

History 512:354
History of the Cold War
Shaun Armstead
Summer 2018/ M, T, W, Th, 1:00-2:55pm
Office Hours: M & T 11:00a.m- 12:30pm and by appointment
Syllabus subject to change

Course Description:

This course focuses on the history of the Cold War in a global context with particular focus on the United States. A prevailing understanding of Cold War describes a largely political battle between Soviet and United States authorities. This course will take a different approach. In studying the Cold War through the lives of ordinary people and non-state actors reveals we will conceive of this event as not only a diplomatic narrative but a cultural and social one as well. To this end, this course will rely on historical scholarship, films, and short stories in order to construct a more holistic understanding of this period.

Course Goals:

This course will focus on developing these skills:

- Understanding how gender, race, sex and sexuality, as well as class became part of Cold War politics and culture.
- Learning how people outside of government engaged with communist and liberal capitalist ideologies.
- Critically analyzing documents and expressing these analyses verbally and in writing.

Course Requirements:

Participation and Attendance: Everyone's participation is crucial for developing a class atmosphere where we can all learn from each other. I cannot stress this enough. All students are expected to attend every class ready to contribute to discussion. If you cannot come to class, please notify me via email of your absence within 24 hours. If this isn't possible, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss making up work from that day.

Paper Responses: There will be 3 short, 2-page response papers to the readings in this class. These papers should demonstrate understanding of the arguments the authors made as well as your assessment of these arguments.

Midterm: This course is not test-based. Instead of taking an exam, you will find a document from the Cold War and write about it in a 3-5 page paper. We will be interpreting "document" broadly; you can select a book, a set of objects, a series of pamphlets or political cartoon, a film, etc. This assignment is meant to be a fun assignment to apply knowledge gained from the instructor, other students, and readings to a material object. We will talk about it each week before it's due to ensure everyone is confident in their ability to complete the assignment. I expect each student to meet with me during my office hours or by appointment to discuss their options.

Final Exam: A 6-8 pp. paper written based on an oral interview of a person living during the Cold War. The student has two options: 1) Conduct their own oral interview. In this scenario, each student should find an individual who experienced any part of the Cold War as an adult and interview them. 2) Search through the Rutgers Oral History Archives for a previously conducted interview.

Regardless of the option you select, the interview should serve as your source document to make an argument about the Cold War and should build on the themes we have discussed over the course of the summer session. We will also discuss this paper throughout the course to ensure everyone is making progress toward completing the assignment.

Readings: The only texts students are expected to purchase, borrow from the library, or otherwise acquire are George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and Slavinka Drakulic's *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*. Everything else will be uploaded to the course's website.

Plagiarism: One of the goals mentioned above is for students to learn to articulate their thoughts coherently and compellingly in written form. Stealing another's intellectual work denies students the opportunity to improve their writing skills, aside from being academically dishonest. **Please do not plagiarize.** If you have concerns about your writing, please come talk to me during my office hours or by appointment. If I suspect plagiarism has occurred, I will be obligated to comply with the Academic Honesty policy at Rutgers University.

Students with Accommodations:

Students requiring adjustments to enhance their learning experience should contact me the first week of class. Notifying me promptly of any accommodation you may require will allow me to work with you to create a positive and beneficial academic environment suitable to your needs. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Office of Disability Services, [Lucy Stone Hall](#), Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Ave., Suite A145. **Phone:** (848) 445-6800 • **Fax:** (732) 445-3388.

Grading:

Participation and Attendance: 20%

- In this course participation is considered engaged contribution to the learning process in the classroom. This includes anything from asking a question, sharing an informed opinion based on that day's readings and lecture, to responding to others' views.
- The instructor reserves the right to administer quizzes to determine if students have completed the readings.
- ****Cell Phones: Understandably, emergencies arise that require our immediate attention. If such an instance occurs, please feel free to excuse yourself discreetly from the classroom to use your phone. Otherwise, cell phone use in the classroom will result in a reduced participation and attendance grade.

Response Papers: 15% (5% each)

Midterm: 30%

Final: 35%

Course Schedule

Wk.1

06.25.18: Class introductions and opening lecture and discussion: What is Communism, anyway?

Read: "Introduction: What Was the Cold War?," Masuda, Hajimu, *Cold War Crucible: The Korean Conflict and the Postwar World*, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2015) 1-13.

06.26.18: Origins of the Cold War, I.

06.27.18 Origins of the Cold War, II.

Read: George Orwell's *Animal Farm*

06.28.18 Moment of Possibility, 1945-1947

Reading: TBD

Response paper 1 due

Wk. 2

07.02.18 Weaponry, Masculinity, and the Iron Curtain

Film: *Dr. Strangelove or: How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964)

07.03.18 Cold War politics and ordinary citizens

Read: "Holding the Line in Little Rock," Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), 115-151.

07.05.18 McCarthyism, I.

***Be prepared to discuss your midterm project.

Response Paper 2 due

Wk. 3

07.09.18: McCarthyism, II: What did Gender Have to Do With it All?

Read: Paul Robeson's FBI File.

*** Discuss oral interview***

07.10.18 Cold War in a global context, 1950s.

Read: "Local Translation," Masuda, *Cold War Crucible*, 57-81

07.11.18 Anti-Communism and the 1960s

Read: "'A Sleeping Giant is Awakening': Right-Wing Mobilization, 1960-1963," Lisa McGirr, *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001), 54-110.

07.12.18 Interpretations of the Vietnam War

Read: Introduction to Judy Tzu-Chun Wu's *Radicals on the Road: Internationalism, Orientalism, and Feminism during the Vietnam Era*, (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2013), 1-11.

“Saving Vietnam,” Christian Appy, *American Reckoning: The Vietnam War and Our National Identity*, (New York: Viking, 2015), 3-32.

Midterm project due.

Wk. 4

07.16.18: U.S. Empire in crisis: The Vietnam War and Cold War transformations to U.S. American Identity

Film: *Black Panthers: The Vanguard of the Revolution* (2015)

07. 17.18 U.S. Empire in Crisis, II.

Appy, “Victim Nation,” *American Reckoning*, pp. 183-217

07.18.18 The 1970s and transnational politics: The United Nations International Women’s Year Conferences

Read: “Scary Doings in Mexico City,” Betty Friedan, *It Changed My Life*, (Random House: New York, 1963), 440-467.

07.19.18 Discussion day

Response paper 3

Wk. 5

07.23.18 The Cold War Gets Cooler: 1980s

Read: Slavinka, Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*, xi-65.

07.24.18 Cold War influences: U.S. conservatism in the 1980s

Read: Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*, 66-92.

07.25.18 Read: Drakulic, 93-132.

07.26.18: Discussion Day

Read rest of Drakulic

***Be prepared to discuss oral interviews

Wk. 6

07.30.18: Cold War Denouement: Tearing Down the Wall.

Reading: TBD

07.31.18: Cold War Aftershocks: Cold War Politics in the Present?

Reading: TBD

08.01.18 No Class; work on papers!

08.02.18: Final Papers due. Class will meet. I will only accept hard copies unless other arrangements have been made in advance.