“The Events of May 1968” (in France and elsewhere)

Six-Week course (Fall II), 120 minutes) Thursdays 1:00-3:00 (except Thanksgiving) Bath Library (second floor)

Instructor: Bill VanderWolk

Week 1(November 5):

--Where were you in May 1968?

The Prelude

--Anti-War Demonstrations: Berkeley, Columbia and elsewhere

--Nanterre: Université de Paris (March 1968)

--Civil Rights Demonstrations following MLK assassination

--the Prague Spring

--film: *1968: The Year that Shaped a Generation*

--H.W. to prepare for Class #2: Research: What were the causes of student unrest in France in May 1968? And autumn 2026?

Weeks 2-3: “Les événements de mai” (France)

Week 2 (November 12)

--the Students: demonstrations, strikes, violence, street art/theater, talk

--film: “Confrontation”

--Quotations from *The Merry Month of May* (James Jones, 1970)

--H.W. to prepare for Class #3: thought questions: TBA

Week 3 (November 19)

--the Workers: strikes, demonstrations, factory occupations

--the Police's point of view

--film: "Mai '68 dans l'œil de la police" ("May '68 seen through the eyes of the police")

--H.W. to prepare for Class #4: thought questions: TBA

The Aftermath

--the return to normalcy: What had changed in France? and What had not changed?

--the cultural revolution (France): music, film, sex, drugs, women's movement

--H.W. to prepare for Class #6: Debate: 1968 was a true revolution

NO CLASS NOVEMBER 26 (Thanksgiving)

Week 4 (December 3) Elsewhere

--film: "The Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia" (August 20-21, 1968)

--U.S.A.: the cultural revolution

--the war and demonstrations continue; music, film, drugs, sexual liberation

--What was your favorite song/group/type of music? Favorite film (from the list TBA)?

--Berlin, Mexico City ("La Noche Triste", "The Night of Sorrows") (October 2)

Week 5 (December 10)

Film: *Milou en mai* ("May Fools"): 1968 through the media

Week 6 (December 17) Conclusions

--Discussion of *Milou en mai*

--A new world? politics, culture, the economy, attitudes

--What has become of the generation of 1968?

--Debate: 1968 was a true revolution/or just a revolt (definitions)