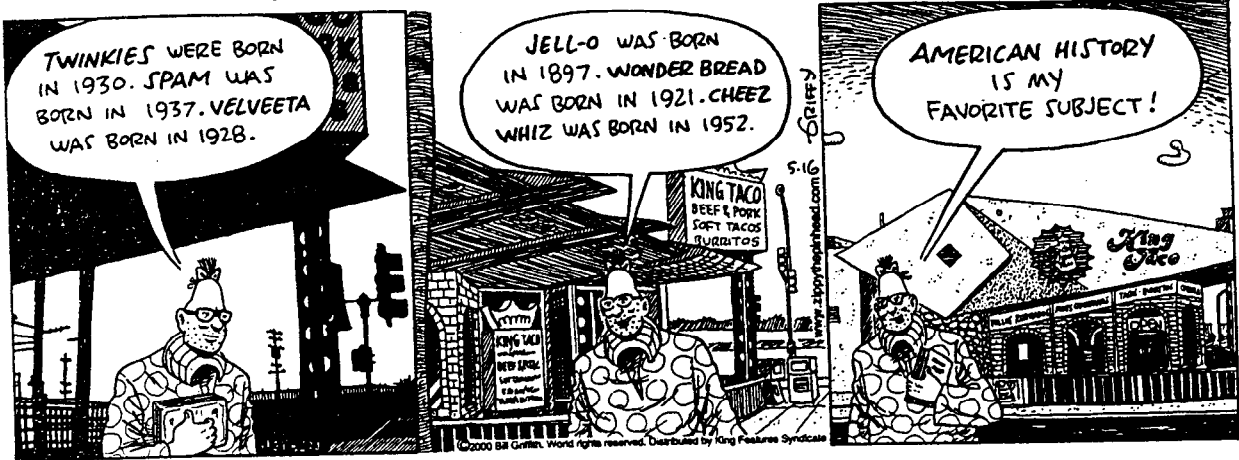


HISTORY 71B—AMERICAN HISTORY 1865 TO PRESENT
FINAL EXAM--MAY 18, 2000
2:15-5:15 SEVER HALL 113

ZIPPY "It's academic" by Bill Griffith



AMERICAN HISTORY IS ALWAYS IN GOOD TASTE

Please answer three IDs from section I and write one essay each for sections II, III, and IV. (In total you should write three IDs and three essays.) Please make sure each essay has a clear argument, which you should support with specific evidence (from the reading, lectures, songs, and movies) and logical development. As all of the topics are open to argument, you'll want to consider counterevidence in your answers.

I. Identification (15%, 15 minutes)

In a short answer, please identify **three** of the five (please do not answer all five) following terms/ people/ ideas. Your answer will need specific detail, but you should focus on the importance of the term/ person/ idea to this course rather than giving a general summary.

"Masters of War"

Montgomery Improvement Association

"The Problem That Has No Name"

Tet Offensive

Kitchen Debate

II. Short Essay: Post 1945 (20%, 40 minutes)

In approximately forty minutes write an argumentative answer to **one** of the following questions.

- A) During the Cold War Americans concerned themselves with foreign developments in ways they never had before, yet some historians argue that the Cold War's greatest impact was on domestic society. Is this paradox accurate? Can the Cold War be understood as a domestic experience? Why or why not?

- B) By the late 1960s Americans as a whole were as wealthy and prosperous as they had ever been, yet at the same time the country suffered tremendous divisions. How do you explain such tension and conflict amongst economic plenty?
- C) What was the argument and logic behind the "second wave" of American feminism. Did the organizations and people behind this wave speak for the majority of American women? Why or why not?

III. Short Essay: Catch All (20%, 40 minutes)

In approximately forty minutes write an argumentative answer to **one** of the following questions.

- A) The modern civil rights movement has been described as "America's Second Reconstruction." What allowed civil rights activists to succeed where Reconstruction failed?
- B) Between 1890 and 1937 the American economy underwent a dramatic series of changes. Did it remain a capitalist economy throughout this time? If so, how do you explain these changes? If not, how would you describe the emerging economy?
- C) Was the New Deal a fundamental change in American economic, social, and political life? Why or why not?

IV. Long Essay (80 minutes, 45%)

In approximately eighty minutes write an argumentative answer to **one** of the following questions.

- A) War, it is argued, can fundamentally change society. Focusing on three of the four following wars (The Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War) argue whether war led to fundamental changes in American society or left society substantively unchanged.
- B) Between 1877 and 1964 America experienced a near-constant series of reforms. Was there a common idea or basis to these series of reforms? Using one example from each of the three following columns, write an essay that argues for continuity or discontinuity in the history of American reform.

Column 1

Reconstruction
Populism

Column 2

Progressivism
New Deal

Column 3

Civil Rights Movement
Second Wave Feminism

- C) In 1903 W.E.B. Du Bois wrote, "The problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color line." Looking back, is Du Bois's statement an effective and accurate way to understand American history in the Twentieth Century? That is, should twentieth-century American history be understood primarily through the interaction between Whites, Blacks, Latinos and other groups? Are their major aspects of twentieth-century American history that Du Bois's argument misses? If you argue against Du Bois, please keep in mind that you will need to advance an affirmative argument of your own.