

Syllabus: 1968: Moments of Change
Elective, Fall 2018
 Tuesdays, 5 pm, Room 210

Instructor: Dr. N. Kovalchuk (nkoval@ucu.edu.ua)

Course description. The course considers 1968 as one of the critical moments in recent history, when significant changes took place at the same time in different spheres and in many parts of the world. The lectures and discussions will focus on mass protests, violence and war, as well as economic, environmental, and artistic developments that were both local and universal in context. This course on the year 1968 is therefore intended to highlight and discuss some of the significant events and developments, while placing 1968 in the broader context of modern history. The course covers numerous topics, such as the political and social history leading up to and including 1968; the contemporary developments in media and music; the multiple arenas of war and protest; various environmental and technological engagements, racial conflicts and women's rights.

Students will be able to

- examine the historical context and actual events and developments of 1968 in Europe, Americas, Asia and Africa;
- practice the critical analysis of historical sources;
- assess the historical continuity of the political, economic, social and cultural processes that led to 1968 or were triggered by it
- investigate the global integration of national and international developments and events.

The course is a modified and adapted version of the Interdisciplinary Project "1968: Moments of Change", which is being implemented at the Penn State University College of Liberal Arts. With the permission of the copyright holder, a number of archival sources, audio and video materials will be available to UCU students during the autumn semester of 2018-2019 academic year.

Required Readings:

Kurlansky, Mark. *1968: The Year that Rocked the World*. New York: Random House, 2005.

A variety of primary sources and articles are listed under each weekly rubric and can be found on CMS. Students have to read them BEFORE each class, except the first (introductory) one.

September 18, 2018

Week 1: "Why 1968?" Introduction to the course.

What are the reasons to pay special attention to this year? Did the events of 1968 triggered significant changes in economics, politics, culture and arts? If so, what were they?

- 1968 in Africa. Decolonization and Apartheid.
- 1968 in Asia. Tet offensive in Vietnam. Cultural revolution in China.

- 1968 in Europe. Prague spring, protests in France.
- 1968 in America.
- The most significant developments in Science and Technology, Communications, Popular culture.

September 25, 2018

Week 2: The beginning: Cold War.

The Cold War Context is important for understanding events of 1968. The conflict between former allies became visible immediately after the WWII and played the role in geopolitical conflicts as well as technological, military, even sport and artistic competition. This conflict defined global politics for decades and was apparent in the wars in Korea and then Vietnam, as well as in several long-term *détentes* – for instance, that involving West and East Germany.

- Winston S. Churchill, “Iron Curtain Speech”; 5 March 1946
- Joseph Stalin, “Reply to Churchill”, in an Interview with *Pravda*, tr. by *The New York Times*; 1946
- United Nations: Cuban Missile Crisis Debate; 23 October 1962
- Visual sources (CMS)

October 2, 2018

Week 3: Global conflict: Africa

At the final stage of the decolonization the joy of independence led to the development of Pan-Africanism as well as search for the own way of development. African countries could choose orientation towards the West or the Soviet Union. Crises: Civil wars in Sudan and Nigeria. Political violence, one party states, authoritarianism. Apartheid created in South Africa. Arab-Israeli war and its aftermath.

- United Nations, Excerpt from *Declaration on Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples*; 1960
- General Ojukwu, “Excerpts from Speeches and Writings on Nigeria”; 1968
- Visual sources (CMS)

October 9, 2018

Week 4: Global conflict: Asia

Vietnam Tet (New year) offensive. War as perceived in the North and Southern Vietnam. The US public and brutal images of the war. My Lai massacre, the atrocities of American soldiers. Cultural revolution in China. Destruction of “Old Fours”. “Down to the Countryside”, Red Guards.

- Ho Chi Minh and Lyndon B. Johnson, *Correspondence by Letters*; February 1967
- Walter Cronkite, “Editorial on Tet and Vietnam”; 27 February 1968
- Visual/audio sources (CMS)

October 16, 2018**Week 5: Political divisions: Europe**

Unrest in Paris, German student movement. March crisis in Poland. Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia. Dissident movement in the countries of Central Europe, student driven mass protests.

- Kurlansky, Mark. *1968: The Year that Rocked the World*. Chapter 2.
- The debate that won't die: Havel and Kundera on whether protest is worthwhile // Lidovky, December 12, 2012
- Mavis Gallant, from "The Events in May: A Paris Notebook" in *The New Yorker*; 14 September 1968
- Visual/audio sources (CMS)

October 23, 2018**Week 6: Political divisions: USA**

Raw uncensored images from the Vietnam war prompted questions regarding the aims and perspectives of the war. Election year - McCarthy, anti-war senator, Robert Kennedy joined, Johnson dropped out of race.

The assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. snuffed out the faith of many in the prospect of racial justice and change through peaceful means. RFK was also assassinated when the victory over McCarthy in CA seemed to put him on the path to the nomination.

Black Power protests in the Olympics. Second wave feminism - protests at Miss America pageant.

- Kurlansky, Mark. *1968: The Year that Rocked the World*. Chapter 1.
- Lyndon B. Johnson Declines Nomination for Re-Election; 31 March 1968
- Richard M. Nixon, "Presidential Nomination Acceptance Speech"; 8 August 1968
- Visual/audio sources (CMS)

October 30, 2018**Week 7: Media, News, and their Impact of Society.**

The big era for communications. Technological advancements of the 1960ies and their effect on news and culture. Public speaking and non-traditional forms of communication. The advent of television brought a visual urgency to contemporary political debates and to the images used to portray and/or exemplify the culture, events, politics, and wars of 1968.

Readings:

- Kurlansky, Mark. *1968: The Year that Rocked the World*. Chapter 3
- CBS News, "Saigon Under Fire"; 31 January 1968
- Visual/audio sources (CMS)

November 6, 2018**Week 8: Movie night**

- Graduate (alternative suggestions will be considered!)

November 13, 2018

Week 9: Racial Identities and conflicts

The sixties witnessed a wide range of racial (not only black) movements in the United States that was not limited to civil rights movements. Attempts were made to define the notions of blackness and the meaning of racial identity, including literature and popular culture.

- Kurlansky, Mark. *1968: The Year that Rocked the World*. Chapter 3
- Robert F. Kennedy, "On the Death of Martin Luther King, Jr."; 4 April 1968
- Fannie Lou Hamer, from the "Testimony to the Democratic Party National Convention"; 1964
- Indian of All Nations, "Alcatraz Proclamation"; 20 November 1969
- Visual/audio sources (CMS)

November 20, 2018

Week 10: Gender issues and status of women

During the early twentieth century, women were granted the right to vote in many nations, marking a significant step towards political equality. Nevertheless, strong efforts for gender equality continued to be made in the 1960s—in various nations and by a variety of women and men. The protests by and on behalf of women's rights in the 1960s were clearly part of the larger backdrop of political dissent.

- Pope Paul VI, Excerpts from *Humanae Vitae*; 25 July 1968
- Robin Morgan, "No More Miss America"; 22 August 1968
- PSU Dormitory Rules for Women
- Visual/audio sources (CMS)

November 27, 2018

Week 11 Science, technology, new ecological issues

The technologies developed in the 1960s had a remarkably profound effect on human society. Both science and technology were tightly bound with political and economic decisions. Among the wide variety of scientific and technological achievements in 1968 were the founding of INTEL and the first production of the Boeing 747. Such research also resulted in the consolidation of the space race – both the (un-manned) Soviet Zond-5 and the (manned) American Apollo 8 successfully orbited the moon in 1968.

- Rachel Carlson, *Silent Spring*, Chapter 12.
- Competition Spurs Technology in Cold War: The Essential Reference Guide/ James R. Arnold, Roberta Wiener, eds.
- Visual/audio sources (CMS)

December 4, 2018

Week 12: Holyday, no classes

December 11, 2018

Week 13- Student and informal movements

Why students became the driving force of the protests in many countries across the globe?

- Kurlansky, Mark. *1968: The Year that Rocked the World*. Chapters 4-6
- The collection of the PSU alumni interviews at <http://1968.psu.edu/#community> (choose one)

December 18, 2018

Week 14 - Sport, Music and Arts in 1968

Shift in popular culture, anti-war hippie culture crystallized,

Conflicts went beyond formal politics. Hippies, marijuana, LSD, Bob Dylan, Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, the Doors, Janis Joplin, Donovan, sexual freedom, flower children, "make love - not war", long hair -- rejection by young middle class Americans of the values of their parents who had focused on material gain and stable careers in the post war world -- Generation Gap.

- No readings!

Grading summary:

- Presence & Participation in the class (10+10 points out of 100).
- Discussion leadership. You will be responsible for opening up the discussion on one class. On your day to lead suggest 3-5 questions about the assigned primary sources. This assignment is worth 20 points out of total 100.
- Analysis of a visual/audio/video source. Choose a source and describe it following the guidelines (see Primary Source Worksheet). This assignment should be 1 page and is worth 20 points out of total 100.
- Final paper (40 points). Write a paper that is 3-4 pages and answers the following:
 1. Identify the major and minor stories you are going to present.
 2. Describe the written and other sources you have included in your analysis
 3. Describe the cultural context by analyzing some of the themes from the course: media, politics, war, protests, environment and science, art and culture. How are the stories connected in content or perspective?