

LIST I

HIU34027-28 American Politics and Culture I and II (Dan Geary)



This course offers an overview of American cultural history in the half century from the beginning of World War II in Europe to the end of the Cold War. It focuses especially on analysing the political meaning of cultural texts in their historical contexts. A wide variety of cultural texts will be examined including works of literature, film, television, music, and visual art. We will investigate how American culture reflected, contested, and shaped such historical trends as America's emergence as a global superpower, the growth of a mass consumption economy, struggles for racial equality, changing gender roles, the rise of social protest movements, and the conservative drift of American politics since the 1970s. Students will not only learn about a fascinating and important period in American history, but also gain experience in understanding cultural texts in their political and historical frameworks.