

Humanities Seminars Program

Spring 2019

The Sixties: Culture, Counterculture, Art

Professor Paul Ivey, pivey@email.arizona.edu

Wednesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.:

Rubel Room at the Poetry Center

Brief Description: This ten week course will explore the culture, counterculture, and art of the long decade of the 1960s, centering on youthful artists in the United States, beginning with Abstract Expressionism, and ending with what critic Lucy Lippard called the “dematerialization of the art object.” Social history, semiotic analysis, literary and film theory, and art history will inform my discussions. Themes include the Cold War and Beat culture, the rise of Minimalism and Pop Art, psychedelic experience, the prominence of advertising and the marketing of “cool,” student movements, censorship, Rock music culture, the Vietnam War, and hippie communal spirituality. In addition to lectures, Dr. Ivey will provide articles, book titles, and films and encourage participants to read, study, and view during the ten week period of the course.

A Note on Content: The subject matter of this course contains material that may challenge or offend your moral, religious or political values and beliefs. During the course of our ten weeks together, we will encounter and discuss works of art and culture that contain or deal with nudity, profanity, sexuality, politics and violence.

Your Professor: Professor Ivey, winner of two Humanities Seminars Superior Teaching Awards, teaches modern and contemporary art in the School of Art. His research interests include the built environments of alternative American religions, and spirituality in contemporary art. His most recent book is *Radiance from Halcyon, A Utopian Experiment in Religion and Science* (2013), a revealing history of a surprisingly influential theosophical utopian community.

Suggested Readings are excerpted from these texts:

Elissa Auther and Adam Lerner, eds., *West of Center, Art and the Counterculture Experiment in America, 1965-1977* (University of Minnesota Press, 2012).

Matthew Bannister, “I’m Set Free...”: The Velvet Underground, 1960s Counterculture, and Michel Foucault,” *Popular Music and Society*, 33:2 (2010), 163-178.

Peter Braunstein and Michael William Doyle, eds., *Imagine Nation, The American Counterculture of the 1960s and ‘70s* (Routledge, 2002).

David Burnett, “From Hitler to Hippies: the Volkswagen Bus in America” MA Thesis, University of Texas, 2002.

Joan Didion, *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* (Farrar, Staus and Giroux, 1968).

Francis Frascina, *Art, Politics, and Dissent, Aspects of the Art Left in Sixties America* (Manchester University Press, 1999).

Christoph Grunenberg, *Summer of Love: Art of the Psychedelic Era* (Tate: 2005).
Lucy Lippard, *A Different War, Vietnam in Art* (Whatcom Museum, 1990).
Richard Meyer, *Outlaw Representation: Censorship and Homosexuality in Twentieth-Century American Art* (Oxford University Press, 2002).
Charles R. Morris, *Time of Passion: America 1960-1980* (HarperCollins, 1984).
Camille Paglia, "Cults and Cosmic Consciousness: Religious Vision in the American 1960s" *Arion* 10: 3 (Winter, 2003), 57-111.
Lisa Phillips, *Beat Culture and the New America: 1950-1965* (Whitney Museum, 1995).
John A. Walker, *Crossovers: Art into Pop/Pop into Art* (Methuen, 1987).

Schedule

January 23: Cold War Culture and Art in the 50s

See video: *The Sixties: The Years that Shaped a Generation*

Suggested Reading:

Lisa Phillips, "Beat Culture: America Revisioned"

January 30: Theoretical Toolbox: Semiotic Analysis and Pop Art/Subculture

See video: *British Mods and Rockers of the 1960s*

Suggested Reading:

Richard Meyer, "Most Wanted Men, Homoeroticism and the Secret of Censorship in Early Warhol"

February 6: Art in the 1960s

Suggested Reading:

Anna Deuze, "The 1960s: A Decade Out-of-Bounds"

Elissa Auther and Adam Lerner, "The Counterculture Experiment: Consciousness and Encounters at the Edge of Art"

February 13: Pop Art to the "Conquest of Cool"

See video: *Lecture by Robert Frank, Author of "Conquest of Cool"*

Suggested Reading:

David Burnett, "From Hitler to Hippies: the Volkswagen Bus in America"

February 20: Minimalism and Earth Art

February 27: Rise of Music/Performance/Fluxus

See films *The 60s: The Years That Changed America* and *Woodstock*

Suggested Readings:

Simon Reynolds, "Love or Confusion, Psychedelic Rock in the Sixties"

Joan Didion, "Slouching Toward Bethlehem"

John Walker, "Collaborations and Cross-Overs"

Matthew Bannister, "I'm Set Free...: The Velvet Underground, 1960s Counterculture, and Michel Foucault"

March 6: NO CLASS due to UA SPRING BREAK

March 13: Psychedelic Art

See films *How to Go Out of Your Mind*, *The LSD Crisis* and *Tripping*. *Magic Trip* if you want more.

Suggested Readings:

Christoph Grunenberg, "The Politics of Ecstasy: Art for the Mind and Body"

David Farber, "The Intoxicated State/Illegal Ration, Drugs in the Sixties Counterculture"

Sally Tomlinson, "Sign Language: Formulating a Psychedelic Vernacular in Sixties' Poster Art"

Scott B. Montgomery, "Signifying the Ineffable: Rock Poster Art and Psychedelic Counterculture in San Francisco"

You should start watching the videos *Making Sense of the 60s*, this is a multi-hour summary!

March 20: Student Revolt/Artists Revolt/Black Power

See video: *Berkeley in the Sixties*

Charles Morris, "Revolts and Revolutions," "Two Wars," "Violence"

"Port Huron Statement of the Students for a Democratic Society," 1962

March 27: The Vietnam War

See movie *Hearts and Minds*

Francis Frascina, "My Lai, *Guernica*, MoMA, and the art left, New York, 1969-70

Lucy Lippard, *A Different War*

April 3: Communalism

See videos: *When Hippies Ruled the World* and *The Best Documentary on the Hippies* (an introduction to the video series *Making Sense of the Sixties*)

Suggested Readings:

Camille Paglia, "Cults and Cosmic Consciousness: Religious Vision in the American 1960s"

Timothy Miller, "The Sixties-Era Communes"

Albert Bates and Timothy Miller, "The Evolution of Hippie Communal Spirituality: the Farm and Other Hippies Who Didn't Give Up"

Elissa Auther, "Craft and the Handmade at Paolo Soleri's Communal Settlements"

Movies with links on Youtube:

The Sixties - The Years That Shaped a Generation (PBS) [2005]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUc2eLe-rul&feature=youtu.be>

The 60s: The Years That Changed America (Carnegie Hall) [2017]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVNtTuxEUBI>

British Mods and Rockers of the 1960's (BBC documentary) [2014]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miiopvQDP3M&feature=youtu.be>

Woodstock (VH1) (with many commercial breaks) [1999]

<https://documentaryheaven.com/woodstock/>

Documentary about Woodstock

Lecture by Robert Frank, Author of “Conquest of Cool”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0b9cwev7MQ>

How to Go Out of Your Mind, the LSD Crisis (CBC) [1966]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivUQBPsMR5k>

Tripping (Channel 4) [1999]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4E_CMZOoCbA

Ken Kesey / Merry Pranksters documentary

Magic Trip [2011]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4E_CMZOoCbA

Only the second half of the movie is available on YouTube, which consists of Ken Kesey's home movies with the Merry Pranksters.

Mark Kitchell, **Berkeley in the Sixties** [1990]

<https://vimeo.com/214846601>

Oscar-nominated documentary

Hearts and Minds [1974]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGbc3gUlqz0>

Hearts and Minds is an Academy Award winning documentary about the Vietnam War directed by Peter Davis. The film's title is based on a quote from President Lyndon B. Johnson: "the ultimate victory will depend on the hearts and minds of the people who actually live out there". The movie was chosen as Best Feature Documentary at the 47th Academy Awards presented in 1975.

When Hippies Ruled the World (BBC) [2002]

(part 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtjIsi6VMaI>

(part 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FC6RPhUVdPQ>

(part 3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PgeNIEyarz8>

(part 4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2usv4zGBhw>

David Hoffman, **Making Sense of the 60s** (PBS) [2016]

“The Best Documentary on the Hippies”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vm6DvlZ2020>

Here is the source for 5 of the 6 episodes, presented in ½ hour clips:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI5jpZP-bgnm062FH0VVktr8zOveXLehl>

“What Was so Wonderful About the 1960s?”

“The Early 60s, A Time of ‘Innocence’

“1960s Teenage Rebellions Examined”
“How the 60s Changed America”
“Vietnam Touched Off a Firestorm”
“Americans Were Furious in 1968”
“How Vietnam Affected America in 1968”
“They Never Forgot the 1960s”