funeral of Martin Luther King, Jr.”

**Week 11 (Nov 19)**

*Malcolm X* (1992)
Amiri Baraka, “The Legacy of Malcolm X”
Optional: *Selma* (2014)

**Week 12 (Dec 26)**

**Second Wave Feminism:**
Nikki Giovanni, “Woman Poem,” “My Poem”
Sylvia Plath, “Cut,”
Betty Friedan: Excerpts from *The Feminine Mystique*

**Week 13 (Dec 03)**

**The Feminist Conundrum:**
*Rosemary’s Baby* (1968)
Karyn Valerius, “‘Rosemary's Baby’, Gothic Pregnancy, and Fetal Subjects”
Optional: *She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry* (2014)

**Week 14 (Dec 10)**

**The Space Race:**
David Bowie, “Space Oddity”
Excerpts from Norman Mailer, *Of a Fire on the Moon*

**Week 15 (Dec 17)**

*First Man* (2018)

**Second Essay Due (40%)**