

American Studies Seminar

“Cycles of Change in U.S. Politics and Culture”

May 2-15, 2007

Downtown Campus, American College of Greece, Deree
6-8 Xenias St., Ampelokipi

The historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. has suggested that American History is cyclical. Beginning with this concept, we will look at four key turning points in recent American history and explore their causes and consequences. Our approach will be interdisciplinary (political, social and cultural) and global (national, international and transnational).

Part 1: “The Great Society,” 1963-1968

Wednesday, May 2 (1963-1968)

- 4:30 p .m. Student arrival and registration
- 5:00-5:15 p.m. Welcoming remarks
- 5:15-6:15 p.m. Lecture: LBJ and the Great Society
- 6:15-7:15 p.m. Lecture: The 60s Movements: Civil Rights, Feminism, Vietnam
- 7:15-7:45 p.m. Break
- 7:45-8:45 p.m. Panel: International Turbulence-1966-68: Vietnam, Israel, Prague, Greece, China

Thursday, May 3 (1968)

- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Lecture: 1968: The Turbulent Year and the Election of Richard Nixon
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Lecture: 1968: Culture vs. Counterculture
- 7:00-7:30 p.m. Break
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. Panel: New American Culture: Music, Movies, Plays, Literature

Part 2: “Morning in America,” 1978-1984

Friday, May 4 (1973-1979)

- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Lecture: Decline of the Imperial Presidency: from Nixon to Carter
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Lecture: Recession and the Reshaping of the American Economy
- 7:00-7:30 p.m. Break
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lecture/Demonstration: Hollywood and Mourning in America

Monday, May 7 (1980-1984)

- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Lecture: Reagan’s Election and “Morning in America”
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Lecture: Eyes Right: Thatcher, Kohl, Deng
- 7:00-7:30 p.m. Break
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lecture: The Debate over Social Policy in the U.S. and the EU

Part 3: “New World Order,” 1988-1992

Tuesday, May 8 (1988-1990)

- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Lecture: George H.W. Bush and Foreign Policy
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Lecture: The Berlin Wall and Tiannanmen Square
- 7:00-7:30 p.m. Break
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. Panel: International Relations: The Legacy of the Cold War

Wednesday, May 9 (1990-1992)

- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Lecture: Bill Clinton and the Election of 1992
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Lecture: The Culture Wars Revisited: Rise and Fall of Multiculturalism
- 7:00-7:30 p.m. Break
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lecture: “It’s the Economy, Stupid”: American Policy and Globalization

Part 4: “The War on Terror” 2001-2007

Thursday, May 10 (1998-2001)

- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Lecture: George W. Bush and the Politics of Polarization
6:00-7:00 p.m. Lecture: Diplomacy Since the Carter Presidency
7:00-7:30 p.m. Break
7:30-9:30 p.m. Film: World Trade Center

Friday, May 11 (2001-2007)

- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Lecture: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
6:00-7:00 p.m. Panel: America at a Crossroads: The Significance of the
2006 Midterm Election
7:00-7:30 p.m. Break
7:30-9:30 p.m. Film: The Candidate

Monday, May 14

- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Examination
6:00-6:30 p.m. Break
6:30-8:30 p.m. Film: Primary Colors

Tuesday, May 15

- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Graduation
6:00-7:30 p.m. Reception