

ANG 1023

Professor:

***Contemporary American Culture***

Sorel Friedman *3M National Teaching Fellow*

(514) 343-7189

[sorel.friedman@umontreal.ca](mailto:sorel.friedman@umontreal.ca)

[delicious.com/sorel/1023](http://delicious.com/sorel/1023)

[www.thesilkmerchant.blogspot.com](http://www.thesilkmerchant.blogspot.com)

Autumn 2011

Schedule:

Thursday 8h30 – 11h30

September 1 – December 8, 2011

Room:

B-3275, Pavillon 3200, rue Jean-Brillant



This course is designed to introduce students to major elements of the culture of the United States in the period from 1945 to the present. Texts, discussions, audio-visual and multimedia materials will focus primarily on the social and cultural changes in the United States following the Second World War. Themes to be studied will include the growth of the middle-class after WWII, the various social changes of the fifties, the Civil Rights Movement, the counter-cultural movements of the sixties, the rise of the "second-wave" of feminism in the late sixties and seventies, the Vietnam War and the protest movements which rose up against it. By the end of the course, the student will have acquired a better general understanding of social institutions and attitudes in the United States.

**EVALUATION:** This course requires your close participation and attendance. The course also has an important on-line component as well, to be delivered via STUDIUM and other methods.

Book project	20% (Various dates)
Term Paper	30% (Due December 1)
Final Exam	50%

**LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. TO HELP WITH TIME MANAGEMENT, PLEASE SEE <http://www.lib.umn.edu/help/calculator/>**

**TEXTBOOK:** Terry Anderson, *The Sixties* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) (New York: Longman, 2003).  
Johanna Skibsrud, *The Sentimentalists*  
One other novel of your choice (from a list supplied by teacher)

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE - subject to modification**

September 1	Introduction to the course
September 8	Understanding American elections
September 15	End of WW II – the Fifties
September 22	The Sixties – 1
September 29	The Sixties – 2
October 6	The Civil Rights Movement – 1
October 13	The Civil Rights Movement – 2
October 20	Vietnam War - 1
November 3	Vietnam War and art 1 – Monuments
Nov 10	Vietnam War and art 2 – Literature
Nov 17	Group discussion – Book project : Reaction to your text (10%)
Nov 24	Vietnam War and art 3 – Documentary Film
Dec 1	Review, questions, and discussion
Dec 8	Book project: Reaction to your classmates' texts 10% Final Exam 50%

WEEKLY SCHEDULE (DETAILED) - subject to modification

September 1	Introduction to the course
-------------	----------------------------

Teaching and Learning about American Culture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

An interesting explanation of the word “Culture”:

<http://pubpages.unh.edu/~dml3/880williams.htm>

Comparison Canada vs. USA by organization which wants Canada to join USA :

<http://www.unitednorthamerica.org/simdiff.htm>

READING: Anderson, pp. 1-18

September 8	Understanding American elections
-------------	----------------------------------

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/index2.html>

Elections 101: <http://www.cnn.com/POLITICS/election.2010/the.basics/>

Electoral college: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/>

Electoral college calculator <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/calculator.html>

Interactive site: <http://www.270towin.com/>

Win popular vote but lose the election? The case of 2000:

[http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/2000/popular\\_vote.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/2000/popular_vote.html)

What happened in 2000? (according to HBO)

<http://www.hbo.com/movies/recount/index.html#/movies/recount/index.html/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVd1LuadnDk>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDX\\_ZCSDoN8&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDX_ZCSDoN8&feature=related)

2004 Obama speech part one:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awQkJNVsgKM>

2004 Obama speech part two:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UDKXKGGZ3PY&feature=related>

Sorel interview : Obama Year One (Cerium Archives)

<http://www.cerium.ca/spip.php?page=recherche&lang=en&recherche=obama>

(Click on window in upper-left corner)

September 15	End of WW II – the Fifties
--------------	----------------------------

GI Bill of Rights: (online video) <http://www.archive.org/details/GiBillOfRigh>

[http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI\\_Bill\\_Info/history.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/history.htm)

Babies on Parade: <http://www.archive.org/details/Babieson1950>

Duck and Cover: <http://stream.state.gov/streamvol/journals/fullversion.mov>

September 22

The Sixties – 1

**Introduction to the Counter-Culture:**

The 1960s were years of change, experimentation and hope that transformed a nation. This two-hour film chronicles this era of widespread democratic activism and provocative music, focusing on critical events, from civil rights to the women's liberation movement, the youth counter-culture and the Vietnam War. Through film footage, rare archival photographs and interviews with historians, critics, participants and those on both sides of the generation gap, the documentary captures the electricity, fervor and anger of an era full of great hope and turmoil. And it reflects on the enormous changes that swept the globe during that time and profiles the coming of age of the baby boomers.

<http://www.pbs.org/opb/thesixties/>

**Summer of Love:** <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/love/>

In the summer of 1967, thousands of young people from across the country flocked to San Francisco's Haight Ashbury district to join in the hippie experience, only to discover that what they had come for was already disappearing.

**Podcast:** [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/rss/media/love\\_01.mp3](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/rss/media/love_01.mp3) (5:00)

**The Film:** <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/love/program/index.html>

**Timeline:** <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/love/sfeature/timeline.html>

**Other info:** <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/love/sfeature/oracle.html>

**Following Sean:** <http://www.followingsean.com/>

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2007/followingsean/>

**READING: Anderson, pp. 19-44**

**READING: Anderson, pp. 45-73**

**READING: Anderson, pp. 103-152**

September 29

The Sixties – 2

**1968: The Year that Changed a Generation**

**Video:** <http://www.youtube.com/user/artstar11#p/u>

**Discussion /assignment of term papers.**

It is assumed that you know how to write an essay using MLA format. If not, see <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

October 6

The Civil Rights Movement – 1

<http://delicious.com/sorel/civilrights>

**READING: Anderson, pp. 74-102**

October 13

The Civil Rights Movement – 2

October 20

Vietnam War - Introduction

**READING: Anderson, pp. 153-181**

<b>November 3</b>	<b>Vietnam War and art 1 – Monuments</b>
<p>Maya Lin: <a href="http://www.newyorker.com/archive/2002/07/08/020708fa_fact_menand">http://www.newyorker.com/archive/2002/07/08/020708fa_fact_menand</a>  audio: <a href="http://assistivemedia.org/arts_and_humanities/the_reluctant_memorialist.html">http://assistivemedia.org/arts_and_humanities/the_reluctant_memorialist.html</a>  <a href="http://prelectur.stanford.edu/lecturers/lin/index.html">http://prelectur.stanford.edu/lecturers/lin/index.html</a></p>	
<b>Nov 10</b>	<b>Vietnam War and art 2 – Literature</b>
<b>Nov 17</b>	<b>Group discussion – Book project: Reaction to your text (10%)</b>
<b>Nov 24</b>	<b>Vietnam War and art 3 – Documentary Film</b>
<p><a href="http://www.regrettoinform.org/">http://www.regrettoinform.org/</a>  Supplemental readings:  <a href="http://www.pbs.org/pov/film-files/rti_delvedeeper_reading_list_0.pdf">http://www.pbs.org/pov/film-files/rti_delvedeeper_reading_list_0.pdf</a></p>	
<b>Dec 1</b>	<b>Review, questions, and discussion Term paper due</b>
<b>Dec 8</b>	<b>Book project: Reaction to your classmates' texts 10% Final Exam 50%</b>