

History 753 The Cold War as World Histories

Wednesdays, 7:00pm – 9:30pm
5245 Humanities Building

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Mondays 3:30-5:30pm
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Spring 2005
University of Wisconsin

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Course Aims

This is a graduate reading course designed to encourage and facilitate historical research across regions and methodological approaches. In this course we will treat the Cold War as both a *multicultural* and a *multidimensional* historical subject. This involves attention to the many diverse interactions among peoples, institutions, and cultures that pervaded the period. We will analyze the conjunctions and disjunctions between different historical voices: center and periphery, rich and poor, political and social.

The phrase “Cold War as World Histories” indicates that this course seeks to contribute to an emerging and creative scholarly conversation about internationalizing the study and teaching of history. We will define this endeavor broadly to include the following topics, among others: the international state system, world economic systems, decolonization, nationalist revolutions, domestic dissent, détente, human rights activism, and religious revivalism. In examining each of these topics we will rely on many analytical perspectives including, among others: great power diplomacy, imperialist expansion, social mobilization, the politics of memory, race, culture, and gender. “The Cold War as World Histories” situates all of these concerns in a global context that transcends the geographic boundaries of any particular nation-state or the details of any particular set of events. In approaching the Cold War, we will analyze the complex webs of causality that connect thoughts and actions in distant lands.

This course, and its innovative team-taught framework, self-consciously crosses many traditional scholarly boundaries. The instructors have intentionally chosen a diverse group of students with different disciplinary, methodological, geographical, and personal points of view. Through intensive discussions, presentations, and written assignments the collective community – faculty and students – will encourage the exploration, analysis, and synthesis of divergent perspectives on the history of our contemporary world.

Assigned Readings

Books for Purchase at Rainbow Books (426 West Gilman Street):

- Boyer, Paul. *By the Bomb's Early Light: American Thought and Culture at the Dawn of the Atomic Age* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1994). Paperback.
- Bradley, Mark. *Imagining Vietnam and America: The Making of Postcolonial Vietnam, 1919-1950* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000). Paperback.
- Gaddis, John Lewis. *We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997). Paperback.
- Gardner, Lloyd. *Pay Any Price: Lyndon Johnson and the Wars for Vietnam* (Chicago: Ivan Dee, 1997).
- Gleijeses, Piero. *Conflicting Missions: Havana, Washington, and Africa, 1959-1976* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), Paperback.
- Grandin, Greg. *The Last Colonial Massacre: Latin America in the Cold War* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004). Paperback.
- Keddie, Nikki. *Modern Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003). Paperback.
- Kotkin, Stephen. *Armageddon Averted: The Soviet Collapse, 1970-2000* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), Paperback.
- McCormick, Thomas J. *America's Half Century: United States Foreign Policy in the Cold War and After*, Second Edition (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995). Paperback.
- Naimark, Norman. *The Russians in Germany: A History of the Soviet Zone of Occupation, 1945-1949* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1997). Paperback.
- Qiang Zhai. *China and the Vietnam Wars, 1950-1975* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000). Paperback.
- Stern, Steve J. *Remembering Pinochet's Chile: On the Eve of London, 1998* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2004).
- Suri, Jeremi. *Power and Protest: Global Revolution and the Rise of Détente* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2003). Paperback.
- Sweig, Julia. *Inside the Cuban Revolution: Fidel Castro and the Urban Underground* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2002). Paperback.

Articles:

Most of the assigned articles for the seminar are available through the electronic databases accessible at:

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/journals>

For articles and chapters not available electronically (see the ** indication in the syllabus), the professors will provide a small number of photocopied reading packets for students to share.

Reading Assignments

This course includes a heavy load of weekly reading. Students are expected to read all of the assigned materials carefully and critically *before each seminar meeting*. Focus on each author's key arguments and how they relate to larger historical concerns and debates – how is the author trying to change the way we think about Cold War history? Interrogate narrative strategies – how does the author assemble his or her story for the purpose of convincing the reader? Pay close attention to sources – how does the author “prove” his or her point? Most important, as the semester progresses think about how the assigned readings relate to one another – how is each author responding to other scholars?

Weekly Meetings

The seminar will meet each Wednesday evening for two-and-a-half hours. During the first two hours we will discuss the assigned readings. We will interrogate how each text enhances our understanding of the period under examination as world histories.

During the last half hour of each seminar we will discuss pedagogy. We will contemplate how one might teach the week's topic in different environments, such as large undergraduate universities, small liberal-arts schools, and community colleges. This part of the seminar should help prepare graduate students for their future teaching duties. Cold War history, world history, and international history are particularly relevant for undergraduate teaching in institutions that are becoming increasingly multicultural.

Applying the Cold War Lenses Assignment (due 2/23):

The readings and discussions for weeks two through five of our course will focus on 4 different conceptual frameworks (“lenses”) for examining the early history of the Cold War. For the first assignment, each student should apply one of these lenses to a particular topic in the history of the Cold War. In consultation with the professors, each student will undertake additional reading on a chosen topic (e.g. the Korean War, the 1953 coup in Iran, the U.S. occupation of Japan, the Sino-Soviet alliance, etc.). Students will then write a 5-page analytical paper that uses one of the Cold War lenses to elucidate the nature of the topic under investigation. This assignment is designed to enhance the student’s conceptual knowledge and his/her empirical understanding of a topic of interest.

On February 23 all students should bring their papers to class with enough copies for distribution to the entire seminar. Each student should also prepare a 5-minute presentation that outlines his/her main arguments and findings. For the purposes of discussion, the professors will group student presentations together, and encourage advance cooperation among students.

The essays should reflect clear thought, detailed analysis, and polished writing. They should be scholarly and creative. Make sure you proofread and revise your essays before submission! Presentations should be organized, engaging, analytical, and succinct. Make sure you plan your presentations carefully and stick to the time limit!

Document Analysis Assignment (due 5/4):

At the end of the semester, students will write a 15-20 page paper analyzing a substantial and significant primary document related to at least one of the themes in the course. A qualifying “document” can include any of the following:

1. A published collection of archival papers;
2. An unpublished collection of archival papers;
3. A memoir;
4. A collection of original published writings;
5. A collection of photographs or other art work;
6. A large collection of newspaper and other journalistic sources;
7. An extended oral history;
8. An object from the built environment.

Students should consult with the professors about their selected document by the middle of April. Students are encouraged to select a document from their area of research interest. This essay should bring some of the course’s themes to each student’s personal research agenda. This essay should also be useful for each student’s future endeavors.

The essay should analyze the document, answering the following questions:

1. What was the context for the creation of this document?
2. Whose voice(s) are heard in this document?
3. What does this document contribute to understanding the Cold War as World Histories?
4. How could a historian use this document to write a new history?

The document analysis essays should reflect clear thought, detailed analysis, and polished writing. They should be scholarly and creative. Make sure you proofread and revise your essays before submission!

1/19 Introduction: What does it mean to study the Cold War as World Histories?

1/26 First Lens: The International State System

John Lewis Gaddis, *We Now Know*, 1-220, 281-95.

Melvyn P. Leffler, "New Approaches, Old Interpretations, and Prospective Reconfigurations," *Diplomatic History* 19 (Spring 1995), 172-96, available through Academic Search Elite electronic database.

Lloyd Gardner and Thomas McCormick, "Walter LaFeber: The Making of a Wisconsin School Revisionist," *Diplomatic History* 28 (November 2004), 613-24, available through the Blackwell-Synergy electronic database.

2/2 Second Lens: World Systems

Thomas McCormick, *America's Half-Century*, 1-154, 237-58.

**Thomas McCormick, "American Hegemony and European Autonomy, 1989-2003," in Lloyd Gardner and Marilyn Young, eds., *The New American Empire*, 75-112.

**Steve Stern, "The Decentered Center and the Expansionist Periphery: the Paradoxes of Foreign-Local Encounter," in Gilbert Joseph, ed., *Close Encounters of Empire*, 47-68.

Steve J. Stern, "Feudalism, Capitalism, and the World System in the Perspective of Latin America and the Caribbean," *American Historical Review* 93:4 (October 1988), 829-872, available through the J-STOR electronic database.

2/9 Third Lens: The View from the "Periphery"

Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre: Latin America in the Cold War*, all.

**Mark Gilderhus, "An Emerging Synthesis? U.S.-Latin American Relations since the Second World War," in Michael J. Hogan, ed., *America in the World*, 424-61.

2/16 Fourth Lens: The View from the "Middle Powers"

Norman Naimark, *The Russians in Germany*, 1-140, 318-97.

**Chen Jian, *China's Road to the Korean War*, ix-xii, 1-30, 92-157.

Consult with professors on short papers and presentations for next week

2/23 Applying the 4 Lenses

Presentations and Papers in class.

3/2 Cold War Culture

Paul Boyer, *By the Bomb's Early Light*, all.

Special Movie showing after class: "Dr. Strangelove."

3/9 The "Cuba Moment"

Julia Sweig, *Inside the Cuban Revolution: Fidel Castro and the Urban Underground*, all.

**Aleksandr Fursenko and Timothy Naftali, "One Hell of a Gamble:" *Khrushchev, Castro, and Kennedy, 1958-1964*, 5-73, 166-83, 240-315.

John Lewis Gaddis, *We Now Know*, 221-80.

3/16 Domestic Unrest and Détente

Jeremi Suri, *Power and Protest*, all.

Matthew Connelly, "Taking Off the Cold War Lens: Visions of North-South Conflict during the Algerian War for Independence," *American Historical Review* 105 (June 2000), 739-769, available through the History Cooperative electronic database.

3/23 Spring Recess – NO CLASS

3/30 The Vietnam Wars

Group 1:

Mark Bradley, *Imagining Vietnam and America*, all.

Qiang Zhai, *China and the Vietnam Wars*, 1-156, 217-22.

Group 2:

Lloyd Gardner, *Pay Any Price*, 5-39, 129-266, 409-512.

4/6 The Angolan Wars

Piero Gleijeses, *Conflicting Missions: Havana, Washington, and Africa, 1959-1976*, all.

4/13 The Legacies of Atrocities

Steve Stern, *Remembering Pinochet's Chile*, all.

**Steve Stern, Chapter 3, "Witnessing and Awakening Chile," and Afterword to Chapter 3, "Laughing and Singing in Times of Trouble" (ca. 70 manuscript pages) from volume 2 (forthcoming) of trilogy, *Battling for Hearts and Minds: Memory Struggles in Pinochet's Chile, 1973-1988* (forthcoming 2006, Duke University Press).

**Tina Rosenberg, *The Haunted Land: Facing Europe's Ghosts after Communism*, xi-xxiv, 3-121, 397-407.

**William Shawcross, *Sideshow: Kissinger, Nixon, and the Destruction of Cambodia*, 19-35, 365-96.

4/20 Iran and the Islamic Revolutions of the late Cold War

Nikki Keddie, *Modern Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution*, all.

4/27 The End of the Cold War

Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted*, all.

Jeremi Suri, "Explaining the End of the Cold War: A New Historical Consensus?" *Journal of Cold War Studies* 4 (Fall 2002), 60-92, available through the Project Muse electronic database.

5/4 Wrap-Up

Final Papers due.