**cialGroups D and H: America**

*1. The Crying of Lot 49 can be read as a novel about the possibility of revolution and the proliferation of countercultures. John Barth commented about his essay “The Literature of Exhaustion” (1967) that it had “traces of tear gas in its margins.”* ***Can we say the same thing about Pynchon’s novel?*** *As Oedipa’s quest progresses, she begins to consider the state of the country itself: “She had dedicated herself, weeks ago, to making sense of what Inverarity had left behind, never suspecting that the legacy was America.”* ***How should we approach “the legacy [of] America” in the novel?***

* Points of Reference
* Ford ; Freud
* Revolution and Protest 🡪
* “They” 🡪 Ambiguous … Binary thinking (Who is “US” who is “THEY”)
* Metzger, Protest? 🡪 Baby Igor; his father’s death and suffering.
* American Dream… “Wind in your hair” scene. American superficiality

*“Nevertheless, the idea of a technosocial ''revolution,'' in which the same people came out on top as in France and America, has proven of use to many over the years, not least to those who, like C. P. Snow, have thought that in ''Luddite'' they have discovered a way to call those with whom they disagree both politically reactionary and anti-capitalist at the same time.”*

*2. In 1962, the political activist Michael Harrington wrote: “The Other America, the America of poverty, is hidden today in a way it never was before. […] Middle-class women coming in from Suburbia on a rare trip catch the merest glimpse of the other America on the way to an evening in the theater” (The Other America). The more Oedipa descends into the hidden world of the Tristero, the more she comes into contact with a world otherwise unfamiliar to her: “drifters she had listened to, Americans speaking their language carefully, as if they were in exile from somewhere else invisible yet congruent with the cheered land she lived in.”* ***Which traces of the “other America” do you detect in the novel?***

* Afraid to ask questions… How does this tie into American lifestyle?
* Consumerism and the Plethora of information… What is important, what is not?
* Sexuality
  + The Greek Way and Gay Nightclub
  + Age of Consent (Lolita)
* Race
  + Scenes of Discrimination
  + Note: Publication in 1965 (peak civil rights movement)
* Tristero Exile?
* Mental Health
* Nazi and Oedipa
* The “exiled” groups are *both* marginalized (as in our discussion of race, sexuality, etc.) but also there are “other Americas” that cherish American but are not necessarily marginalized in same sense
* Deep distrust of America (W.A.S.T.E) … Mother saying “don’t answer by U.S. mail”
* RADIO: K.C.U.F (FUCK)
* Mental Health? 🡪 Psychiatric Facilities Disenfranchised? Taking advantage of people? Doctor’s “internship” in Concentration Camp… Giving LSD as prescriptions.
* Class 🡪 Inheritance; allows her to look around.

MISC

* Gun Laws?

Analyzing both America’s “legacy” epitomized in the workings of Pierce Inverarity and traces of hidden, “Other” America(s) throughout the novel, we focused on the following four issues: 1.) Postwar American Consumerism, 2.) Division of Class, Race, and Sexuality, 3.) Mental Health and Psychiatric Disenfranchisement, and 4.) ????. We discussed how *The Crying of Lot 49* simultaneously responds to this image in its innovation of McCarthy and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_