History of the Cold War, 1945-1991

Course Description:
This course aims to examine the origins, the development, and the end of the Cold War from 1945 to 1991 by focusing on key case studies. The emphasis is placed on the political and security dimensions of US-Soviet relations, although third parties will be discussed to the extent that they constituted a part of the superpower conflict (for instance, China, Korea, Japan, Eastern/Western Europe, East/West Germany, Cuba, Vietnam will be an integral part of the story we cover). Students are expected to grasp the basic chronological development of the history of the Cold War, and understand the causes and effects of the Cold War.

Required Books:
4. Course Reader 191C.

Film:
It is mandatory to see *Dr. Strangelove*. The film will be shown on Thursday, November 1 in Phelps 3515. If you cannot see it at this time, you are responsible for seeing it in Kerr Hall. The video will be kept at the learning lab, Room 2160, Kerr Hall after November 1.

Recommended Books:
Lectures, Discussions, and Quizzes:
Lectures (Tuesdays and Thursdays) are not intended to give you a comprehensive history of the Cold War. For a comprehensive history, you will read Walker and Smoke. You are responsible for information not covered by the lectures but described in these books.

All lectures are taped, and placed on reserve at the Learning Lab, Room 2160, Kerr Hall a few days after the lecture.

Attendance is mandatory. In the beginning of the class, you will be given a quiz, which touches on the important issue of the lecture. This is to clarify your prior assumptions on the given topic before the lecture, while giving you a focus for the lecture. At the end of the class, you will be asked to revise your answer. You may or may not change your prior assumptions, but the differences between the two answers will help you to clarify the issues involved on the given topic. These quizzes will constitute your attendance record.

Requirements:
1. A five page paper (counts 20% of the total grade).
2. A midterm examination (counts 30% of the total grade)
3. A final exam (counts 40% of the total grade)
4. Attendance and class participation (5% of the total grade).
5. Making a timeline of the history of the Cold War (5% of the total grade) A collaborative project (up to three students) is permissible.

Paper:
Option 1
Choose one of the books from 1 to 4 in the recommended books section above (they are also in the reserve books in the library), and write a review essay, answering one of the following questions.

“Cold War conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States can be fundamentally explained by clashes of geopolitical interests. Ideology had actually little to do with this conflict. Ideology, if anything, merely served to justify and explain actions to enhance respective geopolitical interests.” How does the author you have chosen react to this statement? Do you agree or disagree with the author’s view?

Option 2
Based on Stanley Kubrick’s movie, Dr. Strangelove, and Sontag/Drew’s non-fiction, Blind Man’s Bluff, write an essay about Cold War culture. Be sure to address the questions: Was the fear that drove both countries to adopt what seems now to be irrational nuclear strategies and to engage in a costly intelligence game unfounded and unjustified? What provoked such intense fear?

Due: 2 PM, Tuesday, November 20
Course Outline and Reading Assignments

09/25  Introduction of the Course: Approaches to the Cold War
     Reading: Reader: Gaddis, Leffler

Part I: The Emergence of a Bipolar World, 1945-1953

09/27  World War II, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Atomic Diplomacy
     Reading: Walker, pp. 1-28
     Smoke, pp. 1-42.
     Reader: Alperovitz

10/02  Origins of the Cold War: Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan
     Reading: Walker, pp. 29-58.
     Smoke, pp. 43-62.
     Reader: Novikov Telegram, Kennan’s Long Telegram, Truman Doctrine, Kennan, The X Article

10/04  Berlin Blockade: the German Question
     Reading: Reader: NSC-68

10/09  Chinese Revolution: Stalin, Mao, and Who Lost China?
     Reading: Walker, pp. 59-82.

10/11  The Korean War
     Reading: Reader, Goncharov, Lewis, Xue

Part II. Coexistence and Conflict, 1953-1964

10/16  Khrushchev, Eisenhower, and the Nuclear Question
     Reading: Walker, pp. 83-111
     Smoke: pp. 63-80
     Reader: Zubok/Pleshakov

10/18  Crises of 1956: Poland, Hungary, and the Suez Crisis
     Reading: Walker, pp. 112-135.

10/23  The Wall: the Berlin Crisis
     Reading: Walker, 136-159.
     Smoke, 80-100

10/25  The Cuban Missile Crisis
     Reading: Walker, 160-182.
     Smoke, 101-124
     Reader, Fursenko/Naftali

10/30  Mid-Term Exam

11/01  Impact of the Vietnam War  
Reading: Walker, 183-206  
Reader, Logevall

Film Showing: Dr. Strangelove  
November 1, 7-8:30PM, Phelps 3515

11/06  Détente: Basic Assumptions  
Reading: Walker, 207-229  
Smoke, 125-148

11/08  Arms Control: SALT I  
Reading: Walker, 230-251  
Smoke, 149-174

11/13  Arms Control: SALT II and Crisis of Détente  
Smoke: 175-216  
Reader: Pipes

11/15  Strategic Triangle  
Reading: Reader, Garthoff

11/20  Conflict in the Third World: Afghanistan as a Case Study  
Reading: Walker, 252-2277  
Smoke: 217-235  
Reader: Afghanistan


11/27  Reagan and Gorbachev  
Reading: Walker, 278-301  
Smoke: 236-263  
Reader: Hasegawa

11/29  Unification of German  
Reading: Walker, 301-323  
Smoke, 264-311

12/04  End of the Cold War  
Reading: Walker, 324-357  
Smoke, 313-332.  
Reader: Gaddis, Leffler again.

Final Examination 4-7 PM, Monday, December 10