

The World in the Twentieth Century, 1945-Present

HIS 218-01

Fall 2013, MWF 11:00-11:50, Graham 424

(3:3) GHP/GN/GMO/IGS

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Course Description

This course will examine global issues in the contemporary world, focusing mainly on the post-World War II period, from the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan in August 1945, to the complex, high-tech, evolving world of today. We will examine some of the important political, economic, social, and cultural changes of the second half of the twentieth century and how these changes have shaped the world we live in today. World History, however, is such a broad subject that one could attempt to teach everything, but teach nothing at all. Therefore, the instructor has chosen the Cold War as a theme for the course. This course will examine world history since 1945 through the prism of the Cold War.

Student Learning Objectives

General Education Student Learning Objectives

Categories: Historical Perspectives (GHP)

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

Global Perspectives Non Western (GN)

1. Find, interpret, and evaluate information on diverse cultures.
2. Describe interconnections among regions of the world. (Must include substantial focus on cultures, nations or sub-nationalists in the Caribbean, Latin America, Middle East/North Africa, Asia, Africa, Pacific Islands, or indigenous peoples around the world).
3. Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues.

Course Student Learning Objectives

1. evaluate the origins, policy decisions, conclusion, and aftermath of the Cold War.
2. analyze primary source documents.
3. support a thesis statement in a short essay.

Course Readings

- Edward H. Judge and John W. Langdon, eds., *The Cold War: A Global History with Documents* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2011).

Grades

- Exams (3): 45%. The course is divided into three units. Therefore, there will be three equally weighted exams. The exams will consist of objective questions to quiz your grasp of key concepts and actors, and subjective questions to test your critical analysis. The objective questions will derive from class notes and the subjective questions from class discussions.

- Papers (3): 45%. Answer the prompts below using the primary source documents in *The Cold War: A Global History with Documents* (p. 277-464). Your answer must include an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement, at least three body paragraphs that support your thesis, and a conclusion. You must answer the question with evidence from the documents. The papers must be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, and with standard margins. The paper should be no less than two pages, but no more than three pages. A grading rubric will be posted on Blackboard. In addition, you must follow the Code of Conduct or face disciplinary measures.
 - Paper #1: Was the Cold War inevitable? If so, why? If not, who was most responsible for touching off the conflict? Due 9/20.

 - Paper #2: How did conflict within the eastern and western blocs, nuclear proliferation, and internal politics contribute to the global confrontation between 1950 and 1972? Due 10/25.

 - Paper #3: What circumstances led to end of the Cold War? Why did the Cold War end at that point and not an earlier moment? Due 12/2.

- Class Participation: 10%. Although this class is in a lecture setting and you will have dozens of classmates, you are expected to participate in class discussions. Class participation will be graded daily with students actively engaged in discussions earning an “A”; those participating somewhat earning a “B”; those that are focused on the discussion but not actively participating will earn a “C”; and those that are not engaged or absent will receive a “D” or an “F” for the class. To ensure that you are best engaged, there will be a NO TECHNOLOGY policy, meaning that laptops and cell phones will be prohibited. Violation of this policy will result in an “F” for the day, a recorded absence, and you asked to leave.

- Attendance: All students are expected to attend all class meetings and be to class on time. A sign in sheet will be distributed at the beginning of class to record attendance. Students that enter late will be marked absent. It is reasonable to expect that illness or other unexpected events will cause you to miss a class on occasion. All students may miss three (3) classes without penalty. However, each additional absence will result in a drop of 1/3 of a letter grade from your overall course grade.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic/Reading Assignment
1	8/19	The Seeds of Conflict Read p. 1-12.
	8/21	Adversaries and Allies, 1939-1945 Read p. 13-27. Documents: Yalta Conference, 277-279.
	8/23	Adversaries and Allies, 1939-1945 Read p. 28-31. Documents: The Potsdam Conference, p. 279-281; The Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima, p. 281-282.
2	8/26	The Formation of the Communist Bloc, 1944-1948 Read p. 32-43. Documents: Stalin's Election Speech, p. 283-284.
	8/28	The Cold War Begins, 1945-1948 Read p. 44-53. Documents: Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech, p. 284-288.
	8/30	The Cold War Begins, 1945-1948 Read p. 53-55. Documents: Truman Doctrine, p. 291-292; The Sources of Soviet Conduct, p. 294-302.
3	9/2	Labor Day – Class Dismissed
	9/4	The Cold War Begins, 1945-1948 Read p. 55-57. Documents: The Marshall Plan, 293-294; Founding of the Cominform, p. 302-304; The Communist Coup in Czechoslovakia, p. 304-306.
	9/6	The Battle for Germany, 1948-1952 Read p. 60-61. Documents: The Treaty of Brussels, p 306-307; The Expulsion of Tito from the Communist Bloc, p. 307-309.
4	9/9	Class Dismissed
	9/11	The Battle for Germany, 1948-1952 Read p. 62-66. Documents: Berlin Blockade, p. 309-311; NATO Alliance, p. 311-313.

- 9/13 The Battle for Germany, 1948-1952.
Read p. 66-73.
- 5 9/16 The Communist Revolution in China, 1946-1950
Read p. 74-81.
Documents: Acheson on the Communist Triumph in China, 313-315; Mao Proclaims the People's Republic of China, p. 316-317; The Soviet-Chinese Friendship Treaty, p. 317-319.
- 9/18 The Communist Revolution in China, 1946-1950
Read p. 81-85.
Documents: McCarthy on "Communists" in the U.S. Government, p. 319-320.
- 9/20 **Exam #1**
Paper #1 Due at the beginning of class.
- 6 9/23 The Conflict Over Korea, 1950-1953
Read p. 86-90.
Documents: Acheson on the American Defense Perimeter in Asia, p. 321-322; NSC-68, p. 322-325.
- 9/25 The Conflict Over Korea, 1950-1953
Read p. 91-99.
Documents: The Korean War, p. 325-328.
- 9/27 New Leaders and New Realities, 1953-1957
Read p. 100-107.
Documents: Dulles on Massive Retaliation, p. 328-329; Geneva Conference, p. 329-331; The SEATO Alliance, p. 331-333; Bandung Conference and the Nonaligned Movement, p. 333-336; Warsaw Pact, p. 336-338; Khrushchev on Peaceful Coexistence, p. 338-339.
- 7 9/30 New Leaders and New Realities, 1953-1957
Read p. 107-116.
Documents: Khrushchev's Secret Speech on Stalin and His Crimes, p. 339-342; The Hungarian Rebellion, p. 342-344; The Suez Crisis, p. 344-347; The Eisenhower Doctrine, p. 347-348.
- 10/2 The Perpetuation of the Cold War, 1957-1961
Read p. 117-128.
Documents: The U-2 Affair, p. 350-354.

- 10/4 The Perpetuation of the Cold War, 1957-1961
Read p. 128-135.
Documents: The Congo Crisis, p. 354-358; Castro on the Revolution, p. 358-359; Khrushchev on “Wars of National Liberation,” p. 359-361; Eisenhower’s Farewell Address, p. 361-362.
- 8 10/7 Crisis and Coexistence, 1961-1964
Read p. 136-146.
Documents: Kennedy’s Inaugural Address, p. 363-364; Berlin Crisis, p. 364-367.
- 10/9 Crisis and Coexistence, 1961-1964
Read p. 146-156.
Documents: The Cuban Missile Crisis, p. 367-371; Kennedy’s Peace Speech at American University, p. 371-373; Kennedy’s Berlin Speech, p. 373-374; The Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, p. 375-375.
- 10/11 Crisis and Coexistence, 1961-1964
Read p. 146-156.
Documents: The Cuban Missile Crisis, p. 367-371; Kennedy’s Peace Speech at American University, p. 371-373; Kennedy’s Berlin Speech, p. 373-374; The Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, p. 375-375.
- 9 10/14 **Fall Break – Class Dismissed**
- 10/16 Southeast Asia and the Cold War, 1945-1970
Read p. 157-166.
Documents: The Sino-Soviet Split, p. 376-379.
- 10/18 Southeast Asia and the Cold War, 1945-1970
Read p. 166-175.
Documents: The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, p. 379-380; Lin Biao, p. 380-382; Lyndon Johnson and the Vietnam War, p. 383-385.
- 10 10/21 China, SALT, and the Superpowers, 1967-1972
Read p. 176-183.
Documents: China’s Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, p. 385-386; Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, p. 386-387; Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia, p. 387-388; Brezhnev Doctrine, p. 388-389; Soviet-Chinese Border Conflict, p. 390-391.
- 10/23 China, SALT, and the Superpowers, 1967-1972
Read p. 183-191.
Documents: Nixon Doctrine, p. 391-393; Berlin Accords, p. 394-395; Nixon’s China Visit, p. 395-396.

- 10/25 **Exam #2**
Paper #2 Due at the beginning of class.
- 11 10/28 The Heyday of Détente, 1972-1975
Read p. 192-196.
Documents: ABM Treaty and SALT I, p. 396-399; The U.S. Withdrawal from Vietnam, p. 399-401.
- 10/30 The Heyday of Détente, 1972-1975
Read p. 196-202.
Documents: Yom Kippur War, p. 401-403.
- 11/1 The Heyday of Détente, 1972-1975
Read p. 203-206.
Documents: Deng Xiaoping, p. 403-404; Vladivostok Summit, p. 405-406; Helsinki Final Act, p. 406-409.
- 12 11/4 The Decline of Détente, 1975-1979
Read p. 207-211.
Documents: Carter on Human Rights, p. 409-411
- 11/6 The Decline of Détente, 1975-1979
Read p. 211-213.
Documents: Peace Between Egypt and Israel, p. 411-414.
- 11/8 The Decline of Détente, 1975-1979
Read p. 213-222.
Documents: The Normalization of U.S.-Chinese Relations, p. 414-416; The SALT II Agreement, p. 417-418; The Euromissile Controversy, p. 418-422; The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan, p. 422-424; The Carter Doctrine, p. 424-426.
- 13 11/11 The Return of the Cold War, 1980-1985
Read p. 223-232.
Documents: Reagan's Anti-Soviet Rhetoric, p. 426-427; Reagan's Arms Control Proposals, p. 427-429; Polish Imposition of Martial Law, p. 429-431; Andropov's Peace Offensive, p. 432-433.
- 11/13 The Return of the Cold War, 1980-1985
Read p. 232-237.
Documents: Reagan's "Star Wars" Speech, p. 433-434; The KAL 007 Incident, p. 435-436.
- 11/15 The Thaw in the Cold War, 1985-1988
Read p. 238-245.
Documents: The Geneva Summit, p. 436-439.

- 14 11/18 The Thaw in the Cold War, 1985-1988
Read p. 245-251.
Documents: Reykjavik Summit, p. 439-441; Reagan's 1987 Berlin Speech, p. 441-443.
- 11/20 The End of the Cold War, 1988-1991
Read p. 252-260
Documents: Gorbachev's New Thinking on International Relations, p. 443-445; INF Treaty, p. 445-447; The Soviet Withdrawal of Afghanistan, p. 447-448; Gorbachev's UN Address, p. 448-451; Tienanmen Square Massacre, p. 451-453; The Opening of the Berlin Wall, p. 453-454.
- 11/22 The End of the Cold War, 1988-1991
Read p. 260-270.
Documents: NATO's London Declaration of the End of the Cold War, p. 454-456; The Kohl-Gorbachev Agreement, p. 456-457; The START Treaty, p. 458-459; The Attempted Coup in the USSR, p. 459-462; Gorbachev's Resignation Speech, p. 462-464.
- 15 11/25 The Post-Cold War Era
Read: Walter LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, p. 371-409
(available on Blackboard).
- 11/27 **Thanksgiving Break – Class Dismissed**
- 11/29 **Thanksgiving Break – Class Dismissed**
- 16 12/2 The Post-Cold War Era
Read: Walter LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War*, p. 371-409
(available on Blackboard).
- 17 TBA **Exam #3**