The Sixties in Global Perspective: Intellectual Origins, Cultural History and Political Legacies will examine the lives of key militant leaders, social and cultural movements, and intellectual figures that defined the identity of the radical 1960s at a global level. This seminar course will cover a period beginning in 1945 and concluding in 2011, from the end of the Second World War to the formation of the Occupy Wall Street movement. The seminar will explore key geographic areas affected by the political and cultural effervescence of the times: North America (the United States), Western Europe (France/Italy/West Germany), North Africa (Algeria), Asia (China/Vietnam) and Latin America (Cuba/Mexico). The course will require attentive study of primary sources (manifestos, documents, original texts, visual material and film excerpts) in combination with assigned chapters from selected secondary sources. Students will learn about the cultural, political and philosophical manifestations of the radical sixties, as well as reflect on the ongoing legacies of the historical period.

Objectives
This course will enrich the existent curriculum in the field of international history, intellectual and cultural history, and international politics. The course is contributing to a global analysis of the historical period in question, emphasizing the connections between different world regions, as well as different fields of human activity and production. Students will explore the relations between activism and
philosophy, arts and politics, gender, psychoanalysis and radical action, the West and the colonized. This course will fulfill the need to offer an interdisciplinary and multi-regional study of the recurrent intersections between militancy, public policy, political philosophy and culture during the 1960s.

From Paris to Havana, from Berkeley to Rio de Janeiro, from Hanoi to Mexico City, the awakening of political activism at an international sphere redefined the local and global understanding of civil society, individual rights and democratic culture. The reinvention of democracy as a condition for radical freedom was exceptional to the era of the sixties when militants, philosophers and grassroots collaborated in the formation of movements of protests against state authority, capitalism, imperialism, racial divisions, and gender inequality. Artists in the fields of cinema and music were also central in conveying a message of protest against multiple forms of authoritarianism, denouncing the burden of tradition and obsolete social conventions. The adoption of spiritual traditions from the East in the West also contributed to the reinterpretation of the role of individuals in society. This seminar will offer an in-depth analysis of the multiple manifestations of the sixties' radical identities in different geographic and social contexts. The course's interdisciplinary approach will enlighten students on the connections between seemingly different facets in society, emphasizing the ongoing dialogues between the multiple spheres of human activity- political militancy, philosophical reflection and artistic creativity.

Grading: The breakdown of the seminar will consist of
Active Class Participation 15%
Weekly Reading Responses and Newspaper Article Discussion 15%
Bibliography and Abstract of Final Essay 10% (2-3 pp. Due on Week 4, Session 8)
One Oral Presentation 20% (10-15 minutes, Scheduled for Week 6, Sessions 11 & 12)
Final Research Essay 40% (15-20 pages, Due: Week 6, Session 12)
Newspaper Reading

Prior to each session, you are required choose one article from the New York Times that is relevant to our topic of discussion, such as international conflict, social protests and alternative cultural trends. You will email to me your choice of article and briefly discuss the connection between our session’s topic and the contemporary issue discussed in The New York Times.

Readings: Readings will be available at Bookculture; supplementary material will be posted on the course’s website.

Week by week list of class topics: The Radical Sixties
Week 1: The Historical Precedents of the Sixties: A Global Approach

Session 1: The World after 1945 and The Spirit of 1968
Capitalism, Socialism, Democracy, Authoritarianism
American and European Hegemony
Communes, Anti-Colonialism and the Concept of Civil Rights
Readings
Michael Scott Christofferson, “Anti-totalitarianism against the Revolutionary Tradition”, French Intellectuals against the Left (Berghahn Books, 2004)

Julian Bourg, “Cobblestone Beaches”, From Revolution to Ethics (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2007)


Session 2: The Formation of a New Political Avant-Garde: New Militancy
The Nationalist Fervor of the Algerian Liberation Front
Latin American Anti-Imperialism: The Cuban Revolution
Popular Empowerment and the Anti-Colonial Strife: East Asia & Africa

Readings
Diana Sorensen, “The Cuban Revolution and Che Guevara, Scenes from the Latin American Sixties (Stanford University Press, 2007)


Ho Chi Minh, Down with Colonialism, Walden Bello, ed. (Verso Books, 2007)

Film Excerpts from Memories of Underdevelopment (1968, Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, dir.)

Week 2: Philosophical Discourses of the New Political Avant-Garde

Session 3: Philosophy as Social Criticism
The Frankfurt School and Herbert Marcuse: One-Dimensional Man
The Problem of Consumer Society: Guy Debord’s Society of the Spectacle
The Rejection of the Old Avant-Garde: Daniel Cohn-Bendit

Readings
Herbert Marcuse, “One-Dimensional Society”, One Dimensional Man (Beacon Press, 1991)

Guy Debord, Society of the Spectacle (Zone Books, 1995)


Session 4: Civil Rights Militancy, Anti-Colonialism and Guerrillas
The Civil Rights Movement in America: Martin Luther King
Latin America’s Anti-Americanism: The Cuban Revolution’s the New Man
United States of America: The Weather Underground

Readings


Week 3: 1968’s Cultural Revolution

Session 5: Music, Feminism, Sexual Revolution
Musical Counter-Culture: the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan
Betty Friedan and Feminism in America: The Feminine Mystique (1963)
Sexual Rights and Individual Freedom: History of Reproductive Rights

Readings


Session 6: Icons of the Sixties: Art
New York in the 1960s
Federico Fellini and Pier Paolo Pasolini: Italian Cinema
Tropicália, Bossa Nova and the Musical Avant-Garde in Brazil

Readings


Week 4: Icons of the Sixties: Intellectuals and the Field of Theory

Session 7: The Field of Theory in France
Louis Althusser: Structuralism
Gilles Deleuze, Felix Guattari: Schizo-Analysis
Derrida, Kristeva: Deconstruction

Readings


Julian Bourg, “Spinoza on Prozac”, From Revolution to Ethics (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2007)

Session 8: New Interpreters of Reality
Foucault’s Theory of Knowledge
Claude Lévi-Strauss’ Anthropology
Lacan’s Psychoanalysis

Readings
Michel Foucault, “We ‘Other Victorians’”, The Foucault Reader (Pantheon, 1984)


Week 5: “Othering” the West

Session 9: Radical Counter-Culture in Latin America
   Elvis, Rock n’ Roll and Alternative Music Circles
   Fashion, Hairstyles, Anarchism
   A reading of Bolaño’s Savage Detectives (Part One)

Readings:


Paula Reed, Fifty Fashion Looks that Changed the 1960s (Conran, 2012)

Session 10: “Orientalizing” America
   Hippies, Yogs and Alternative Spirituality
   Hallucinatory Experiences and the Quest for Other Realities
   Critique of Material Culture

Readings:

Martin Lee and Bruce Shlain, “The Roots of Psychedelia”, Acid Dreams (Grove Press, 1994)


Week 6: Legacies of the Sixties

Session 11: Politics of Memory
    Theory and Practice of Militancy: Carlos the Jackal, a Case Study
    Oral Presentations
Readings:
John Follain, Jackal: The Complete Story of the Legendary Terrorist Carlos the Jackal
(Arcade Publishing, 2011)

Excerpts from the film Carlos (2010, Olivier Assayas, dir.)

Session 12: The Children of the Sixties
The Arab Spring
Occupy Wall Street
Oral Presentations

Readings
