

# The 1960s in Historical Perspective

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## Course Description

This course explores a controversial era shrouded in myths and memories. Among the topics it examines are the presidencies of John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Richard Nixon; the Civil Rights Movement; the Vietnam War; the New Left; the counterculture; the women's movement; the gay movement; the conservative movement; the international dimension of youth protest; and the legacies of the 1960s. The aim of this course is to provide a balanced history of a turbulent time that continues to influence American politics, society, and culture.

## Lecture Videos

This course consists of approximately 12 hours of instruction presented by Professor Flamm and Professor Kazin, split into lecture videos ranging from 25 minutes to 35 minutes in length. Below are the lecture titles and major themes as identified by Professor Flamm and Professor Kazin. The videos provide the content needed to answer the course quizzes.

1. "The 1950s 'Golden Age' and Its Critics" (2 videos)
2. "John Kennedy and the American Image" (2 videos)
3. "The Black Freedom Movement" (2 videos)
4. "Lyndon Johnson and American Liberalism" (2 videos)
5. "The Vietnam War: Counterfactuals and Controversies" (2 videos)
6. "Opposing the Vietnam War" (2 videos)
7. "Gender Politics: The New Feminism and Gay Liberation" (2 videos)
8. "Richard Nixon and American Conservatism" (2 videos)
9. "Was Youth Culture a Counterculture?" (2 videos)
10. "The Sounds of Music" (2 videos)
11. "Religion and Spirituality" (2 videos)
12. "Legacies of the Sixties" (2 videos)

Note: Course lectures were originally recorded for the Gilder Lehrman Institute's online graduate program. You can disregard references to assignments, other coursework, and the use of content in classrooms discussed in the videos. They are not part of the History U program.

### Resources

Select the Resources link for information about the primary and secondary resources, videos, and websites referred to in the course. Please note: History U participants are not required to read or purchase print materials. All quiz questions are drawn from the lectures.

### Quizzes

The purpose of the short quizzes is to review your knowledge of the material covered in the lectures. No outside reading is required to answer the questions successfully. After watching the video, select and complete the corresponding quiz to test your knowledge and qualify for the Certificate of Completion.

### Certificate of Completion

After you finish watching all of the lectures, score an 80% or higher on each quiz, and complete the feedback survey, you will be able to download your certificate.

Please email [historyschool@gilderlehrman.org](mailto:historyschool@gilderlehrman.org) with any questions.