

History 476  
Devine  
Spring 2016

## **Essay #2**

This essay is due **May 12th** by 11:59 pm. You may choose to do either the analytical essay or the oral history essay. Email your essay to me as an attachment (the preferred method), turn it in to the History Department office (Sierra Tower 610) during business hours, or hand it to me in person.

### **WRITING CENTER**

If you are submitting this essay as a draft and intend to work with a writing tutor on a revision of your essay, please indicate on the paper or in your email that the document you are submitting is a draft. Note that to take advantage of the opportunity to revise your draft, you must submit a **complete** draft to me on May 12th. Your final version will be due the day of the final exam. To make an appointment, call the History Department at 818.677.3566.

### **DIRECTIONS**

#### **HOW LONG SHOULD THE PAPER BE?**

Papers **MUST be 1000 words** and no more than 1500 words.

#### **HOW SHOULD I FORMAT THE PAPER?**

- Typed, double-spaced, 12-point font with one-inch margins all around.
- Please number your pages.
- Give your essay a title that indicates what the paper is about. (Something more revealing than “Essay #1” or “Youth Culture”) Clever titles will be duly noted.

#### **HOW DO I CITE?**

If you are quoting directly from a source, cite the author and page number in parentheses within the body of the text, i.e. (Moody, 47). All direct quotes **MUST** be in quotation marks and must be cited. Paraphrases of ideas drawn from the book **MUST** also be cited.

## HOW WILL I BE GRADED?

You will be graded on:

- 1) **focus** (do you have a thesis statement and does it answer the question asked?)
- 2) **evidence** (do you back up your argument with specific information from the reading and is the supporting information especially effective in making your case)
- 3) **coherence** (is your argument consistent and understandable throughout the piece?)
- 4) **scope** (does your paper deal with the question in appropriate depth and breadth?)

## ANALYTICAL ESSAY

Answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. Why was rock'n'roll music such a challenge – perhaps even a revolutionary challenge – to long held mainstream American values?

In answering you should examine at least three the following issues:

racial hierarchy/white supremacy  
racial “mixing”  
the protestant work ethic  
sexual expression  
respect for authority

2. Some critics have dismissed Elvis Presley as nothing more than “the white boy who stole the blues.” Why, according to Robert Pielke and Michael Bertrand, is this characterization fundamentally wrong?
3. Why were some African-Americans more willing than others to support the Civil Rights Movement?

[In answering, you should indicate in the essay's first paragraph **why** African-Americans responded to the Movement in different ways. You should also indicate the factors that could determine whether a particular person supported, avoided, feared, or opposed the Movement. Then, spend the rest of the essay supporting the statements you have made in your first paragraph. Draw on specific evidence from Moody's memoir to demonstrate that what you've said in the essay's first paragraph is true. Among the many issues you might consider are: age, life experiences, extent of family responsibilities, level of fear, religious devotion, intelligence and/or amount of education, economic position, where

someone lived (isolated rural locale vs. city), and individual personality traits. Your conclusion should tie together the various issues you've examined and make an overall statement regarding the variety of African-American responses to the Movement.]

## **ORAL HISTORY**

Conduct an oral history interview with a person of your choice. The subject matter for the interview should concern that person's childhood or adolescence (under 21 years). You will then write an essay about this individual and place his or her experiences in the larger historical setting. In doing this, you will show to what extent your subject's childhood/adolescence was either typical or atypical. In other words, you must show how aspects of his/her life provide specific examples of, or exceptions to, what we have studied about American youth culture during the period during which he/she was growing up. A good rule of thumb is to divide your paper about 50/50 between a recounting of your interview and background material from historical sources. This does not mean that you should do a summary of the interview for the first half of the paper and discuss the historical context for the second half. The best papers will weave the individual's experiences into the narrative of the essay. When you quote directly from or paraphrase one of the readings from the course, be sure to cite the source as follows: (Author's name, page #). You may also draw on other sources to inform yourself further about the period in which your subject grew up. If you use such sources, cite author and page # in the text. **At the end of the paper, provide a bibliography that gives the full cite of each source you consulted.**