

The Culture of McCarthyism
AML 6027 (26867 Sec. 008F)
Meets Fridays Periods 3-5 (9:35 AM - 12:35 PM) in TUR
4112

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Susan Hegeman (she/her) /shegeman@ufl.edu/ 352-294-2815 / TUR 4119 / **Zoom meeting room:** <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3087752224> (Links to an external site.)

EMAIL: The best way to reach me is by email: Canvas email, or shegeman@ufl.edu. I will answer your email within 24 hours, if not sooner.

OFFICE HOURS: Friday afternoons 1-3 pm in TUR 4119. You are welcome to drop in at this time. If you cannot meet at this time or if you would prefer to meet via Zoom, please email me to schedule another meeting time.

Course Description

In this class we will take a broad look at the history and culture of red scare political repression in the United States as it has resonated through the 20th and 21st century. We will discuss literature, films, memoir, plays, and nonfiction essays that address the surveillance, blacklisting, and persecution of "subversives" during the postwar red scare and after. Topics will include censorship and self-censorship, historical trauma, closeting, paranoia, conspiracism, and the moral injuries of "naming names." We will discuss liberal anticommunism as an ideology, and totalitarianism as a concept. We will also address the targeting of African American artists and public figures and gays and lesbians. As much as possible, we will work to connect the context of the cold war red scare to its resonances in contemporary American life, such as in the culture wars over critical race theory and transgender athletes and the 21st century rise of populism and authoritarianism.

A Note on Course Content

Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

Course Goals and Objectives

Through genuine and persistent engagement with course materials, activities, and discussions, students will:

- gain familiarity with some classic texts of American literature and culture, created since 1950
- gain an understanding of how McCarthyism, the second Red Scare, and political repression of minorities were represented in a variety of cultural texts, including novels, memoirs, essays, television shows, and films
- develop a critical vocabulary for thinking about the phenomenon and experience of political repression
- develop historical and theoretical contexts for understanding the second Red Scare and the cold war more generally
- develop advanced skills in academic writing, research, analysis, argumentation, and oral presentation

Required Course Materials

The following books are listed on the UF Textbook Adoption page. They are listed here in the order in which we will read them. ISBN numbers refer to the paperback editions. You are not required to use these editions or formats, and some of these texts may be available for free online or in the library.

- Lillian Hellman, *Scoundrel Time* (1976) ISBN 0316352942
- Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* ISBN 9780679732761
- Maxwell, *FB Eyes: How J. Edgar Hoover's Ghostreaders Framed African American Literature* ISBN 0691173419
- E.L. Doctorow, *The Book of Daniel* (1971) ISBN 9780812978179
- Tony Kushner, *Angels in America* (1991) ISBN 9781559363846

Other course materials—required and supplementary readings and film screenings, syllabus, documents, assignments, course calendar and discussion prompts—are posted on the course's Canvas e-learning website or are available through UF Libraries course reserves.

Tech Requirements and Policies

You are required to have access to Canvas for accessing course materials and turning in assignments, and it is recommended that you have access to Zoom for meeting your instructor in office hours.

For help with Canvas or Zoom, contact the UF Computing Help Desk:

Web: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>

Phone: (352) 392-HELP (4357)

Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu
Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for accommodations (e.g. credit for overdue work) due to technical issues must be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem.

Recording Policy

Per state law, students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Class Comportment

1. Respectful interactions among students are expected. Participation grades will be negatively affected by a failure to adhere to professional, polite, scholarly, and respectful communication in all formats, both written and oral.
2. In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit one.ufl.edu for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated. As with any excused absence, you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and active participation in the seminar is expected. You should be prepared to engage in active discussion of the assigned reading. You will also be asked to informally introduce the readings for a given week. This will include a set of discussion prompts of questions generated by the reading. They will be posted on the course discussion board, ideally the Thursday night before the seminar.

Written Assignments

Students will hand in 25-30 pages (7500-9000 words, including reference matter) of written work over the course of the semester. Depending on your needs and goals for the course, this may be in the form of three short papers of 8-10 pages in length, one long paper, or a long and a short paper. Creative papers are acceptable with prior approval.

Students choosing to write one long paper or creative project should be in consultation with me early in the semester and should post a prospectus of 1-2 pages on the Discussion Board ([Paper prospectuses](#)) by November 1. These documents will be available to the rest of the class, and comments from other students are encouraged. I recommend that advanced students working on extended projects related to the course material write one long paper. Students whose goals are to develop a strong familiarity with the material should consider writing shorter papers of a more explicatory sort.

Due Dates

- **September 30, October 28:** due dates for short papers
- **October 28:** prospectuses for longer papers due on the course discussion board. Students writing two shorter papers must turn the first paper in by this date
- **December 9:** last day to turn in papers and receive comments before the end of the semester
- **December 16:** last day to turn in a paper and receive a GRADE for the semester (You will receive comments on your paper, but not before Dec. 21.)

Course Policy on Incompletes

I am willing to let students take Incompletes to have more time to complete a long final research paper. However, I will accept seminar papers and grade them for full credit only until the end of the spring 2021 semester. Students who turn in papers after this date will not receive an "A" in the course.

More information on grades, including the grading scale, is available in the Graduate Catalogue [here](#).

Accommodations for Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center \(352-392-8565, https://disability.ufl.edu\)](https://disability.ufl.edu) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor. Students needing accommodations should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Honesty Policy

Students are required to review the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>).

Plagiarism or any other violation of the Student Honor and Conduct Code will result in an automatic failure of the assignment. A report will be filed with the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office. <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/>

According to the Student Conduct Code, "Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
2. Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
3. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
4. Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author."

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals.

Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/> ([Links to an external site.](#)). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> ([Links to an external site.](#)). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/> ([Links to an external site.](#))

Make a Plan to Vote

All eligible students are urged to exercise their right to vote. You must be registered in order to vote. You have a right to register to vote at the address you consider the place where you live, whether that is your family's home or the place where you attend school. You should make sure you are registered at the voting address you prefer. You may only be registered and vote in one location.

- Register by October 11 to vote in the November 8 General Election
- Early voting for the general election is October 24-November 5th. All Alachua County voters can early vote at the Reitz Union

[Make a Plan to Vote](#). Register, check your registration status, or update your address here: [TurboVote](#). You can also register in person or get assistance with voting-related matters at the [Bob Graham Center for Public Service](#), 220 Pugh Hall M-F 8:30 AM-4:00 PM.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend are in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to LearninLearning-support@ufl.edu / <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Career Resource Center: Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/> (Links to an external site.)

Library Support: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>

Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio: 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Schedule of Readings and Discussions

A detailed schedule of readings and discussions is located on the following page on Canvas: [Reading and Discussion Schedule](#). It may be changed to accommodate student needs and interests or other exigencies. I will announce any changes well in advance.

August

26 Course introduction

Before our first meeting, please view the following documentaries:

- *McCarthy* (American Experience, PBS, 2020; 1 hour 53 minutes). Streaming, available via UF Libraries.
- *The Committee* (PBS, 2016, 26 minutes)
<https://www.pbs.org/video/committee-committee/>

September

2 Allegories of McCarthyism

- "The Monsters are Due on Maple Street" (Twilight Zone) <https://fb.watch/eckpCKzX6d/>
- Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery"
- John Cheever, "The Enormous Radio"
- Ellen Schrecker, "McCarthyism: Political Repression and the Fear of Communism" *Social Research*, Winter 2004; 71, 4; ProQuest pg. 1041

9 Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*

- read Part 3: "Totalitarianism"

16 Populism, anti-intellectualism, and academic freedom

- Richard Hofstadter, "The Paranoid Style in American Politics"
- Hofstadter, *Anti-Intellectualism in American Life* Ch. 1 and 2; pp. 3-54
- Schrecker, "Subversives, Squeaky Wheels, and 'Special Obligations': Threats to Academic Freedom 1890-1960"

23 Film and the cold war I

- *On the Waterfront* (1954) d. Elia Kazan
- *Salt of the Earth* (1954) d. H.J. Biberman

30 Lillian Hellman, *Scoundrel Time*

October

7 no class: Homecoming

14 Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

21 William J. Maxwell, *FB Eyes: How J. Edgar Hoover's Ghostreaders Framed African American Literature*

28 Film and the Cold War II

- *The Manchurian Candidate* (1960)
- Michael Paul Rogin, "Kiss Me Deadly: Communism, Motherhood, and Cold War Movies"

November

4 E.L. Doctorow, *The Book of Daniel*

11 Veterans Day

18 Tony Kushner, *Angels in America*

25 no class: Thanksgiving break

December

2 Course wrap-up