

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The United States, 1961-1976  
HIST 4313-13805, Spring 2007

1. **WHO/WHAT/WHEN/WHERE:** This **senior**-level open **honors** course on the history of the United States from 1961 through 1976 will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 until 3:45 o'clock in room 304 of Agnes Arnold Hall (AH) on the University of Houston campus. The first class day is Tuesday, 16 January; the twenty-eighth and last class meeting (except for the final exam) will be on Thursday, 26 April. You will receive honors credit for this course.

Instructor: Dr. Lawrence Curry, Professor Emeritus  
Office Location: 643-AH  
Office Hours: 1-2 Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment and at other times by appointment if necessary  
Telephone Numbers: 713-743-3117 (office); 713-923-8424 (home)  
E-mail: [lcurry@uh.edu](mailto:lcurry@uh.edu)

2. **LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Successful completion of this course should enable you to
  - attain through reading and classroom activities and demonstrate through essay examinations a better understanding of some of the broad themes of American history during the fifteen-year period 1961 - 1976.
  - develop and improve their reading, critical thinking, and writing skills in relation to historical knowledge, issues, and the analysis of primary and secondary sources.
  - reinforce in a written term paper the use of skills and methodologies employed by professional historians.
3. **PREREQUISITES:** To enroll in this class, you should **either** (a) have at least junior standing *or* (b) *be* a student in The Honors College *or* (c) have the instructor's consent.
4. **ASSIGNED READINGS:** The following books are **required** reading. A copy of each is available on faculty reserve at the M.D. Anderson Library. Paperback editions may be purchased at the university bookstore on campus and at many other bookstores including some on-line sites. The books are listed in order of assignment.

William T. Patterson, *Grand Expectations: The United States, 1945-1974* [text]

- Robert Dallek, *An Unfinished Life: John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963*
- Robert Dallek, *Lyndon B. Johnson: Portrait of a President*
- Marshall Frady, *Martin Luther King, Jr.*
- Loren Baritz, *Backfire: A History of How American Culture Led Us Into Vietnam and Made Us Fight the Way We Did*
- Melvin Small, *The Presidency of Richard Nixon*

Selections from the following special collection of documents, also on faculty reserve and also available for sale exclusively at the UH bookstore, will be **recommended**, but not required.

*Primis: History: The United States, 1961-1976, HIST 4313.* Lawrence Curry (comp)

5. **ATTENDANCE:** Sign the attendance sheet each class meeting to record your presence in class that day. Perfect attendance is not required, but is encouraged and will be rewarded. If you are absent *for any reason* from **more than seven** of the 27 lecture class periods, your semester average will be lowered by one point for each absence over seven and after 12 absences (excused and/or unexcused), you will be dropped from the course. A separate handout provides more details
6. **EXAMINATIONS:** You will have a **mid-term exam on Thursday, 22 March**, from 2:30 until 3:45, and a cumulative **final exam on Thursday, 10 May**, from 2 until 4:50. Except for reasons of sickness, etc., there will be no make-up exams. A separate handout will provide more detailed information about the exams' formats.
7. **BOOK REPORT:** You must submit a written report on one of the five assigned books marked with an asterisk (\*) in item 4 above *or* on another book *pertinent to this course* and approved **in advance** by the instructor. To avoid penalties for being late, you must turn in the final copy of your book report **no later than the beginning of the twenty-seventh class on Tuesday, 24 April**. Your graded report will be returned to you at the final exam. A separate handout will provide special, detailed instructions for preparing the report.
8. **FINAL GRADE:** You will receive a final letter grade from A through F based on your mid-term exam (30%), final exam (30%), book report (35%), and class attendance (5%).

Your semester score will be converted to a letter grade according to the following table:

93 and above = A	80 through 82 = B-	67 through 69 = D+
90 through 92 = A-	77 through 79 = C+	63 through 66 = D
87 through 89 = B+	73 through 76 = C	60 through 62 = D-
83 through 86 = B	70 through 72 = C-	59 and below = F

Final grades will **not** be posted.

9. **COURSE WEB SITE:** <http://www.class.uh.edu/HISTORY/CURRY/4313.htm>
10. **ODDS AND ENDS FYI:**
- Monday, 29 January: last day to drop without counting course toward enrollment cap.
  - Tuesday, 13 February: last day to drop without receiving a grade.
  - Monday - Saturday, 12 - 17 March: spring holiday.
  - Tuesday, 3 April: last day to drop.
  - Wednesday - Thursday, 2 - 10 May: final exams.

COURSE SYLLABUS  
Topics, Exams, and ,  
Reading Assignments

The United States, 1961-1976  
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Dr. Lawrence Curry

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**I. Introduction: Background and Overview**

[scheduled to begin on Tuesday, 16 January]

Patterson, *Grand Expectations*, Preface and chs. 12-14

**II. The Torch Is Passed: The Presidential Election of 1960--A Preview of Coming Events**

[scheduled to begin on Tuesday, 23 January]

Patterson, *Grand Expectations*, ch. 15

*Primis* document [recommended]

- September 12, 1960: John F. Kennedy, Campaign Speech [in Houston], pp. 1-3

**III. John F. Kennedy and Foreign Affairs, 1961-1963**

[scheduled to begin on Thursday, 1 February]

Patterson, *Grand Expectations*, ch. 17

*Primis* documents [recommended]

- January 1961: John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address, pp. 14-16
- April 20, 1961: John F. Kennedy, Speech After the Failure at the Bay of Pigs, pp. 17-18

**IV. Camelot? The Kennedy Years at Home, 1961-1963**

[scheduled to begin on Thursday, 15 February]

Patterson, *Grand Expectations*, ch. 16

*Primis* documents [recommended]

- May 21, 1961: Stuart Loory, "Reporter Tails 'Freedom' Bus, Caught in Riot," *New York Herald Tribune*, pp. 7-9
- *Baker v. Carr*, 369 U.S. 186 (1962), pp. 59-64
- Martin Luther King, Jr., "I Have a Dream," pp. 106-109
- Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail," pp. 110-122

## J. The Triumph of Liberalism: LBJ and The Great Society, 1963-1966

[scheduled to begin on Tuesday, 27 February]

Patterson, *Grand Expectations*, chs. 18, 19.

*Primis* documents [recommended]

- May 22, 1964: Lyndon B. Johnson, Speech on "Great Society," pp. 4-5
- Michael Harrington, "A Definition of Poverty," pp. 103-105
- 1964: Economic Opportunity Act, p. 6
- Civil Rights Act of 1964: Congressional Debate, pp. 91-95
- 1964: Malcolm X, Speech, pp. 12-13
- Dick Gregory, "If You Had to Kill Your Own Hog," pp. 123-125
- *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254 (1964), pp. 76-82
- *Gideon v. Wainwright*, 372 U.S. 335 (1963), pp. 83-86
- *Escobedo v. Illinois*, 378 U.S. 478 (1964), pp. 87-90
- March 15, 1965: Lyndon B. Johnson, Speech on Voting Rights Act of 1965, pp. 10-11

SPRING HOLIDAY: 12 - 17 MARCH

## MID-TERM EXAM: Thursday, 22 March

On all material covered in class through Topic V and the following required reading assignments:

- Paterson, *Grand Expectations*, as assigned.
- Dallek, *An Unfinished Life*, entire book.
- Dallek, *Lyndon B. Johnson*, chs. 1 - 6.
- Frady, *Martin Luther King, Jr.*, entire book.

## VI. Waist Deep in the Big Muddy: U.S. and Vietnam, 1964-1968

[scheduled to begin on Tuesday, 27 March]

Patterson, *Grand Expectations*, ch. 20

*Primis* documents [recommended]

- August 1964: Tonkin Gulf Resolution, p. 19
- April 7, 1965: Lyndon B. Johnson, Speech at Johns Hopkins University, pp. 20-21
- May 5, 1966: J. William Fulbright, Speech, pp. 22-23
- February 27, 1968: Walter Cronkite, Commentary on Tet Offensive, pp. 24-25

## VII. Coming Apart: The Turbulent Years I, 1965-1968

[scheduled to begin on Thursday, 5 April]

Patterson, *Grand Expectations*, chs. 21-22

*Primis* documents [recommended]

- 1966: National Organization for Women (NOW), Statement of Purpose, pp. 26-28
- *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 U.S. 436 (1966), pp. 49-53

### **VIII. Another New Look in Foreign Affairs: The Nixon/Kissinger Years, 1969-1974**

[scheduled to begin on Thursday, 12 April]

Patterson, *Grand Expectations*, chs. 23-24

*Primis* documents [recommended]

- November 24, 1969: Richard Nixon, Address to the Nation, pp. 32-34
- 1970: Richard Nixon, Address on the Decision to Send Troops to Cambodia, pp. 35-36
- Erwin N. Griswold, How Sensitive Were the "Pentagon Papers"? pp. 70-71
- February 1972: The United States-China Communique, pp. 37-39
- War Powers Resolution of 1973, pp. 72-75

### **IX. Bringing Us Together? The Turbulent Years II and Post-Watergate Disillusionment, 1969-1976**

[scheduled to begin on Tuesday, 24 April]

Patterson, *Grand Expectations*, ch. 25

*Primis* documents [recommended]

- ERA Amendment & Gloria Steinem's Senate Testimony, pp. 29-31
- *Roe v. Wade*, 140 U.S. 113 (1973), pp. 96-102
- *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Bdd of Ed.*, 402 U. S. 1 (1971), pp. 54-58
- *United States v. Nixon*, 418 U.S. 683 (1974), pp. 44-48
- July 15, 1976: Jimmy Carter, Acceptance Speech at the Democratic Convention, pp. 40-41
- October 7, 1976: Jimmy Carter, Televised Campaign "Debate" with President Ford, pp. 42-43

## **FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, 10 May, 2 - 4:50 p.m.**

Comprehensive examination with emphasis on material covered in class since the mid-term exam and on the following additional required reading assignments:

- Patterson, *Grand Expectations*, as assigned.
- Dallek, *Lyndon B. Johnson*, chs. 7 - 15.
- Baritz, *Backfire*, entire book.
- Small, *Presidency of Richard Nixon*, entire book.