Unit Description

This unit will examine the events of 1968 in Europe, and consider their impact, legacies, and interpretation. Was 1968 ‘the year that changed the world’ or simply a brief and historically meaningless student revolt? 1968 is increasingly seen as a transnational event, but historians ignore the local at their peril. We will discuss international connections but will also explore the extent to which 1968 can be said to have been a Europe-wide phenomenon. Key to this unit will be an assessment of the long-term impact of 1968. Should 1970s movements such as feminism, gay liberation, environmentalism and left wing terrorism be seen as the continuation of ‘1968’ by other means? What was the fate of the ‘68-ers’ in the era of the oil shock? Finally, how has the way in which 1968 has been remembered, both by historians and other commentators, changed in the subsequent 40 years?

Contact Hours and Mode of Teaching:
10 x 2 hour seminars

Methods of Assessment:
1 x 3-4000 word essay (50%), 1 x 2 hour exam (50%)

Essential Reading –


American Historical Review forum on ‘The International 1968’ (February 2009).