

## “All Gone to Look for America” - US Culture in the Fifties and Sixties



A course of three lectures  
by Mike Fraser BA MSc MPhil

Saturdays 28th Sept,  
5th & 12th October 2019  
10.00 am - 12.00 noon

Berwick Voluntary Centre,  
Tweed Street, Berwick  
TD15 1NG

A three week course examining American culture in the Fifties and Sixties with particular reference to fiction, poetry, film and art.

The course will initially question the predominant view of US culture in the Fifties as being dull and conformist by discussing cultural icons who both shaped and exploited teenage rebellion. Attention will then be turned to the Sixties New York cultural scene, and the issue of just how significant cultural change was during the decade. Finally the issue of 'the death of the Sixties' will be considered, as will the contentious issue of the significance of the decade today.

Relevant music will be played throughout the series.

**PTO**

## Session One 28th September 2019

*"What Are You Rebellious Against?" "Whaddaya got?" Rebellious youth in US Fiction, Poetry and Film in the Fifties*

The Fifties in the USA was a period of increasing affluence, but also of growing fear of nuclear destruction. Mike will question the predominant view of US culture in the decade as being dull and conformist by discussing the key Fifties works of cultural icons who both shaped and exploited teenage rebellion, viz. J. D. Salinger, Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, Marlon Brando and James Dean.

## Session Two 5th October 2019

*Talking about a Revolution? US Fiction, Poetry, Film and Art in the Sixties*

In the post-war era New York was a centre of cultural innovation and of course the Sixties are regarded as a period of major cultural change. Mike will consider the New York cultural scene in the Sixties by reference to the work of Joseph Heller, Frank O'Hara and Andy Warhol and to depictions of the city in two key films, in order to discuss how innovative these cultural developments really were.

## Session Three 12th October 2019

*'The Death of the Sixties'*

Mike will then turn to the late Sixties. This period witnessed 'the Summer of Love' and Hair, the Woodstock Festival and Easy Rider were enjoyed. There was however also major social unrest, the assassination of key political figures, the activities of the Weathermen and of the Manson family. Mike will discuss 'the death of the Sixties' and the contentious issue of the significance of the period today.

**The course costs £6 per session or £15 for the series, including refreshments.**

**All are welcome and no previous knowledge is assumed.**

If you supply us with your personal data (name, address or email), we will hold this in accordance with our privacy policy, available [here](#) or by request to BEA, 7 Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1HX. If you have any queries, please email [berwickea@gmail.com](mailto:berwickea@gmail.com) or phone Cian McHugh on 01289 303254.

**To book online**, please [click here](#) **To book by post**, please fill in the booking form below, and post it to BEA, 7 Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1HX, along with a cheque in favour of BEA.

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