

01:050:303

The 1970s

Fall 2008

This course offers an intensive exploration of cultural, political and social movements and trends of the 1970s. Some of the issues framing the decade include the Vietnam War; ongoing and burgeoning civil rights and liberation struggles; the War on Drugs, the birth of new music forms (including hip hop); the energy crisis; and the deindustrialization of urban centers. Students will engage with a variety of primary sources, including film, literature, advertisements, and journalism, as well as secondary sources, to examine some of the major debates and developments of the period. Topics will include anti-war activism; demographic and economic changes in urban centers; new cultural formations in music (soul, disco, hip hop) and visual art (video/media art, graffiti); Black Power; women's movement; fashion trends; American independent cinema and the rise of the blockbuster. The goal of the course is provide students with methodological tools and investigative approaches to research in American Studies.