This course surveys the social and cultural history of the United States since 1945. It is a readings course with emphasis on secondary works. We examine major movements and formations such as mid-century liberalism, the civil and women’s rights movements, “the sixties,” the New Left and the New Right, multiculturalism, the great 20th century religious awakening, postindustrialism, and globalization.

Course objectives
- To develop knowledge about and analytical understanding of the major cultural formations and social changes in the U.S. in the second half of the twentieth century
- To provide an understanding of the historiography covering this period of U.S. history and to engage that historiography critically

Course readings
Course books have been ordered at the Fordham bookstore and placed on reserve in Walsh Library. Please feel free to order them through any other means, such as online secondhand suppliers, if you wish. In addition, we will be reading from articles and book chapters that will be available on either electronic reserves or through Fordham’s electronic journal subscriptions. The password for e-res is HIST6740.

Course requirements
- Classroom participation and Blackboard discussions—40%
  - 25% Participation in discussion in the classroom. This consists of regular contributions to the seminar discussion of assigned readings. You are responsible for raising questions and critiques and for responding to the ideas of classmates. Grades will be based on thoughtfulness of comments, relevance to the discussion at hand, and frequency of contribution.
    - A-range: speaks up a minimum of 2-3 times per class, with comments that demonstrate careful reading of the text and/or with comments that demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the issues at hand
    - B-range: speaks up only 1-2 times per class, with comments that suggest hasty reading of the text and/or with comments that show little attention to fellow classmates or relevance to conversation at hand.
    - C-range: speaks up less than 1-2 times per class
  - 15% Contributions to online discussion board on Blackboard prior to seminar meeting. For ten seminar sessions you will post a 1-3 paragraph response to the week’s readings prior to class and you will be responsible every week for reading all postings prior to the class meeting. These responses are informal and not graded for style, but they are graded for the seriousness and richness of your engagement with the texts. You can
comment on the main arguments of the texts, the strengths and weaknesses of the texts, the relationship among texts (including from previous weeks), the issues raised by other students in their posts.

- Each post is worth 2 points. You will earn a 2 for a substantive, detailed response supported by examples from the texts, a 1 for a quick, sketchy discussion with little specific reference to the text, and a 0 for failing to complete the post at all.

- Review essays—two 5-7 page essays over the course of the semester which review one week’s reading in conjunction with two additional secondary articles—30%
  - One due during month of October. Second due during month of November.
  - Details to be announced in class

- Final historiographical essay of about 15 pages due at the end of the term—30%
  - Details to be announced in class

**Contact information/Office hours**
Please feel free to email me at Swinth@Fordham.edu, although I normally respond to email only during regular week-day work hours. My office hours are Tuesday, 2:30-3:30 and Wednesday, 2:30-3:30, in Dealy 610. I am also more than willing to schedule appointments.

**Class outline**
31 August
  Introduction

**Postwar Order Solidifies**
14 September  Consumer’s Heaven  Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumer's Republic*

21 September  Suburban Politics
  **Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier*—selected chapters
  Kevin Kruse & Thomas Sugrue, eds., *The New Suburban History*

**Economic Realignment**
28 September  The New Postindustrial Service Society
  Bethany Moreton, *To Serve God & Wal-Mart*
  (Feb. 5, 1981)

**Social Realignment**
5 October  Civil Rights Remakes the South
  Charles Payne, *I’ve Got the Light of Freedom*
12 October  City Centers Shattered in the Fight for Civil Rights
   Beryl Satter, *Family Properties*

19 October  Women Claim Full Social and Economic Citizenship
   Annelise Orleck, *Storming Caesars Palace*
   **Sara Evans, *Tidal Wave* (2003), ch. 3

26 October  The Workplace is Remade
   Nancy MacLean, *Freedom is Not Enough*

2 November  Sexual Freedom & Constraint
   Margot Canaday, *The Straight State*

9 November  The New National Body

**Political Realignment**

16 November  The Politics of Class

30 November  Rise of the New Right
   Lisa McGirr, *Suburban Warriors*

7 December  America on the Global Stage

**Moving into the 21st Century**

14 December  New Interpretations of Postwar America on the Horizon
   Kirsten Swinth, draft chapters, *Caring in a Competitive Society: Forging the Working Family in America*
   **Melvin Burgess, *Smack* (2010), chapter 7**