LEH354 **American Protest and Politics in the Long 1960s**

Dr. Jason Schulman (e-mail: Jason.Schulman@lehman.cuny.edu)

Wednesdays, 12:30pm to 1:45pm – otherwise online; CA 329

Office Hours: Mondays, 1:00 to 2:00pm, CA 373

This course will examine the impact of protest movements and political turmoil on American life in the mid-20th century. We will be primarily concerned with the era known as “the Sixties,” which in practice really means the mid-1950s through the early 1970s. This is the era of the “New Left,” which consisted of various movements for fundamental change in the United States. Topics will include the decline of the Old, Communist Party USA-dominated Left and the rise of the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s; the rise of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), the movement against the Vietnam War, the Black Power movement, the Second Wave of Feminism, the real beginning of the Gay Liberation Movement with the Stonewall Uprising; and the decline of the organized New Left in the early 1970s.

**Reading:**

Course readings will consist of one book, available at the Lehman bookstore, and materials distributed by me in class, or to be found online. The one book is:

Van Gosse, *Rethinking the New Left: An Interpretive History* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), ISBN 978-1-4039-6695-7.

This book is fairly short and is a quick read. **You should read all of it as quickly as possible.** It will not be the primary focus of our discussions in class. Instead, we will mainly discuss the videos that you will watch outside of class (on YouTube) and the articles which I will give to you in class for you to read or which you will find online.

**Videos:** There will be assignments consisting of videos on YouTube which you are required to watch. After you have watched the videos, we will discuss them in class every Wednesday. **You are expected to watch ALL the videos and you may make reference to them in your final paper.**

**Writings:** You will be required to **write a paper of at least two pages for every day of class** in which you discuss what you have learned from the assignments you have just read and watched. You will tell me what you have learned that you didn’t already know, and what you think about what you have learned. **The papers should be double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font**. These papers will not be graded, but **if you don’t hand in your paper on time, points will be taken off your final grade**. Feel free to use these papers to ask me questions about what you have read and watched.

There is one more substantial writing requirement, which is due at the end of the semester. **This research project is an eight-page research paper to be developed by you (with my feedback) over the course of the semester**. The goal is to identify a theme we have discussed and read about in the course, narrow it down, analyze it and produce a piece of scholarship on it. Topics *must* be related to the issues being discussed in class throughout the semester. You will choose the topic, and preparation for the paper will include library research. Essentially, *I want you to come up with a question* which will be the topic of your paper, and you will use the paper *as a way to answer that question*. **The papers should be double-spaced and numbered, using 12-point Times New Roman font**.

**I expect you to be in regular contact with me as you make progress on your project**. You will be expected to meet with me, or at least e-mail me, to discuss well in advance of submission what your topic will be. You must use at least **four** **books** in the writing of your paper, or at least **three books and two journal or magazine articles**. You may use online articles as well.

As the papers, especially the research paper, are a very important part of this course, **I highly encourage you to take advantage of Lehman’s online tutoring service**, which enables Lehman students to receive tutoring in writing from any computer terminal with Internet connectivity. You can submit your work for feedback from a writing tutor, ask questions, and communicate with a tutor in real time or via email tutoring. You **must** have a valid Lehman e-mail account to access the online tutoring services. To register for online tutoring, you need to stop by the ACE (Old Gym Building, room 205) to request an online tutoring account and to obtain instructions for how to access this service. For information about the availability of online tutoring, call the ACE at 718-960-8175. See also: <http://www.lehman.edu/academics/instructional-support-services/online-writing-tutor.php>

**Midterm and Final Exam:**

The exams will cover assigned readings, videos and class discussions. They will include a choice of essay questions. You will have to answer two of the questions (50 points each).

**Grading:**

Grading will be based on:

1) Midterm Exam

2) Final Exam

3) Research Project

4) Class Participation and Attendance

Final grades will be determined as follows:

• Midterm Exam: 20%

• Final Exam: 35%

• Research Paper: 35%

• Class participation: 5%

• Attendance: 5%

**Academic Integrity**: Plagiarism and cheating are extremely serious violations of academic behavior. Please ask me if you have any questions about using and/or documenting outside research and secondary critical resources. *Ignorance of what plagiarism is will not be accepted as an excuse.*

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| **Date** | **Discussion Topics** |
| Aug. 30 | Introduction and Class Overview |
| Sept. 6 | Discussion of *Seeing Red: Stories of American Communists* (11 part video)  **Readings**:Paul Le Blanc, “Understanding Labor Radicalism” from the book *Work and Struggle* (handed out);Van Gosse, *Rethinking the New Left* Ch. 1, 2  ***Read Le Blanc’s essay* before *watching* Seeing Red*.*** |
| Sept. 13 | Discussion of *Eyes on the Prize* parts 1 and 2 (two videos)  **Reading**: Van Gosse, *Rethinking the New Left* Ch. 3, 4 |
| Sept. 20 | **NO CLASS** |
| Sept. 27 | Discussion of *Eyes on the Prize* parts 3 and 4 (two videos)  **Reading**: Martin Luther King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” <http://www.stanford.edu/group/King/frequentdocs/birmingham.pdf> |
| Oct. 4 | Discussion of *Eyes on the Prize* parts 5 and 6 (two videos)  **Reading**: Paul Le Blanc, “Revolutionary Road, Partial Victory” from *Monthly Review* magazine (to be emailed) |
| Oct. 11 | Discussion of *Berkeley in the Sixties* (12 part video)  **Reading**:Van Gosse, *Rethinking the New Left* Ch. 6, 8 |
| Oct. 18 | Discussion of talk by Tom Hayden on Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and SDS’s *Port Huron Statement:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJeAF3E2yl0>  Reading: *The Port Huron Statement*, <http://coursesa.matrix.msu.edu/~hst306/documents/huron.html> |
| Oct. 25 | Discussion of *Eyes on the Prize* parts 7 and 8 (two videos)  Recommended: *Malcolm X: Make It Plain* (one video)  **Reading**: Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullet,” <http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/speeches/malcolm_x_ballot.html>  (also available on YouTube) |
| Nov. 1 | **MIDTERM EXAM** |
| Nov. 8 | Discussion of *All Power to the People!* Part 1 and *Eyes on the Prize* part 12 (two videos)  Optional: *All Power to the People!* Part 2 (one video)  **Readings**: Van Gosse, *Rethinking the New Left* Ch. 9; “An Interview with Huey Newton” from *The New Left Reader* (to be emailed) |
| Nov. 15 | Discussion of *Eyes on the Prize* part 10 and *Finally Got The News* (two videos)  **Readings**: Cornel West, “The Paradox of the Afro-American Rebellion,” from *The 60s Without Apology* (to be emailed) |
| Nov. 22 | Discussion of *Some American Feminists* and *Democracy Now!* on the 40th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots (two videos)  **Reading**: Van Gosse, *Rethinking the New Left* Ch.7, 11, 12 |
| Nov. 29 | Discussion of *The Weather Underground* (one video)  **Reading:** Van Gosse, *Rethinking the New Left* Ch. 13 |
| Dec. 6 | **Final Papers Due – Discussion in Class of Papers** |
| Dec. 20 | **Final Exam – Not Cumulative** |

*Note: The Instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course outline.*