HIST ORY 328 .601
T 4:30-7:20
Williams 303

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The Cold War was more than simply a military confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union; it was the frame within which the entire world developed (for better or worse) for nearly five decades. This course will examine the Cold War as a global phenomenon, covering not only the military and diplomatic history of the period, but also examining the social and cultural impact of the superpower confrontation. We will cover the origins of the conflict, the interplay between periods of tension and détente, the relative significance of disagreements within the opposing blocs, and the relationship between the "center" of the conflict in the North Atlantic/European area and the global "periphery."

Required Books:
LaFeber, Russia, America, and the Cold War (McGraw-Hill)
Larres and Lane, The Cold War: The Essential Readings (Blackwell)
Judge and Langdon, The Cold War: A History through Documents (Prentice Hall)
Fleming, Casino Royale (Penguin)
Le Carré, The Spy Who Came in From the Cold (Scribner)

Assignments:
Mid-Term Exam 35%
Discussion Participation 25%
Final Exam 40%

Course Guidelines
The structure of a CGS evening course forces certain modifications of the traditional lecture format. In order to make better use of the readings, for example, and to give you all a chance to participate more directly in our collective search for enlightenment, every class meeting will include both a lecture and a discussion of the course material. In these discussions we will both ask and answer questions raised by the lectures and readings and also occasionally use the readings to address pre-assigned questions. These discussions will involve the entire class, and may include group work and/or in-class writing. Your participation in them, in addition to contributing to the engagement of our learning, will constitute an important part of your participation grade, which therefore requires you to be carefully prepared for every meeting.

Students must complete all assignments in order to receive credit for the course. Failure to complete any assignment, regardless of how small a percentage of the total grade it represents, without the instructor’s expressed consent, will result in an automatic failure.

All assignments are due at the time indicated by the instructor. Extensions or other exceptions will only be granted in the direst of emergencies. The decision whether or not a particular explanation is sufficient to warrant accepting a late paper, and the penalty that will be imposed, lies solely with the instructor. Computer catastrophes, switched assignments, and broken-hearted roommates are not in themselves acceptable excuses.
All work submitted must be the product of the individual student’s effort, and must be done for this course alone. Unless expressly permitted by the instructor, collaboration with other students, or the simultaneous submission of the same work for more than one class, is prohibited.

Lecture and Reading Schedule

January 10: Course Introduction—What is so Hot about a Cold War?

Part One: Starting the Cold War
LaFeber, Intro & Chaps. 1-4; Larres/Lane, 1-64

January 17: The Problem of Origins
Judge/Langdon, Docs. 1-6

January 24: From Harvard to Berlin
Docs. 7-15

Part Two: Europe in the Deep Freeze
LaFeber, Chap. 5-7, 9; Larres/Lane, 65-134

January 31: The First Cold War, 1949-1956
Docs. 15, 19, 23, 26-29

February 7: Walls and Bridges
Docs. 32-34, 36-41

Part Three: Proxy Wars and Dependent Development
LaFeber, Chap. 8 & 10; Larres/Lane, 135-158

February 14: Decolonization and “National Liberation”
Docs. 16-18; 20-22, 24-25, 30-31

February 21: From Vietnam to Afghanistan
Docs. 35, 42-49

Part Four: Cold War Culture?
LeCarré, entire Fleming, entire

February 28: Culture as Politics

March 7: No class—Spring Break
Midterm Exam Due

March 14: Representations of Conflict

Part Five: Detente and the New Cold War
LaFeber, Chaps. 11-12; Larres/Lane, 159-180

March 21: Protest and Détente
Docs. 50-57

March 28: The End of Détente
Docs. 58-64

Part Six: Ending the Cold War
LaFeber, Chaps. 13-15; Larres/Lane, 181-238

April 4: The New Cold War
Docs. 65-75

April 11: The “Turn” and After
Docs. 76-86
April 18—Final Exam