"The Sixties" or “the Eighties” conjure up clear images of the historical significance of those two decades. The 1970s, however, has been called the “un-decade” or “a wasteland in between.” This course will examine whether the 1970s is best seen as a “wasteland” or a highly consequential period that shaped the world we live in today. We’ll examine how and why we lost our sense of American Exceptionalism – the idea that the nation and its leaders were somehow special and trustworthy. One part will be the changing nature of the US economy, and the implications for the working class. We’ll also explore how the battle for equal rights moved to busing and then lost the nation’s attention as the lines of residential segregation hardened. At the same time, the Women’s movement made great strides, the LGBT+ community commanded attention, the Environmental movement began, and the Religious Right became a powerful force in American life. By the end, you will be able to make your own choice on what we should call the 1970s.

REGISTRATION FORM

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