

Woodstock Nation; “Commune Flourishes as does Neighborliness: A New Kind of Housing That Brings People Together”; “Fight Over an Ex-Nun’s Mind”; “Some Colleges Warn Students Of Cult-Like Methods Being Used by Christian Fundamentalist Groups”; “A Close Circle of Friends”; “Free Love, Hate, and an Ambush at a Commune on Staten Island”; “Hazing Photos Spur Debates on Complicity of Coaches.”

- Wed., Sept. 13 Why People Join Cults and Communes
- Read: Rosabeth Moss Kanter, *Commitment Mechanisms in 19th Century Communes*
 Film: *The Devils Playground*
- Mon., Sept. 18 Read: “The Holy Ghost People”
- Film: “The Holy Ghost People”
- Wed., Sept. 20 Why People Join Cults and Communes II
- Continuing discussion of Kanter’s *Commitment Mechanisms in 19th Century Communes*.
- Mon., Sept. 25 and Wed., Sept. 27 Ticket to Hell?
- Film: *Ticket to Heaven*
- Note: I will be lecturing in Ecuador this week and my colleague, Professor Angus Gillespie, will be screening this disturbing film and conducting a discussion of it.
- Mon. Oct. 2 and Oct. 4 The Hare Krishnas
- Read: E Burke Rochford, *Hare Krishna in America*
- Note: we also have been promised a guest from the Hare Krishna sect in class on either of these two days.
- Mon. Oct. 9 Older Sects
- Films: *The Shakers*; *The Hutterites*
- Wed., Oct. 11 and Mon., Oct. 16 The Oneidans
- Read: From Constance Noyes Robertson, *Oneida Community: An Autobiography*
- Wed., Oct. 18 The Farm

read: "Why I Left the Farm"

Mon., Oct. 23

The Farm (continued)

films of life on The Farm

note: Term paper précis due in class this day (see Ground Rules and Requirements.) Original and copy stapled together. Will not be accepted after this day

Midterm quiz on this day as well. No makeups will be offered, no matter what the excuse. You must take the exam this day.

Wed., Oct. 25

Jonestown

Read: Deborah Layton, *Seductive Poison*
Lawrence Hall, "Lambs to the Slaughter"
The Jonestown (Rutgers Rugby Team) Song

Mon., Oct. 30

Jonestown (continued)

Film: *The Jonestown Massacre*

Wed., Nov. 1

Waco

Read: *Time* magazine coverage of Waco
Film: *Waco: Rules of Engagement*

Mon., Nov. 6

Heaven's Gate

Read: *New York Times* material on Heaven's Gate; also "This Just in From Our Cult Desk" and "Deprogramming Heaven's Gate"

Film: *The Heaven's Gate Cult*

Wed., Nov. 8

Is The University a Cult?

Read: Michael Aaron Rockland, *A Bliss Case*

Mon., Nov. 13

A Bliss Case (continued)

Read as well "The Professor and the Guru" and "Bloom Country"
Films of the Ashram

Wed., Nov. 15

Scientology

Read: *Time* magazine's reportage on Scientology and the response by the Church of Scientology (to be distributed in class)

Mon. Nov. 20 Scientology (continued)

Guest: John Carmichael, President of the Church of Scientology, New York Region.

Note: No class Wednesday, Nov. 22. University is on Friday schedule

Mon. Nov. 27 New Religions Will Always Emerge

Read: "The Clamor Over Cults"; "The New Disciples"; "Sects and Death"; "Strangers Among Us"; "Getting Grandma Back Again"

Wed. Nov. 29 The Urban Commune

Read: Samuel Delaney, *Heavenly Breakfast*

Mon. Dec. 4 Holy Smokes!

Film *Holy Smoke*

Also: term papers are due this day in class. Papers may not be sent as an e-mail attachment. Late papers will be severely penalized.

Wed., Dec. 6 Holy Smoke (continued) and discussion of the film

Mon. Dec. 11 Walden I vs. and II

Read: B.F. Skinner, *Walden II*

Wed., Dec 13 Walden II (continued)

Final Examination is on Wed., Dec. 20, 12-3.

GROUND RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

Key Dates in Course:

- 1) Midterm Quiz is on Monday, October 23
- 2) Term Paper Precis is due same day, October 23
- 3) Term Project due on Monday, December 4
- 4) Final Examination is on Wednesday, December 20, 12-3.

Your term grade will be based on the following factors:

- 1) Attendance and class participation
- 2) Grades in the two quizzes—midterm (first half of course) and the one given as part of the final (second half of course). It is impossible that you can do well on the quizzes unless you attend class regularly. You can almost assume that each day you miss class you will end up missing some items on these multiple choice quizzes.
- 3) Term paper. This is surely the major ingredient in your final grade
- 4) Final exam—the essay part, based on the entire semester.

Term Paper

Precis: Note that you must give me, on Monday, Oct. 23, a one paragraph précis of your term paper project. This means that well before that date you must decide on your topic so you can discuss it intelligently in your précis. Although you will not be graded on your précis, no late précis will be considered and failure to hand the précis in on time will affect your grade. Precis should be typed and handed in in duplicate, original and copy, stapled together, on normal 8 and ½ X 11 inch paper. I will return the original to you with my comments as soon after October 23 as possible. The précis exercise is my way of guaranteeing that your term project is *indeed* a term project and that you are working on a project appropriate to our course.

Topic: In general, you will be writing on an American cult or commune or some institution that has characteristics of a cult or commune or both. I would prefer your writing on groups or institutions not studied in class—though I will not automatically reject your desire to research in much greater depth a group we have looked at quickly in class. Groups you examine can either be historical or contemporary. If a contemporary group, it will be meaningful if you can experience it personally—though be careful: I don't want to hear that you've become a disciple of some guru and then we have to send the deprogrammers after you! If you are studying a group and find yourself losing your objectivity—have stopped being an observer/are becoming a participant—see me at once.

You may also choose to write about an institution that is not a cult or commune per se but which exhibits cult-like characteristics when one applies Kantor's criteria and other criteria we have discussed in class. Fraternities and sororities, especially in their hazing practices, are often thought of as cult-like, athletic teams and the military as well. You may also choose to examine alternate living arrangements and formalized alternate sexual arrangements that depart from the nuclear family norm.

I'd like these term projects to be in the neighborhood of 10 written pages. Longer ones will, of course, be acceptable. Whenever possible, include illustrations, photographs, drawings, etc. In a few instances I might be willing to let students study a group or institution by making a movie as their term project and, in this instance, I might be willing to let two students work together on the project.