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## U.S. Cold War Culture

History 901

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5257 Humanities; Tuesdays 10 am – noon

Spring Semester 2012

Professor: Cindy I-Fen Cheng  
Office: 5106 Humanities  
Office Hours: Tuesday 1 - 3 pm and by appointment  
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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to provide a survey of key works in the field of U.S. Cold War Culture.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Active participation and listening are required in every seminar meeting. To help develop your thoughts on the weekly assigned readings, I am asking that you write a two-page response paper for each assigned reading to be turned in at the beginning of seminar. Your first write-up is due on the second week of class meeting, 1/31. The final critical thinking paper is a 15-page write-up that asks you to pick a theme discussed in this course and to develop it in relation to your own research interests.

Response paper (2-page; 50 points each, 14 total)	700 points	70%
Critical Thinking Paper (15 pages)	300 points	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000 points</b>	<b>100%</b>

### REQUIRED TEXTS

- Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era* (New York: Basic Books, 1988).
- Barbara Ehrenreich, *The Hearts of Men: American Dreams and the Flight from Commitment* (New York: Anchor Press, 1983).
- Lynn Spigel, *Make Room for TV: Television and the Family Ideal in Postwar America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992).
- Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumer's Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America* (New York: Knopf Press, 2003).
- Victor Navasky, *Naming Names* (New York: Viking Press, 1980).

- K.A. Cuordileone, *Manhood and American Political Culture in the Cold War* (New York: Routledge, 2005).
- Ron Robin, *The Making of the Cold War Enemy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001).
- David K. Johnson, *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2004).
- George Lipsitz, *Rainbow at Midnight: Labor and Culture in the 1940s* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1994).
- Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000).
- Eric Avila, *Popular Culture in the Age of White Flight: Fear and Fantasy in Suburban Los Angeles* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004).
- Christina Klein, *Cold War Orientalism: Asia in the Middlebrow Imagination, 1945-1961* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003).
- Jack Kerouac, *On the Road* (New York: Penguin Books, 1957).
- Serge Guilbaut, *How New York Stole the Idea of Modern Art: Abstract Expressionism, Freedom, and the Cold War* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983).
- Ann Eden Gibson, *Abstract Expressionism: Other Politics* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997).

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1 Course Introduction

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T 1.24

### WEEK 2 Constructing a Culture of Norms

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T 1.31 Response Paper #1 DUE

Readings:

- Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era* (New York: Basic Books, 1988).
- Barbara Ehrenreich, *The Hearts of Men: American Dreams and the Flight from Commitment* (New York: Anchor Press, 1983).

### WEEK 3 The Family Circle

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T 2.7 Response Paper #2 DUE

Reading:

- Lynn Spigel, *Make Room for TV: Television and the Family Ideal in Postwar America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992).

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**WEEK 4                      Growth of Capitalism and Domestic Markets**

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T      2.14                      Response Paper #3 DUE

Reading:

- Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumer's Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America* (New York: Knopf Press, 2003).

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**WEEK 5                      American Political Justice**

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T      2.21                      Response Paper #4 DUE

Reading:

- Victor Navasky, *Naming Names* (New York: Viking Press, 1980).

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**WEEK 6                      Gender and U.S. Political Culture**

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T      2.28                      Response Paper #5 DUE

Reading:

- K.A. Cuordileone, *Manhood and American Political Culture in the Cold War* (New York: Routledge, 2005).

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**WEEK 7                      Who are our Enemies?**

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T      3.6                          Response Paper #6 DUE

Readings:

- Ron Robin, *The Making of the Cold War Enemy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001).

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**WEEK 8                      The Other Menace**

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T      3.13                      Response Paper #7 DUE

Reading:

- David K. Johnson, *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2004).

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**WEEK 9**                      **Labor and Postwar America**

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T      3.20                      Response Paper #8 DUE

Reading:

- George Lipsitz, *Rainbow at Midnight: Labor and Culture in the 1940s* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1994).

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**WEEK 10**                      **Cold War Civil Rights**

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T      3.27                      Response Paper #9 DUE

Reading:

- Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000).

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**WEEK 11**                      **Spring Break**

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T      4.3                              No Class Meeting

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**WEEK 12**                      **Popular Culture and White Flight**

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T      4.10                      Response Paper #10 DUE

Reading:

- Eric Avila, *Popular Culture in the Age of White Flight: Fear and Fantasy in Suburban Los Angeles* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004).

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**WEEK 13**                      **Transnational Imaginings**

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T      4.17                      Response Paper #11 DUE

Reading:

- Christina Klein, *Cold War Orientalism: Asia in the Middlebrow Imagination, 1945-1961* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003).

**WEEK 14                      The Beats**

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T      4.24                      Response Paper #12 DUE

Reading:

- Jack Kerouac, *On the Road* (New York: Penguin Books, 1957).

**WEEK 15                      New York and the Rise of Modern Art**

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T      5.1                              Response Paper #13 DUE

Reading:

- Serge Guilbaut, *How New York Stole the Idea of Modern Art: Abstract Expressionism, Freedom, and the Cold War* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983).

**WEEK 16                      Retracing the Roots of Abstract Expressionism**

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T      5.8                              Response Paper #14 DUE

Reading:

- Ann Eden Gibson, *Abstract Expressionism: Other Politics* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997).

**Critical Thinking Paper – DUE Friday, May 18, 2012 at NOON.**