This seminar will consider a range of essays and experimental non-fiction that explore the motif of the ‘End of the Sixties’. This micro-narrative of apocalypse and violence pervades the representation and reception of certain late-sixties cultural events and artefacts. From the Manson murders to The Rolling Stones at Altamont; from the decline of the protest movement to the rise and fall of the Kray twins, the late sixties and particularly 1969 have assumed a talismanic significance as a terminal point at which the early optimism of the decade is seen to descend into discord, death and various forms of ‘bad craziness’.

A number of sociological and historical factors have influenced this narrative trajectory and it is in evidence across a wide range of cultural forms. However, the focus of this seminar will be upon writerly engagements with the theme, particularly material written at the turn of the millennium. In this respect, the seminar will aim to use the central motif to explore contemporary writing and ideas of narrative, memory, historical engagement and the ambivalent overlap between fiction and non-fiction.

Some musical / cinematic examples may well be mentioned in the seminar but the majority of the discussion will focus on the list of primary reading. Participants are of course welcome to explore the wider reading and suggested listening / viewing prior to the session. The texts will be made available in advance of the session. For your reference, online links have also been provided (where available).

**Primary Reading**


Online at http://www.stewarthomesociety.org/luv/splinters.htm


Online at http://www.lrb.co.uk/v17/n11/iain-sinclair/diary


**Contextual Sources**


Gary Lachman, *Turn Off Your Mind* (2001)

Ian McDonald, *Revolution in the Head* (1994)
Chris Petit, *Back From the Dead* (1999)
  *Kodak Mantra Diaries* (2006)
Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* (1971)

**Secondary Reading**

Patricia Waugh *Harvest of the Sixties* (1995)

**Suggested Viewing**

*Blow-Up* (Michelangelo Antonioni, 1966)
*Performance* (Donald Cammel, 1970)
*Easy Rider* (Dennis Hopper, 1969)
*2001* (Stanley Kubrick, 1968)
*Gimme Shelter* (Albert Maysles, 1970)
*The Wild Bunch* (Sam Pekinpah, 1969)
*The Falconer* (Chris Petit, 1997)
*The Fall* (Peter Whitehead, 1969)

**Suggested Listening**

The Beatles  *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (1967)
  *The Beatles / The White Album* (1968)
The Black Angels  *Passover* (2006)
Black Sabbath  *Black Sabbath* (1970)
Jefferson Airplane  *Volunteers* (1969)
Kasabian  *West Ryder Pauper Lunatic Asylum* (2009)
MC5  *Kick out the Jams* (1969)
Primal Scream  *Screamadelica* (1994)
  *Vanishing Point* (1996)
  *XTRMTR* (2000)
The Rolling Stones  *Their Satanic Majesties Request* (1967)
  *Let it Bleed* (1969)
  *Exile on Main Street* (1972)