Course description: This course will examine major trends and events in U.S. history since 1939. The primary emphasis will be on the period 1939-1989. Topics covered will include background on the New Deal; U.S. involvement in World War II and the homefront; the Korean War; the McCarthy era; the Cold War; cultural change in postwar America; business, labor and the economy; political change; movements for social change; the impact of new media on culture and society; the upheavals of the sixties; Vietnam and its aftermath; the "Reagan revolution"; contemporary affairs. We will give special emphasis to cultural history including cultural productions such as film, television, literature, music, and other forms of popular culture. We will use these forms as means of investigating the American experience since the Great Depression.

Exams and Grading: We will have two essay exams in this class, inclusive of the final. Each exam will count 30%. In addition, students will complete two brief papers, explained separately (15% each). Finally, students will be asked to respond briefly (a paragraph or so) occasionally to questions based on class discussions and presentations (6-8 times during the semester). These brief assignments will count 10% of your grade. See D2L Brightspace content page for links to rubrics and paper guides.

Required readings/materials: Daily readings and other required course materials will be listed on the calendar. Look ahead on the calendar and complete readings prior to the class for which they are assigned.


Academic Integrity Policies: All students must abide by KSU's academic integrity policies. See https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct#2

Web-based resources:

Historical New York Times (via KSU Library website/Galileo)

JSTOR database (KSU Library website/Galileo)
Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1985
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eyesontheprize/

FDR Library http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/

The New Deal Network http://newdeal.feri.org/

Truman Library http://www.trumanlibrary.org/

Eisenhower Library http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/

JFK Library http://www.jfklibrary.org/

LBJ Library http://www.lbjlibrary.org/

Nixon Library http://www.nixonlibrary.gov/

Ford Library http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/

Carter Library http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/

Reagan Library http://www.reaganfoundation.org/

Internet Archive (much cool stuff!) http://archive.org/index.php

History Matters http://historymatters.gmu.edu/

Plus more!