This course will examine the Cold War from its origins to its unexpected end from the perspectives of three worlds: capitalist, socialist, and postcolonial. We will cover the political and military history of the conflict and also consider its wide-ranging social and cultural impacts. Sources include declassified documents, recent secondary reinterpretations, as well as films and a field trip to Yale’s Beinecke library.

Assessment

Final Exam (40%): There will be a cumulative final exam on the last day of the course.

Short paper (30%): Early in the term, we will take a field trip to Yale’s Beinecke Library for an introduction to the university’s remarkable collections from the Cold War, including underground art from East Germany, the Cuban Revolutionary Collection, and Dean Acheson Papers. In the fourth week of the course, you will write and design a 1000-1200 word “brochure” to introduce library visitors to these collections.

Participation (30%): At the beginning of each section, students will be asked to write a short reading response that will serve as a jumping-off point for our discussion. During section, all students are expected to participate and to create space for others to participate as well. Because of the compressed schedule of the course, no absences are permitted.

Week One: Introduction to the Course

Lecture: Dissolution of the Grand Alliance and the Origins of the Cold War


Introductory discussion section

Lecture: At the border of the Iron Curtain


*Jul. 5*  **Lecture: Espionage, McCarthyism and the Black List**
  • Karina Longworth, “Storm Warning: Ronald Reagan, The FBI And Huac,” *You Must Remember This* (podcast), 4 April 2016

  **Screening:** Fred Zinnemann, *High Noon* (1952)

  **Discussion Section**

*Week Two*

*Jul. 10*  **Introduction to Cold War collections at the Beinecke**

*Jul. 12*  **Lecture: The Korean War**
  • Chen Jian, Chapter 4: “China’s Strategies to End the Korean War, 1950-1951” in Mao’s China and the Cold War, 85-117

  **Lecture: Khrushchev’s Secret Speech and the Sino-Soviet Split**
  • Edward H. Judge and Howard Langdon, The Cold War: A History through Documents (1999), 84-89

  **Discussion Section**

*Week Three*

*Jul. 17*  **Lecture: Cold War Philosophy and Political Thought**
  Hannah Arendt, *Origins of Totalitarianism*, Excerpts from Part II and Part III
  Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, excerpts

  **Screening:** Dr. Strangelove
Jul. 19 Lecture: The New Horizons of Man: Consumer Culture, the Penetration of Space, and Thermonuclear Panic
   - Matthew Tribbe, *No Requiem for the Space Age* (2014), 3-26
   - John F. Kennedy’s Rice Stadium Speech 12 September 1962

Discussion section

Screening: Andrei Tarkovsky, *Solaris* (1972)

Week Four

Jul. 24 Lecture: The Cuban Revolution and the Cold War in Latin America

Lecture: Anti-colonial revolutions
   - Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War*, 73-109 and 158-80


Jul. 26 Lecture: Crosscurrents of culture and dissent
   - Port Huron Statement, July 1962.

Lecture: In the wake of 1968

Discussion Section
A PDF of your brochure is due by email on Friday, July 27th by 5p.

**Week Five**

**Jul. 31 Lecture: Dissolution of Soviet Empire and the Advent of a New International Order**
- Ronald Reagan’s “Evil Empire” speech (8 March 1983)
- Gorbachev’s Speech to the U.N. (7 December 1988)
- Timothy Garton Ash, “Prague: Inside the Magic Lantern,” from *The Magic Lantern*

**Screening:** Wolfgang Becker, *Goodbye, Lenin!* (2003)

**Discussion Section/ Review**

**Aug. 2 Final Exam**