The Cold War: A Global History

For almost fifty years, the United States, the Soviet Union and China were engaged in the Cold War. But only recently has it become possible to study this global stalemate in its entirety: from the beginning to end. Through lecture and discussion this course will draw upon the freshly published sources as well as secondary materials to examine the historical events that precipitated, advanced and ended the Cold War. It will also explore the role of science and technology in shaping the global arms race and the way in which the war affected the Third World, created new international institutions and impacted Soviet, US, Asian, African and European societies and culture. The course will also address new perspectives arising from recently published archival sources and will utilize film, art and field trips to enhance the learning experience of global Cold War history.

Required texts:

Jussi M. Hanhimäki and Odd Arne Westad, eds., The Cold War: A History in Documents and Eyewitness Accounts.
Lorenz Lüthi, The Sino-Soviet Split
Alexander Solzhenitsyn, One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch (Signet Classics edition). Available at the bookstore and as Yale Internet Resource e-book.

Recommended Reading (Library Reserve and Yale Internet Resource):
Vladislav Zubok, A failed empire: the Soviet Union in the Cold War from Stalin to Gorbachev
David Krugler, This is Only A Test: How Washington, DC prepared for Nuclear War
Jeremi Suri, Power and Protest: Global Revolutions and the Rise of Détente

Online archival sources:

Wilson Center’s Cold War International History Project:
www.cwihp.org
National Security Archive:
http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/

Assignments:

Midterm (40%): There will be a written take home exam at the end of week three. Exam questions will be emailed to class on Tuesday of week three to be turned in by Friday.
Final (40%): A final “blue-book” exam will be given at the end of the term. It will cover material from all five weeks of the course. Students will be required to write at least one essay on the films.

Reading Response (10%): there will be a 2-4 pages reading response due at the end of week four, analyzing one of the books assigned or recommended for this course. One can also choose a book not on the list after prior consultation with the instructor.

Primary Sources Reading Response Option: this option is available as an alternative to the Reading Response assignment and constitutes 10% of the total course grade. A 2-4 page reading response will be due at the end of week four, analyzing a group of documents from the Cold War original source materials available at the University Manuscripts and Archives, such as the H. L. Stimson Papers, Cuban Revolutionary Collection, Dean Acheson Papers or any other relevant collection.

Class participation (10%): Students are expected to do all the reading, attend all class sessions and film screenings, and participate in discussion. Participation includes a short field trip to see the primary source exhibition at the University Manuscripts and Archives. A visit to the 1950s nuclear fallout shelter site on campus is optional.

Week 1
The Origins of Cold War

July 4 Introduction and Lecture: Why Study the Cold War? Memory and Sources.
Recommended reading: E. H. Carr, What is History?, Introduction, chapters I and IV

Lecture: The Road to Cold War: Europe after WWII 1945-1951
Gaddis, 1-47 Hanhimäki/Westad, 1-20, 36-65

July 6 Lecture: Origins of Cold War in Asia: China and Korea 1945-1953
Luthi, 1-45, Hanhimäki/Westad, 176-198

Discussion

Week 2
Science and Ideology in the Socialist Camp

July 11 Lecture: The Nuclear Arms Race
Gaddis, pp. 48-82, Hanhimäki/Westad, 273-288

Lecture: The Death of Stalin and Its Consequences 1953-1964
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, One day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch (entire book, including Yevgeny Yevtushenko’s introduction)

Luthi, 46-79; 114-156, 273-301; Hanhimäki/Westad, 198-208, 242-259

Discussion

FIELD TRIP: Yale Manuscripts and Archives Cold War Collections Visit

Week 3
The Diplomacy of Brinksmanship

*July 18* Lecture: **Hungary, Egypt and Berlin 1956-1961**
Gaddis, 104-129; Hanhimäki/Westad 242-257, 328-331

Lecture: **Cold War in Outer Space: Sputniks and Missiles**
Hanhimäki/Westad, 288-311
Midterm take home exam questions distributed.

*July 20* Lecture: **Cuban Crisis 1961**
Gaddis, 75-82, Hanhimäki/Westad, 379-98, 481-490

**Film Screening: Dr. Strangelove (1964)**
Discussion
Midterm take home exam essays due via email by Friday.

Week 4
Dissent and Détente

*July 25* Lecture: **The Vietnam War**
Luthi, 302-339; Hanhimäki/Westad, 209-242, recommended: Suri, 131-164

The Power of Dissent: Sixties in Berkley, Moscow, Prague and Beijing
Hanhimäki/Westad, 259-272, 412-444; recommended: Suri, 164-259

*July 27* Lecture: **The Rise and Fall of Détente**
Gaddis, 156-228; Hanhimäki/Westad, 490-514, 516-552
Reading response paper due.
Discussion

Week 5
Ending the Cold War

*August 1* Lecture: *Reagan and Gorbachev 1981-1989*
Gaddis, 195-236; Hanhimäki/Westad. 553-558, 573-589

**The End of Cold War 1989-1991**
Gaddis, 237-266; Hanhimäki/Westad, 590-627, 629-641

**Film Screening: Goodbye, Lenin! (2003)**

**FIELD TRIP: Yale Nuclear Fallout Shelter Tour (Wednesday)**
(Optional reading for the tour: David Krugler, *This is Only A Test: How Washington, DC prepared for Nuclear War*)

*August 3* The Final Exam