

**HIS 274**  
**United States Since 1945**

Satisfies: SBS+, USA

M/W, 6:05pm-7:35pm

Professor Robert Chase

In the half century that followed the Second World War, the U.S. underwent monumental changes that profoundly reshaped the world we live in today. This course will examine how and why the United States started the mid- twentieth century as an isolationist nation and ended the century mark as the world's sole "super power." It will also examine the changing nature of race, class, gender, and sexuality in a tumultuous period of social, political, and cultural change. The course considers such topics as: the use of atomic weapons; Cold War politics and culture; consumerism and the American economy; national security; liberalism and conservatism; the struggle for civil rights and Black Freedom; movements for ethnic identity and empowerment, particularly the Chicana/o movement; cultural struggles; political struggles between the Left and the Right; the Vietnam war; the student and anti-war movement; women, gender, sexuality and the "sexual revolution"; the "Culture Wars" of a renewed Conservative movement of the 1970s-1990s; and the post-Cold War world. The course will feature of blend of lectures and some discussion, two exams, and two critical analysis papers.