“Global Sixties” (Spring 2014)
Eric Zolov

[NOTE: This syllabus was created for a Directed Readings Course but forms the basis for a Theme Seminar in "Global Connections, Empire, Capitalism"]

Final Assignment: Identify a thematic element (concept, individual, or genre) and write a 10-15 page historiographical paper that explores that element’s relationship to the “Global Sixties.” Some possible topics include architecture, posters, comics, film, music, clothing, graffiti (ephemeral art), political philosophy (e.g., violence, non-violence, Trotskyism, etc.), solidarity, etc.

Week I (Jan. 27): Conceptualizing the Global Sixties

Questions to consider: How do these readings each seek to address the 1960s as a paradigmatic field of inquiry? In what ways are these readings in conversation with one another, or does each simply address its own “part of the elephant”? Can you lump these readings into distinctive categories, epistemologically and methodologically speaking? What concerns do they share and in which areas do they part ways? What does a methodology of the “Global Sixties” portend?


Further reading:
Karen Dubinsky, et. al., eds., *New World Coming: The Sixties and the Shaping of Global Consciousness* (Between the Lines, 2009)

Week II (Feb. 3): “Foundational Texts”

Assignment for this week: Choose any three (or more) of the following texts and place them in dialogue with one another (3-4 pp. written analysis). You can choose texts that are coincident (e.g., Castro & Debray), divergent (e.g., Castro & Presley), or in some combination. Be prepared to present to the group your interpretation of the significance of the texts, as they fall in relationship to one another and to the “Global Sixties” as a conceptual project. Of course, you are encouraged to read as many of these as possible so that we can have a broad conversation!

Franz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, “Preface (Jean-Paul Sartre)” & “Concerning Violence” (to p. 43 or beyond)


Further Reading:
Carlos Marighella, *Minimanual of the Urban Guerrilla* (1969; 2011); also available at Marxists.Org


Week III (Feb. 10): From “Old” to “New Left”

Assignment: What turning points—political, economic, cultural—do these authors pinpoint as significant events to mark a shift from “Old” to “New” left? To what extent are they in agreement or divergent in their assessment of such turning points? Write a short analytical response (2-4 pages) that addresses what you regard as a critical turning point/juncture for this shift, either building on what the authors argue or from your own vantage point.


Further Reading:
Max Elbaum, Revolution in the Air: Sixties Radicals Turn to Lenin, Mao and Che (Verso, 2006)

Week IV (Feb. 17): Creating & Contesting a Third World

Assignment: How did the “invention” (birth?) of the “third world” shape the revolutionary imagination of “first world” activists? If the “third world” was so important for driving the Global Sixties, why has the historiography mostly focused (until recently) on the US/Europe? What is at stake in placing “the periphery” at the methodological “center” in writing Global Sixties histories?


**Further reading:**

Week V (Feb. 24): Film and Liberation

*La hora de los hornos* (Dir. Fernando Solanas, 1968) [excerpts shown in class]


**Further reading:**

Week VI (March 3): Cuban Revolution & Culture in Latin America


**Further reading:**
Week VII (March 10): Cold War Latin America

Assignment: Before reading any reviews of Brands, write 1-2 pages on what you regard as the most significant contribution of this book, or (alternatively) what is the book’s most significant pitfall. Then, feel free to read reviews!


**Further reading:**
“Special Issue: Latin America in the Global Sixties,” *The Americas* (January 2014); article by Marchesi.

Week VIII (March 17): No Class (Spring Break)

Week IX (March 24): China’s Cultural Revolution


**Further reading:**

Week X (March 31): Transnational Protest Movements (US/Europe)


**Further reading:**
Kristin Ross, *May ’68 and its Afterlives* (University of Chicago, 2002)
Martin Klimke, *The Other Alliance: Student Protest in West Germany and the United States in the Global Sixties* (Princeton, 2009)
**Week XI (April 7): Transnational Protest Movements (Latin America)**


**Further reading:**

**Week XII (April 14): Countercultural Politics and Praxis**


**Further Reading:**
“Special Issue: Latin America in the Global Sixties,” *The Americas* (January 2014); articles by Dunn, Manzano, Markarian.

**Week XIII (April 21): No Class (Passover)**

**Week XIV (April 28): Aesthetic Movements & Sensibilities**

Assignment: Locate three (or more) posters from at least three different country contexts (e.g., US, Latin America, China) and write a 3-4 pg. analysis addressing thematic points of convergence/divergence with respect to such possible themes as production, aesthetics, distribution, audience. For a large collection of posters and analysis, including links to other poster collections, see the website run by Lincoln Cushing: [http://www.docspopuli.org/](http://www.docspopuli.org/)

Susan Sontag, "Posters: Advertisement, Art, Political Artifact, Commodity" (http://www.typonica.com/utaj_395/read/sontag_posters.htm)


**Further reading:**
Laura Podalsky, *Specular City: Transforming Culture, Consumption, and Space in Buenos Aires, 1955-
Week XV (May 5): Global Solidarities

Questions to Consider: What are the historical origins of “solidarity”? Is there something distinctive to solidarity movements in the Americas versus solidarity movements beyond the Americas? What was the nature of “solidarity” during the Global Sixties and how did it build upon or become distinctive from solidarity movements that preceded this moment?

Note: The readings here are primarily on the Americas. If you have ideas for reading on solidarity beyond the Americas and would like to share with the group, let me know.


Also, choose an article or Introduction from one of the works in “Further Readings” below:

Further reading:


Luis Roniger, James Green, Pablo Yankelevich, eds., Exile and the Politics of Exclusion in the Americas (Univ. of Sussex Academic Press, 2013)

Jessica Stites Mor, ed., Transnational Solidarity in Cold War Latin America (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2013)

James Green, We Cannot Remain Silent: Opposition to the Brazilian Military Dictatorship in the United States (Duke, 2010)

Final Paper Due: Wed., May 7th [or, tbd]