Here is a not-necessarily-complete list of things we covered during the course.

**Readings:**

"Body Ritual Among the Nacerima" by Horace Miner

The Luckiest Generation” by Thomas Hine

“Entering the Fifties”, “Generation in a Spotlight” and “Women, Love and Sex in Eisenhower’s America” by Ronald Oakley

“Rock Hudson’s Body." By Richard Meyer

“Chapter Thirty-Four” and “Chapter Thirty-One” by David Halberstam

“Betty Crocker's Picture Cook Book: The Aesthetics of Food in the 1950s" and “Autoeroticism: America’s Love Affair with the Car in the Television Age” by K.A. Maral

**Slide shows in class:**

Marilyn Monroe and James Dean, Art and Design in the 1950s, The Suburbs

**Videos and Films:**

*Advertising and the End of the World, Duck and Cover, The History of Rock and Roll, The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet, The Pill, The Celluloid Closet, Rebel without a Cause* and *Some Like It Hot.*

**Topics Covered:**

What is Visual Culture? Why does it make us a bit like Miner's alien anthropologist?

How does advertising work? Terms like: Descriptive, Prescriptive, Aspirational, Didactic.

Historic and economic factors that shaped the 1950s—"Luckiest Generation" and other readings

Celebrity in the 1950s. Rock Hudson, Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, Elvis Presley (and others covered in Star-Gazing Assignment)

Cold War.

Gender roles. Sexuality. Marriage. Teenagers. Family Life (also as portrayed on TV)

Advertising in LIFE magazine

Clothing and fashion

The birth of Rock and Roll

Frozen foods, cake mixes, television and advertising.

1950s automobiles

Sexuality and gender roles in cinema

Everything from the presentations