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

Instructor: Brian E. Lee  belee@uncg.edu
Office: MHRA 2106  Phone: 334-5992
Office Hours: W 10:00-10:50, and by appointment

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

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 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Reading Assignment</th>
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| 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.  
| 2    | 8/26 | The Formation of the Communist Bloc, 1944-1948  
Read p. 32-43.  
|      | 8/28 | The Cold War Begins, 1945-1948  
Read p. 44-53.  
|      | 8/30 | The Cold War Begins, 1945-1948  
Read p. 53-55.  
| 3    | 9/2  | Labor Day – Class Dismissed |
|      | 9/4  | The Cold War Begins, 1945-1948  
Read p. 55-57.  
|      | 9/6  | The Battle for Germany, 1948-1952  
Read p. 60-61.  
| 4    | 9/9  | Class Dismissed |
|      | 9/11 | The Battle for Germany, 1948-1952  
Read p. 62-66.  
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Read Pages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/13</td>
<td><em>The Battle for Germany, 1948-1952.</em></td>
<td>66-73</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/20</td>
<td><strong>Exam #1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Paper #1 Due</strong> at the beginning of class.</td>
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10/4 The Perpetuation of the Cold War, 1957-1961
Read p. 128-135.

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.

10/11 Crisis and Coexistence, 1961-1964
Read p. 146-156.

10/14 Fall Break – Class Dismissed

10/16 Southeast Asia and the Cold War, 1945-1970
Read p. 157-166.

10/18 Southeast Asia and the Cold War, 1945-1970
Read p. 166-175.

10/21 China, SALT, and the Superpowers, 1967-1972
Read p. 176-183.

10/23 China, SALT, and the Superpowers, 1967-1972
Read p. 183-191.
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.  

10/30  The Heyday of Détente, 1972-1975  
Documents: Yom Kippur War, p. 401-403.

11  11/1  The Heyday of Détente, 1972-1975  
Read p. 203-206.  

11  11/4  The Decline of Détente, 1975-1979  
Read p. 207-211.  
Documents: Carter on Human Rights, p. 409-411

11  11/6  The Decline of Détente, 1975-1979  
Read p. 211-213.  

11  11/8  The Decline of Détente, 1975-1979  
Read p. 213-222.  

Read p. 223-232.  

Read p. 232-237.  

11/15  The Thaw in the Cold War, 1985-1988  
Read p. 238-245.  
14 11/18 The Thaw in the Cold War, 1985-1988
Read p. 245-251.

11/20 The End of the Cold War, 1988-1991
Read p. 252-260

11/22 The End of the Cold War, 1988-1991
Read p. 260-270.

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