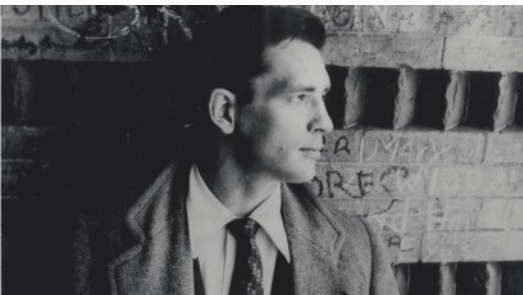


U.S. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

Dr. Philis M. Barragán Goetz



CONTACT INFO

philis.barragan@tamusa.edu
CAB 313-D
210-784-2259

OFFICE HOURS

In person: T & Th 12:30-1:30 PM
[On Zoom](#): W 1:30-2:30 PM
and by appointment

COURSE MATERIALS

- *America for Americans*, Erika Lee
- *Life along the Border*, Jovita González
- *The Fire Next Time*, James Baldwin
- *On the Road*, Jack Kerouac
- *Minor Characters*, Joyce Johnson
- Other readings/films available on Blackboard or via TAMUSA library databases

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Communicate in writing an understanding of applying social and cultural history methods to the United States' past.
- Exercise critical thinking skills in assessing how interdisciplinary sources illuminate the social, cultural, economic, and political factors of the era in which they were created.
- Articulate in writing an understanding of the integral role of race, gender, class, and borders to social and cultural history.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A social historian is concerned with "history from below," uncovering the experiences of those typically left out of the dominant historical narrative. A cultural historian examines the development and influence of institutions broadly defined--e.g., marriage, literature, football, or the government. In many cases, these two approaches overlap, as revealing experiences of different populations requires an understanding of how they engaged with the various institutions that framed daily life. The intersection of social and cultural history will be our foundation for diving into our semester's material. In this class, we will spend the first part of the semester reading key works that provide us with examples of how professional historians approach social and cultural history. In the second half of the semester, we will draw from interdisciplinary and non-traditional sources--like photography, literature, film, and music--to *do* social and cultural history ourselves: to examine the ways in which race, ethnicity, gender, class, and borders shaped the experiences of different groups and the institutions they created and resisted.

ASSIGNMENTS

- **IN-CLASS WORK:** 15%. Discussion is an integral part of this class, and your participation is important. We will be covering topics that tend to incite tension and debate. Absolutely engage in these debates, so long as you are respectful and informed. Your comments should always be based in the readings. There will be in-class assignments--including, but not limited to, discussion questions, text analysis, and fishbowl exercises--that you will complete individually and/or in small groups over the reading/lecture material. Each student is responsible for writing their own answers. There will be a Breakfast Quiz when attendance is low.
- **READING RESPONSE PAPERS:** 30%. 600-900 words, 1-inch margins, 12 pt. Times New Roman font. There will be 4 response papers due this semester, and students must write 2 of them. Response papers should respond to the prompt, discussing relevant themes, argument/thesis of the works, and reflect on how you engaged with the material. These papers should be critically engaged, and should draw from your thoughts and ideas. Do not do outside research, and do not draw from online sources or use any AI software. I want to know how you engaged with the material, not a computer software program.



Américo Paredes, Benson Latin American Collection, UT Austin.



Beatrice Franco with her son, Albert, 1941.

- **CHECK-IN JOURNAL POSTS:** 10%. There will be 4 check-in journal posts due throughout the semester. The writing in this space is different from what is expected in all the other writing assignments for the class, as it doesn't necessarily have to be formal. Other students will not be able to see what you write.
- **MIDTERM EXAM:** 20%. The midterm exam will cover all our material up to that point in the semester. It may be comprised of multiple choice-type questions, short answer questions, and/or essay questions.
- **FINAL EXAM:** 25%. The final exam will take place during finals week. It will be cumulative, covering all our material for the semester. It may be comprised of multiple choice-type questions, short answer questions, and/or essay questions.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

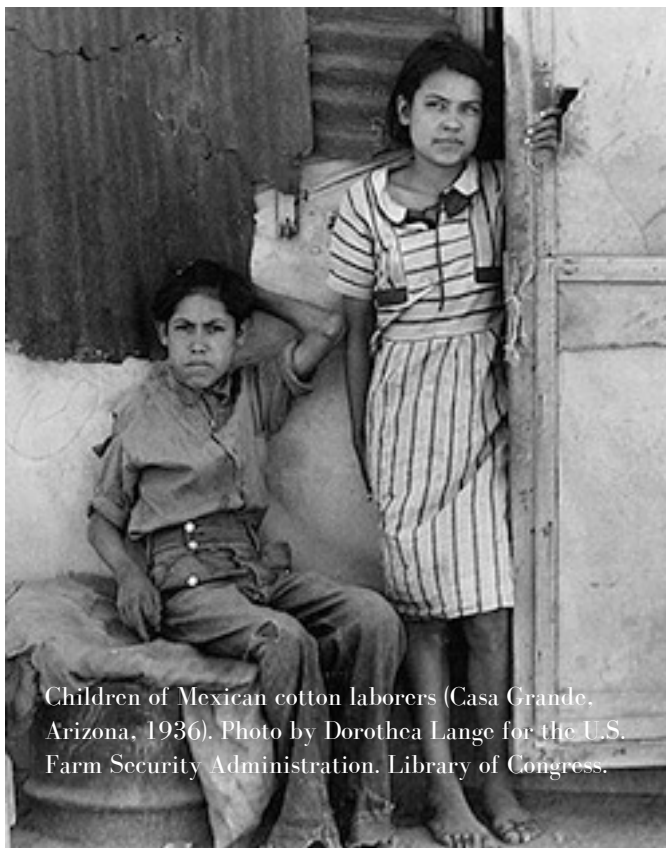
PARTICIPATION AND COURTESY: Online discussion is an important part of this course, and we will not always agree. All points of view are welcome, as long as they are informed (meaning, you have done the required reading for class) and are not deliberately discriminatory. As we engage in the material and in conversation with each other, we must remember to do so respectfully.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance in this class is imperative. Changes to the syllabus, advice, and feedback will be given in class and via blackboard announcements. If you miss more than 6 classes, your grade will drop one letter grade (-10 points).

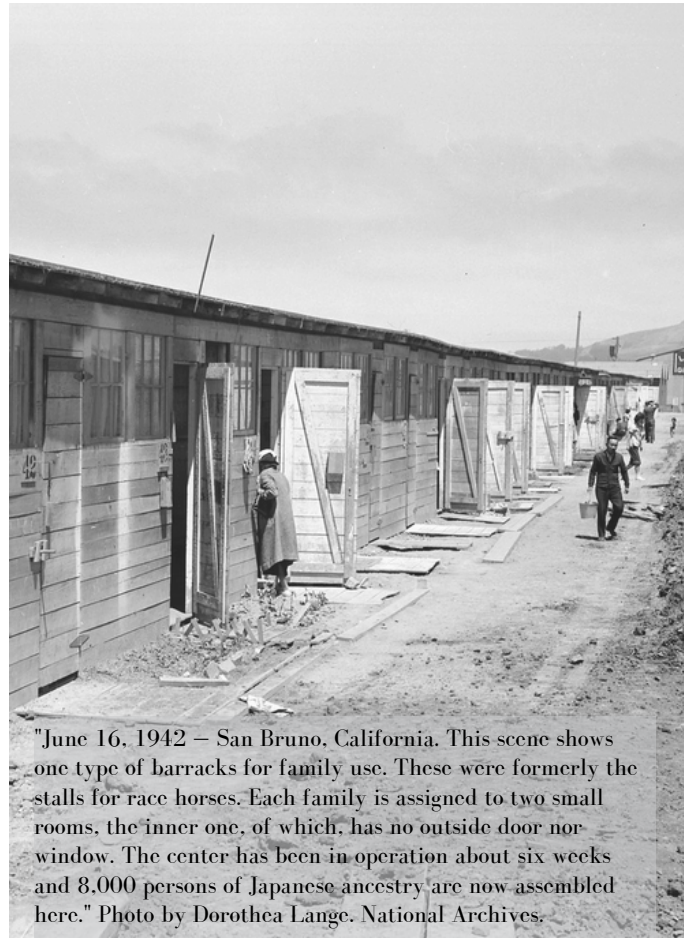
LATE AND MAKE UP WORK: Make-ups will be given only in the case of documented medical or family emergencies. They must be completed before the last day of classes. For each day an assignment is late, its grade drops 5 points. I will not accept late work after 6 days. If you need to request an extension, you must contact me before the due date to make your request.

GRADING SCALE

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- Below 60 F



Children of Mexican cotton laborers (Casa Grande, Arizona, 1936). Photo by Dorothea Lange for the U.S. Farm Security Administration. Library of Congress.



"June 16, 1942 – San Bruno, California. This scene shows one type of barracks for family use. These were formerly the stalls for race horses. Each family is assigned to two small rooms, the inner one, of which, has no outside door nor window. The center has been in operation about six weeks and 8,000 persons of Japanese ancestry are now assembled here." Photo by Dorothea Lange. National Archives.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head.

Students guilty of academic misconduct will receive a zero on the assignment and will be reported to Academic Affairs.

Intellectual honesty is vital to an academic community and for my fair evaluation of your work. All work submitted in this course must be your own, completed in accordance with the University's academic regulations. You may not engage in unauthorized collaboration or make use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES & RESOURCES



Charles Mingus

STUDENT MISCONDUCT: Appropriate conduct is essential to the effective functioning of the University. University policy defines unacceptable conduct, both academic and non-academic misconduct, and penalties for such behavior in The Student Handbook and The Student Code of Conduct.

SIX-DROP RULE: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

EMAIL POLICY AND COURSE COMMUNICATIONS: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. If your jaguar account is not working, contact the help desk at sahelp@tamusa.tamus.edu or at 210-784-4357.

FINANCIAL AID AND VERIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

COUNSELING SERVICES: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University - San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual, couples, and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling.

In a crisis situation, please walk-in to the Student Counseling Center (SCC) any time between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM to be seen by a licensed clinician. After hours, please contact UPD at 911 or text "HOME" to 741-741 24/7/365 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. The National Suicide Prevention hotline also offers a 24/7/365 hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

THE ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER: takes a developmental approach to help students complete their academic goals from orientation through graduation. The Center offers academic and skills workshops, one-on-one appointments, and online resources to help retention efforts at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The goal of the Center is to help students discover, self-reflect, and become independent learners. Student Academic Success is located in Modular C. Their services are currently offered virtually or by phone. To contact the Center, please call 210-784-1307 or email at Student.Success@tamusa.edu.

THE JAGUAR WRITING CENTER provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. The Writing Center is currently holding all appointments digitally. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an "Online Appointment." Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an "eTutoring" appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center. The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dss@tamusa.edu.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

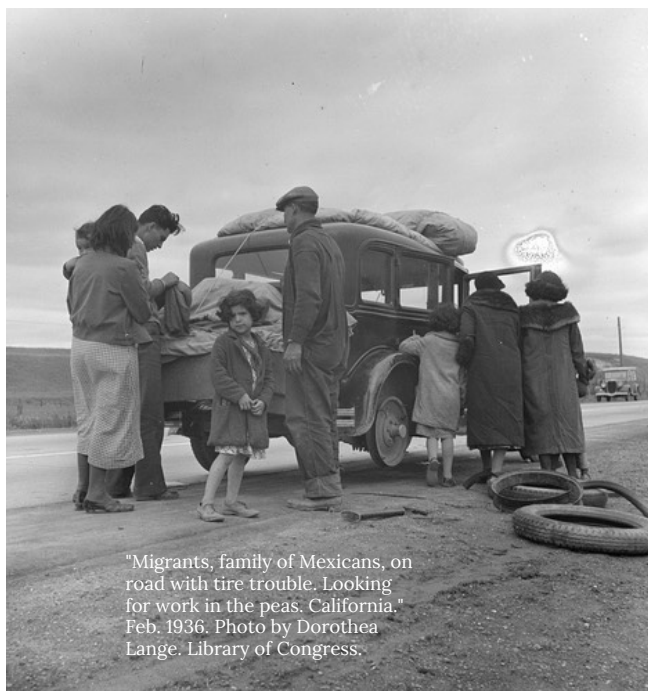
UNIVERSITY POLICIES & RESOURCES

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcpportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>.

MEETING BASIC NEEDS: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

MILITARY AFFAIRS: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.



"Migrants, family of Mexicans, on road with tire trouble. Looking for work in the peas. California." Feb. 1936. Photo by Dorothea Lange. Library of Congress.

STATEMENT OF HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions for the student freedom and responsibility to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System. This includes the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

Students' Rights:

- A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no university rule or procedure that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
- Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the university, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
- A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
- Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities:

- A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and the administration.
- A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, University Catalog and students must comply with them and the laws of the land.
- A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire university community.
- A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.
- A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.
- We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

COURSE SCHEDULE

I reserve the right to change this syllabus as necessary during the semester.

WEEK 1: CLASS INTRODUCTION

Th Reading and Assignments Due

- *America for Americans*, Introduction-Chapter 1

STUDENT INTRODUCTION ASSIGNMENT DUE

BEFORE MIDNIGHT, SUNDAY, 1/21.

WEEK 2: XENOPHOBIA AS SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

T Reading and Assignments Due

- *America for Americans*, Chapters 2

Th Reading and Assignments Due

- *America for Americans*, Chapter 3

WEEK 3: XENOPHOBIA AND FOREIGN & IMMIGRATION POLICY

T Reading and Assignments Due

- *America for Americans*, Chapters 4

Th Reading and Assignments Due

- *America for Americans*, Chapter 5

WEEK 4: XENOPHOBIA AND DOMESTIC POLICY

T Reading and Assignments Due

- *America for Americans*, Chapters 6

Th Reading and Assignments Due

- *America for Americans*, Chapters 7

CHECK-IN JOURNAL POST 1 DUE BEFORE MIDNIGHT, SUNDAY, 2/11.

WEEK 5: BORDERLANDS AS SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY: JOVITA GONZALEZ

T Reading and Assignments Due

- *Life along the Border*, Jovita González, Part I and Introduction-Ch. 1 of Part II

Th Reading and Assignments Due

- *Life along the Border*, Jovita González, finish Part II

RESPONSE PAPER 1 DUE BEFORE MIDNIGHT, SUNDAY, 2/18.



Jovita González, 1931. From the E.F. Mireles and Jovita González Mireles Papers, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

KEY DATES

- Jan. 24: Last day to apply for graduation
- March 11-17: Spring Break
- April 13: Last day to drop with an automatic "W"
- April 29: Last day of class
- May 1-7: Final Exams

For more key dates, see

<https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/provost/documents/ay2024-calendar-01112023.pdf>

WEEK 6: BORDERLANDS AND GENDER

T Reading and Assignments Due

- *With His Pistol in His Hand*, Américo Paredes, pages 1-40

Th Reading and Assignments Due

- *With His Pistol in His Hand*, Américo Paredes, pages 41-79

WEEK 7: MIDTERM EXAM

T Reading and Assignments Due

- Study for Midterm

Th MIDTERM EXAM

CHECK-IN JOURNAL POST 2 DUE BEFORE MIDNIGHT, SUNDAY, 3/3.



James Baldwin, New York, 1963. Photograph: Dave Pickoff/AP

WEEK 8: JAMES BALDWIN AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

T Reading and Assignments Due

- Start *The Fire Next Time*, James Baldwin

T Reading and Assignments Due

- Start *The Fire Next Time*, James Baldwin
- Film: *Eyes on the Prize*, Part I: “Awakenings”

RESPONSE PAPER 2 DUE BEFORE MIDNIGHT, SUNDAY, 3/10.

WEEK 9: SPRING BREAK

Reading and Assignments Due

- *On the Road*, Jack Kerouac, Part I
- Jazz Playlist: [Music of On the Road](#)

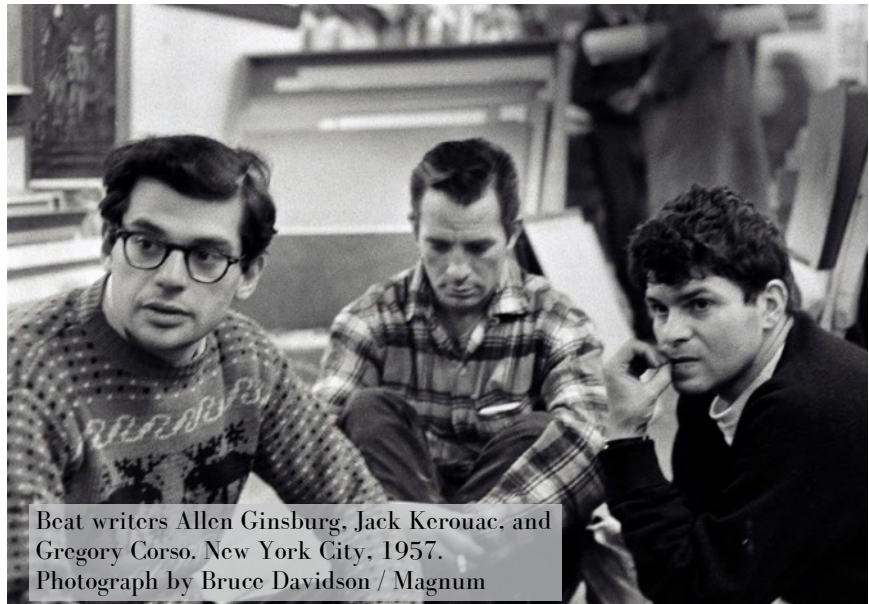
WEEK 10: THE BEAT MOVEMENT AND COLD WAR CULTURE

T Reading and Assignments Due

- *On the Road*, Jack Kerouac, Part I

Th Reading and Assignments Due

- *On the Road*, Jack Kerouac, Part II



Beat writers Allen Ginsburg, Jack Kerouac, and Gregory Corso, New York City, 1957. Photograph by Bruce Davidson / Magnum

WEEK 11: JAZZ, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND FOREIGN DIPLOMACY

T Reading and Assignments Due

- *On the Road*, Part III

Th Reading and Assignments Due

- *On the Road*, Part IV

CHECK-IN JOURNAL POST 3 DUE BEFORE MIDNIGHT, SUNDAY, 3/31.

Louis Armstrong and his wife Lucille pose in front of the Sphinx near Cairo, Egypt in 1961. Courtesy of the Louis Armstrong House Museum.



WEEK 12: RACE, THE BEATS, AND AMERICAN CULTURE

T Reading and Assignments Due

- “The White Negro,” Norman Mailer (on BB)
- “The Black Boy Looks at the White Boy,” James Baldwin (on BB)

Th Reading and Assignments Due

- *Minor Characters*, Joyce Johnson, Ch. 1-4 (pp. 1-61)
- Film: [Awakenings](#) (via TAMUSA library)

RESPONSE PAPER 3 DUE BEFORE MIDNIGHT, SUNDAY, 4/7.

WEEK 13: RISE OF SECOND WAVE FEMINISM

T Reading and Assignments Due

- *Minor Characters*, Joyce Johnson, Ch. 5-7 (pp. 62-119)

Th Reading and Assignments Due

- *Minor Characters*, Joyce Johnson, Ch. 8-9 (pp. 120-157)

WEEK 14: BRINGING IT ALL BACK HOME

T Reading and Assignments Due

- *Minor Characters*, Joyce Johnson, Ch. 10-12 (pp. 158-218)

Th Reading and Assignments Due

- TBD

WEEK 15: FINAL CONVERSATIONS

Reading and Assignments Due

- No readings due this week. Students should be working on their response paper, journal entry, and studying for the final exam.

**RESPONSE PAPER 4 DUE BEFORE MIDNIGHT,
SUNDAY, 4/28.**

**CHECK-IN JOURNAL 4 DUE BEFORE MIDNIGHT,
SUNDAY, 4/28.**

NOTES & QUESTIONS:

