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: 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. In the fourth week of the course, you will write a 1200-1500 word paper that analyzes how one of these collections—examples include the H. L. Stimson Papers, underground art from East Germany, the Cuban Revolutionary Collection, and Dean Acheson Papers—illuminates a topic covered in the course.

Participation (30%): To prepare for our discussion section, you must post a 150-word response to the readings on the course website each Thursday by noon. During discussion, 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. There will also be a screening each Tuesday evening of a film or documentary. Students may attend those screenings or view the assigned films on their own any time before Thursday’s discussion section.

Week One

July 3 Lecture: Introduction to the course

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


July 5 Lecture: At the border of the Iron Curtain


Discussion Section

Week Two

Jul. 10 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: Espionage, McCarthyism and the Black List
• Ellen Schrecker, Many Are the Crimes: McCarthyism in America (1998), ix-xviii and 240-264
• Screening: Dalton Trumbo, Spartacus (1960)
• Karina Longworth, “Storm Warning: Ronald Reagan, The Fbi And Huac,” You Must Remember This (podcast), 4 April 2016

Jul. 12 Introduction to Cold War collections at the Beinecke

Discussion section

Week Three

Jul. 17 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

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
• Stanley Kubrick, Dr. Strangelove (1964)
• Port Huron Statement, July 1962

Jul. 19 Lecture: Anti-colonial revolutions
• Odd Arne Westad, The Global Cold War, 73-109 and 158-80
Week Four

Jul. 24  Lecture: Vietnam
- Jussi M. Hanhimäki and Odd Arne Westad, eds., The Cold War: A History in Documents and Eyewitness Accounts, 209-242

Lecture: 1968 and Detente
- Jeremi Suri, Power and Protest, 164-212.

Jul. 26 Lecture: Crosscurrents of culture and dissent
- Screening: Sonnenalle

Discussion

A PDF of your short paper 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"

Discussion/ Review

Aug. 2 Final Exam