Introduction:
Post-1945 American history is rich with controversy and meaning. During these five short decades, the United States has risen to economic dominance; its government has engaged in peacekeeping missions and has instigated war and international turmoil. While citizens of this country have struggled to define the nation’s role in the world, it has also faced internal tumult: Americans of all backgrounds have demanded their place in the national narrative, and sexual mores, family values, and gender norms have likewise been thoroughly transformed in these decades.

The themes of human rights, Americans’ perceptions of their role in the world, and internal contestations of power and identity will be the focus of this course.

Grading:
The requirements for this course are as follows --
- Paper 1: 25%
- Paper 2: 25%
- Fake midterm: 0%
- Comprehensive final exam: 50%

Late papers will be marked down 1/3 step for every day the paper is late. (Saturday and Sunday = two days.)

Required reading:

Fun reading (not required):

Paper questions:
1. **CHOOSE**: How did Americans imagine their role in the world after 1945? OR Was 1945 truly the beginning of an American century?
2. Have Americans become more or less free over the course of the late-twentieth century? (1945-today) You may want to consult Eric Foner’s helpful Story of American Freedom (1999) but REMEMBER: you must limit your answer to the dates 1945-2002. Also, be careful not to plagiarize!!!

**ALL PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO TURNITIN.COM.**

All powerpoint presentations will not be posted until the day after the lecture.

Schedule:

**Week 1: The US in an international economy**
1. 3.30 The American century?
2. 4.1 Bretton Woods
3. 4.3 The Marshall Plan vs. aid to developing nations

    **Required reading:** Jeffry Frieden, *Global Capitalism* (chs. 11-12)

**Week 2: The Cold War abroad**
4. 4.6 The logic of containment and the military industrial complex
5. 4.8 Communist China and the Korean War
6. 4.10 Attempts at nonalliance and the Suez Crisis

    **Required reading:** Jeffry Frieden, *Global Capitalism* (ch. 13-14)
Week 3: The Cold War at home
7. 4.13 HUAC and McCarthyism
8. 4.15 Betty Friedan and the problem that has no name
9. 4.17 Mass consumption and debt

Week 4: Civil rights, economic rights
10. 4.20 International exchange of ideas about decolonization and nonviolent resistance
    FIRST PARAGRAPH for PAPER 1 DUE
11. 4.22 Segregation – both de facto and de jure – not only of African Americans, but Asians, Jews, etc.
12. 4.24 American interests in decolonizing regions

Week 5: Border crossing, diasporas, immigration
13. 4.27 Alliance for Progress
14. 4.29 Border crossings and diasporas
    PAPER 1 DUE
15. 5.1 FAKE MIDTERM

Week 6: The sixties
16. 5.4 Student movements & Vietnam
17. 5.6 Organizing hyphenated Americans
18. 5.8 Radicalization

Week 7: Things fall apart
19. 5.11 Culture wars: abortion, gay rights
20. 5.13 Urban unrest
    Recommended reading: Jeff Chang, *Can't Stop Won't Stop*
21. 5.15 Nixon

Week 8: The Middle East
22. 5.18 Resources and security, part I
    FIRST PARAGRAPH for PAPER 2 DUE
23. 5.20 Resources and security, part II
24. 5.22 Carter’s failures and the rise of the Right
    Required reading: Jeffry Frieden, *Global Capitalism* (chs. 15-16)

Week 9: A new age?
25. 5.25 MEMORIAL DAY
26. 5.27 The end of the Cold War and the remaking of the left under Clinton
27. 5.29 The information age and consumer capitalism goes global
    Required reading: Jeffry Frieden, *Global Capitalism* (chs. 17-18)
    PAPER 2 DUE

Week 10: Crises
28. 6.1 Bush II / 9-11 / Afghanistan / Iraq
29. 6.3 Bush II, part II
30. 6.5 Green movement and change we can believe in?
    Required reading: Michael Pollan, *Omnivore's Dilemma* - ALL

FINAL EXAM JUNE 12, 11:30-2:30pm