

## APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE

1. Submitted by the College of Arts & Sciences Date: 3/4/09

Department/Division proposing course: History

2. Proposed designation and Bulletin description of this course:

a. Prefix and Number HIS 468

b. Title\* Contemporary America: 1974 to the Present

\*If title is longer than 24 characters, offer a sensible title of 24 characters or less: Cont Amer: 1974-Present

c. Courses must be described by at least one of the categories below. Include number of actual contact hours per week.

( ) CLINICAL    ( ) COLLOQUIUM    ( ) DISCUSSION    ( ) LABORATORY    (3) LECTURE  
( ) INDEPEND. STUDY    ( ) PRACTICUM    ( ) RECITATION    ( ) RESEARCH    ( ) RESIDENCY  
( ) SEMINAR    ( ) STUDIO    ( ) OTHER – Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

d. Please choose a grading system:  Letter (A, B, C, etc.)     Pass/Fail

e. Number of credit hours: 3

f. Is this course repeatable?    YES     NO     If YES, maximum number of credit hours: \_\_\_\_\_

g. Course description:

EXAMINES THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1974 WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON  
POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

h. Prerequisite(s), if any:

NA

i. Will this course also be offered through Distance Learning?    YES     NO

If YES, please check one of the methods below that reflects how the majority of the course content will be delivered:

Internet/Web-based     Interactive video     Extended campus

3. Supplementary teaching component:  N/A or  Community-Based Experience     Service Learning     Both

4. To be cross-listed as: NA / \_\_\_\_\_  
Prefix and Number    printed name    Cross-listing Department Chair    signature

5. Requested effective date (term/year): SPRING / 2010

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6. Course to be offered (please check all that apply):     Fall     Spring     Summer
7. Will the course be offered every year?     YES     NO  
If NO, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Why is this course needed?  
HISTORY 467 WAS ENVISIONED AS AN IN DEPTH ANALYSIS OF POST-WWII AMERICA WHEN WE CREATED IT ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO. IT NOW COVERS TOO LONG A PERIOD OF TIME. IN ADDITION, WE ANTICIPATE MUCH STUDENT INTEREST IN A COURSE THAT COVERS THE RECENT U.S.
- 
9. a. By whom will the course be taught?    DAVID HAMILTON AND TRACY CAMPBELL
- b. Are facilities for teaching the course now available?     YES     NO  
If NO, what plans have been made for providing them?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What yearly enrollment may be reasonably anticipated?  
40-60
- 
11. a. Will this course serve students primarily within the department?     Yes     No
- b. Will it be of interest to a significant number of students outside the department?     YES     NO  
If YES, please explain.  
SHOULD BE OF INTEREST TO STUDENTS IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AND POSSIBLY STUDENTS WHO ARE SIMPLY INTERESTED IN THE RECENT PAST.
- 
12. Will the course serve as a University Studies Program course<sup>†</sup>?     YES     NO  
If YES, under what Area? \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>†</sup>AS OF SPRING 2007, THERE IS A MORATORIUM ON APPROVAL OF NEW COURSES FOR USP.
13. Check the category most applicable to this course:
- traditional – offered in corresponding departments at universities elsewhere
- relatively new – now being widely established
- not yet to be found in many (or any) other universities
14. Is this course applicable to the requirements for at least one degree or certificate at UK?     Yes     No
15. Is this course part of a proposed new program?     YES     NO  
If YES, please name: \_\_\_\_\_
16. Will adding this course change the degree requirements for ANY program on campus?     YES     NO  
If YES<sup>†</sup>, list below the programs that will require this course:  
\_\_\_\_\_
-

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†In order to change the program(s), a program change form(s) must also be submitted.

17.  The major teaching objectives of the proposed course, syllabus and/or reference list to be used are attached.

18.  Check box if course is 400G- or 500-level. If the course is 400G- or 500-level, you must include a syllabus showing differentiation for undergraduate and graduate students by (i) requiring additional assignments by the graduate students; and/or (ii) the establishment of different grading criteria in the course for graduate students. (See SR 3.1.4)

19. Within the department, who should be contacted for further information about the proposed new course?

Name: DAVID E. HAMILTON Phone: 7-3104 Email: DEHAMI01@UKY.EDU

20. Signatures to report approvals:

4/29/09  
DATE of Approval by Department Faculty

4/22/09  
DATE of Approval by College Faculty

11/3/2009  
\* DATE of Approval by Undergraduate Council

\* DATE of Approval by Graduate Council

\* DATE of Approval by Health Care Colleges Council (HCCC)

\* DATE of Approval by Senate Council

\* DATE of Approval by University Senate

FRANCIE CHASSEN. LÓPEZ *Francie Chassen Lopez*  
printed name Reported by Department Chair signature

Ted Schatzki *Ted Schatzki*  
printed name Reported by College Dean signature

/  
printed name Reported by Undergraduate Council Chair signature

/  
printed name Reported by Graduate Council Chair signature

/  
printed name Reported by Health Care Colleges Council Chair signature

Reported by Office of the Senate Council

Reported by Office of the Senate Council

\*If applicable, as provided by the University Senate Rules. (<http://www.uky.edu/USC/New/RulesandRegulationsMain.htm>)

**History 468**  
**Time/day TBD**  
**Contemporary America: 1974 to the present**

Prof. David Hamilton  
Office: 1755 Patterson  
Phone: 257-3104  
Email: dehami01@uky.edu (email preferred)  
Office Hours: TBD

**Introduction:**

This course covers the recent history of the United States from 1974 to the present. Its focus is on the political developments of the period, but it also focuses on crucial economic, diplomatic, and cultural developments. We begin with the Richard Nixon's resignation amidst the Watergate scandals, traumatic ending of the Vietnam War, the stagflation crisis of the 1970s, and Gerald Ford's presidency. Major topics include rise of modern conservatism, race, gender, and ethnicity in American politics and culture, Ronald Reagan and the Reagan presidency, the nature of American politics and foreign policy after Reagan, the Iraq Wars, the Clinton presidency, the 2000 election, 9/11 and the presidency of George W. Bush, and the election of 2008.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Introduce students to major debates and controversies in the study of American history since 1974;
- Introduce students to the challenges of studying and writing about contemporary history;
- Acquaint students with research methods for locating and studying primary sources such as government documents and newspaper, journal of opinion, and media sources;
- Explain the need to move beyond intensely partisan accounts of the recent past in order to understand this period of American history;
- Expose students to conflicting views of the recent American past by introducing perspectives on American foreign policy and American economic policy from other nations and cultures;
- Explain that the importance of additional study for grasping the complex developments covered by the course.

**Course Goals:**

The goals of the course include introducing students to the serious study of many controversial aspects of American history since Watergate, having students read widely and

deeply in the emerging literature by historians and by serious journalists on this period, have students write extensively about what they read, have them learn how to find primary source materials, and have them learn to assess major debates in terms of larger developments in American history.

### **Course Requirements:**

**Exams:** there will be a midterm and a final exam. Both will be essay exams. The final will be comprehensive.

**Papers:** students must write two 6-10 page essays. Both papers will be largely based on the assigned readings.

**Primary Source Exercises:** over the course of the semester, I will ask you to locate four different types of primary source documents and to turn copies of the documents and a brief summary of what the documents contain.

**Discussion and Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all meetings of the class, participate in discussions of the assigned readings. I will pass out an attendance sheet at each class.

### **Grading:**

Scale: A 100-90, B < 90-80, C < 80-70, D < 70, E <60

Midterm Exam = 15 percent

Final Exam (comprehensive) = 25 percent

First Essay = 15 percent

Second Essay = 15 percent

Attendance/Discussion = 15 percent

Primary Source Exercises (four in all) = 15 percent

### **Policy on Academic Accommodations due to disability:**

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (Room 2, Alumni Gym, 257-2754, email address [jkarnes@eamil.uky.edu](mailto:jkarnes@eamil.uky.edu)) for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities.

### **Course Policies (TBD):**

*(Attendance, Excused absences, Make-up opportunities, Verification of absences, Submissions of assignments, Academic Integrity, cheating & plagiarism, Professional preparations, Group work & student collaboration)*

### **Required Readings:**

James T. Patterson, Restless Giant: The United States from Watergate to Bush v. Gore

Donald Critchlow, The Conservative Ascendancy: How the GOP Right Made Political History

Thomas Ricks, Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq, 2003 to 2005

Ron Brownstein, The Second Civil War: How Extreme Partisanship Has Paralyzed Washington and Polarized America

Hugh Graham Davis, Collision Course: The Strange Convergence of Affirmative Action and Immigration Policy in America

John P. Diggins, Ronald Reagan: Fate, Freedom, and the Making of History

Bruce Shulman and Julian Zelizer, Rightward Bound: Making America Conservative in the 1970s

### **Topics for Class Meetings:**

America in 1974, America in Crisis

Nixon, Watergate, Impeachment, and Resignation

Gerald Ford and the Ford Presidency

Oil Crisis and Stagflation

Carter Presidency – domestic crises

Carter Presidency – search for peace, international turmoil

Multicultural America and the “culture wars”

The Unraveling of New Deal Liberalism

Rise of the New Conservatism

Evangelical America

Election of 1980

Ronald Reagan and the 1980s

Reagan Revolution: Domestic

Reagan, the Cold War

Iran-Contra

George H.W. Bush and the New World Order

Clinton Presidency

The Impeachment Crisis

American economy in the 1990s

Race and Ethnicity in a changing world

**Global Terrorism**  
**Bush v. Gore**  
**Rise of the Vulcans**  
**9/11 and terrorism**  
**The Iraq War**  
**The Election of 2008**