



## Gifted LearningLinks Program Course Syllabus

**Instructor: Joy Nehr**  
**Email: xxx@xxx.xxx**

**Course Title: American Cultural Revolutions of the Twentieth Century**

**Session Date: 2010-2011 (rolling enrollment)**

### **Course Description:**

Dive into the cultural world of the twentieth century from the United States early 1900s where most Americans lived rural, detached lives from each other through to the end of the century 2000 where the world has shrunk thanks to technology that enables mankind to stay in near constant contact. What influenced people and culture most? Explore the films, books, art, architecture, people, wars, and social movements that defined each era of the Twentieth Century.

**Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Students will study the major cultural trends of the twentieth century.
- Students will analyze how the social and political climate of each decade impacted the arts, film, literature and popular culture.
- Students will engage in a range of research methods and topics of particular interest to themselves.
- Students will explore the commonalities of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

### **Resources and Materials:**

- Websites, articles, music, documentaries, films
- Student Choice with instructor approval of 9 novels from the “Best Books of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” list (available on course and through GLL course description)
- Twenty movies, select five from each era on the list of 100 Must See Films of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century by Leonard Maltin (available on course and through GLL course description)

*Note: While a staff member (which includes but is not limited to instructors, teaching assistants, residential staff, office staff) may use or refer students to third-party web sites for instructional purposes, s/he is required to review thoroughly any such web sites for inappropriate content before referencing them. This includes clicking on all links contained in any such web site, reviewing the materials contained on every page within a web site, and ensuring that the web site does not provide links to other inappropriate web sites. If there is any doubt about whether something is appropriate, a staff member is instructed to err on the side of caution and not use the web site or check with a CTD supervisor. If a referenced third-party web site is later determined to contain inappropriate content, the staff member may be subject to discipline.*

**Schedule:**

**SEMESTER ONE**

	<b>Topic/Focus</b>	<b>Activities &amp; Reading Assignments</b>	<b>What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?</b>	<b>What do I need to turn in?</b>
<b>Week 1-A</b>	Working the Course	Getting to Know You Course Expectations Discussion Board Guidelines Mid-Term and Final Projects Course Organization	Introductions	Nothing
<b>Weeks 1-B and 2</b>	1900-1910	Ash Can School of Art Art Nouveau Craftsman Style of Architecture Rise of Newspapers Comic Strips Montessori Education Fashion Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward Catalogs Wright Brothers Barbershop Quartets Ragtime Nickelodeon Theaters	Share information from internet research.  What do you feel the symbol of the period would be? Explain	Short Story Or Slideshow Or Podcast
<b>Weeks 3 and 4</b>	1910-1920	The “-isms” (realism, primitivism, symbolism, Fauvism, Dadaism, futurism, and cubism) The Rise of the Dimestore Novel Ouija Boards Fashion: Hobble Skirts The Progressive Era WWI Titanic Ballroom Decade The Gershwins War Songs Vaudeville Charlie Chaplin	What did you learn from your further research into aspects of interest to you in this decade?  What one event/change do you think has had the most long-term effects on American society? Explain.	Comic Strip Or Letter Or Graphic Organizer

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
<b>Weeks 5-7</b>	1920s	Art Deco The “-isms” Continue The Algonquin Round Table Harlem Renaissance Flapole Sitting Fashion: Flappers Mass Production Prohibition Black Tuesday The Jazz Age Silent Screen Stars: Rudolph Valentino and Clara Bow The first Oscars The Rise of Radio Billboard Magazine	Summarize your research findings.  Why do you think Americans view the Roaring 20s with such a sense of nostalgia?	Original Jazz Song Or Video of Dance Or Jazz Slang Skit
<b>Weeks 8-10</b>	1930s	Public Works of Art Project Federal Art Project Skyscrapers National Gallery of Art Dr. Seuss Dick and Jane Readers Monopoly and Parlor Games The Negro Leagues The Amazing Zipper Hoovervilles The Great Depression Dust Bowl Days Social Security The Atomic Bomb Refrigeration Swing Music Big Band Sounds George Gershwin FDR’s Fireside Chats Hollywood’s Golden Age	What surprising information did you learn in your research? Why was it surprising?  What information did you find that interested you the most? Why?  Write a brief summary of the book and movie you selected for this decade. Which did you prefer?	Fashion ‘How-to’ Manual Or Old-Time Radio Broadcast Or Essay

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Weeks 11-14	1940s	Abstract Expressionism Cape Cod Homes Paperback Novels Dr. Spock's Guides Jitterbug PinUp Girls Tupperware Aluminum Foil Women Enter the Workforce Zoot Suits The New Look WWII Holocaust Cold War Isolationism Baby Boom ENIAC Computer Medical Advances Big Band Remains Popular Be-Bop Rhythm and Blues Radio Drama Television The Rise of the TV Sitcom	How did WWII change the lives of the average American?  Why do you think people were becoming more and more interested in the entertainment industry than they had in previous decades?	Begin working on the 1 <sup>st</sup> project for this course
Weeks 15-18	1950s	More Abstract Expressionism Suburbia Science Fiction The Beat Generation Anti-Establishment Brown v. Board of Education Amusement Parks American Bandstand Blue Jean Generation Drive-In Movies Korean War McCarthyism Space Exploration Airline Flights Elvis Presley Nat King Cole Jerry Lee Lewis Television Becomes an American Staple TV Soap Operas Appear Broadway Musicals Rule	Tell what news items you chose to research and share your new knowledge with everyone.  Which novel read during the first semester best epitomizes the first half of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century? Use specific examples from the novel to support your assertions.	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Semester Project:</b>  Narrated slideshow Or Diary Entries Or Illustrated Timeline Or Photo and Music Montage Or Formal Essay

**SEMESTER TWO**

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
<b>Weeks 19-22</b>	1960s	Modernism Futuristic Design Op Art Pop Art Assemblage Art Environmental Art Education Integration Civil Rights Engel v. Vitale Fidel Castro Vietnam Space Race Black Panthers Martin Luther King, Jr. Woodstock Cesar Chavez	Why do you think this was such a turbulent time in America? What do you think caused so much unrest? What do you feel were the pivotal points that set off these events?	Newsletter Or Visual Time Capsule Or Original Artwork
<b>Weeks 23-26</b>	1960s	G.I. Joe Hippie Culture Unisex Clothing Tie Dye The British Invasion Acid Rock Motown Folk Music Moog Synthesizer Electro-Acoustic Music Off-Broadway Musicals American Bandstand Dance Crazes Go-go Dancing Cartoons Game Shows	What do you think about the fads & fashion from this decade? Why is there so much diversity? What was your favorite song, movie, tv show? Why? What did you learn about 60s culture from that piece of work? Tell about the novel you selected to read for this decade.	Fashion or Fad slideshow Or 60s Theme Party Or Dialogue

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
<b>Weeks 27-29</b>	1970s	Arcology Humanism Performance Art Earth Art Hyper-realism Spiritual Alienation Handicapped Children's Act Rubik's Cube Lava Lamps Pet Rocks Leisure Suits Platform Shoes Presidential Impeachment Women in the Workplace Floppy Discs Skylab Test Tube Babies Earth Day 200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence Rock Genres Disco Star Wars Family Sitcoms	Some critics view the 70's as a period of cultural stagnation. Do you agree or disagree with them? Explain.  Share the information you learned in your research.  What book are you reading for this decade? What's it about? How do you like it compared with the first book you selected for this course?	Quiz Or Advertisement Or Comic Strip
<b>Weeks 30-32</b>	1980s	Mapplethorpe NYC Federal Plaza Menil Collection Women in College Banned Books Team Sports Power Dressing Valley Girls Talk Shows Minivans Challenger Women in Politics Divorce Rates Skyrocket MTV New Wave Punk Break Dancing Hip Hop Rap Slam Dancing Oprah Anti-Family Sitcoms	What impact do you think the 80's has had on our current decade?  Don't forget to share the knowledge from your research.	Venn Diagram Or Epic Poem Or Essay

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Weeks 33-35	1990s	Feng Shui Pritzker Award Theme Restaurants Martha Stewart Yard Dog Art Video Art Amazon.com Self-help Books Oprah's Book Club Distance Education Year Round School Dual/Concurrent Credit No Child Left Behind Preppy WWJD Body Piercing Saddam Hussein Political Scandal LA Riots Americans with Disabilities Act Contract with America Rise of Terrorism Gulf War Grunge Rock Gangsta Rap Napster The Mozart Effect TV Parental Guidelines Ratings News Television The Rise of Cable TV Late Night Talk TV	Tell the new information learned from research.  You have now finished 9 novels. Which has been your favorite? Why?  Discuss the movies you've been watching. Which most reflects its decade? Explain.	Begin work on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester Project

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Week 36	20 <sup>th</sup> Century	Final Projects Reflection	<p>You should share your project at least 2 times in the student lounge before e-mailing it to me for the final analysis.</p> <p>Reflect on the following: Which decade has interested you the most? Why? What new information surprised you the most? Explain. How do you feel about the 20<sup>th</sup> Century after having examined the decades more closely? What do you think about mankind's future based on what you've read?</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Project:</p> <p>Narrated slideshow Or Diary Entries Or Illustrated Timeline Or Photo and Music Montage Or Formal Essay</p>

### Student Evaluation and Grading Policies for Credit Courses Only:

a. CTD Grading scale

<b>A+</b> 97-100	<b>B+</b> 87-89	<b>C+</b> 77-79	<b>D+</b> 67-69	<b>F</b> Below 60
<b>A</b> 93-96	<b>B</b> 83-86	<b>C</b> 73-76	<b>D</b> 63-66	
<b>A-</b> 90-92	<b>B-</b> 80-82	<b>C-</b> 70-72	<b>D-</b> 60-62	

b. Breakdown of final grade (*e.g. 10% quizzes, 30% journal, 50% papers, 10% tests*)

### Instructor Biography:

Joy Nehr has been a classroom teacher for more than 17 years and has taught in numerous states and overseas. During the course of this time, she has taught English, Language Arts, Journalism, Social Studies, and Drama. She has been the primary sponsor for student groups such as Student Council, Destination Imagination, Odyssey of the Mind, Forensics, and even a Fitness Club. In all of the schools in which she has taught she has always played a vital leadership role as chairperson of numerous committees such as the School Improvement Committee, Building Leadership Team, Affective Education, department chair and is frequently served to serve as a stand-in administrator.

Mrs. Nehr holds a Bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of South Carolina and a Master's of Science in Educational Professional Development from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. She has held certifications in North Carolina, Utah, Texas, Arizona, and the Department of Defense Dependent Schools. She has been working for Northwestern University's CTD since 2008.

**Contact Information:**

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