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INTS 190-01, International Politics Since 1945, Fall 2009

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Professor Andrew A. Michta

Rhodes College

Fall 2009

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am-10:45am/ Rm 103 Buckman

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International Studies 190

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS SINCE 1945

This course is a survey of key world events and trends in the international system since 1945. It has two objectives: (1) to provide the student with factual information on the post-World War II world, and (2) to raise questions relevant to the United States and its future in the post-Cold War international system. Topics will include the origins, evolution, and end of the Cold War, communism and post-communism, bipolarity, decolonization and East-West competition, limited wars, the role of nuclear weapons in world politics, terrorism, nationalism, changes in the world economy, and security challenges facing the United States today.

I. Grades:

1. Midterm: 30%
2. Final: 30%
3. Term paper--20%
4. Class contribution--20%

II. Course Requirements

The texts assigned for the course are available at the bookstore. You are strongly encouraged to follow current international events through the internet, daily press, radio, tv, etc. Please note: the local paper is not an adequate source of foreign news; go to the New York Times, the Financial Times of London, the Washington Post, the Christian Science Monitor, or the Wall Street Journal (either print or internet editions).

Your term paper should be 10 typewritten pages in length on a topic suggested by you or selected from a list to be distributed later in class.

Note: I reserve the right to modify the syllabus (add or drop reading assignments or remove entire sections) as new material becomes available. You will be notified of any changes at least two weeks in advance.

III. Texts:

1. McWilliams & Piotrowski, The World Since 1945 (7th Edition),
2. American Foreign Policy 09/10 (Annual Editions)

IV. Policies

In order to pass the course you are expected to read the assigned material, come to class on time, hand in your work on schedule, and contribute to the discussion. No extensions will be given for term papers or make up exams for examinations, save for real emergencies (I will determine what qualifies as such). On the other hand, if you run into difficulties with the course, please come see me; we will try to resolve the problem together.

Note: Plagiarism, i.e, using someone else's words or ideas without acknowledging the source will automatically earn you a failing grade.

V. Required by week:

August 27

Introduction and Course Overview

PART I: THE COLD WAR

Week I: The Core: Soviet-American Confrontation and the Origins of Containment

September 1

McWilliams/Piotrowski Chp. 1

September 3

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp 2

Week II: From Containment in Asia to Coexistence

September 8

McWilliams/Piotrowski Chp. 3

September 10

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 4

Week III The Periphery: Decolonization in Asia and Africa

September 15

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 5

September 17

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 6

Week IV: Managing the Confrontation: The Middle East, Eastern Europe and the Sino-Soviet Split

September 22

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 7

September 24

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 8

Week V: Managing the Confrontation: Vietnam and Detente

September 29

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 9

October 1

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 10

Week VI: Developing World: Sub-Saharan Africa

October 6

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 11

October 8

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 12

Week VII: Developing World: Latin America

October 13

--MIDTERM EXAMINATION--

October 15

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 13

OCTOBER 17 THROUGH OCTOBER 20 FALL BREAK

Week VIII: Globalization and the Rise of Asia: Taiwan and China

October 20

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 14

October 22

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 15

Week IX: Globalization and the Rise of Asia: Japan and South Korea

October 27

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 16--Paper Topic Selection--

October 29

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 17

Week X: The End of Cold War: The Collapse of the Soviet Empire and Nuclear Proliferation

November 3

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 18

November 5

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 19

Week XI: Emerging Challenges: The Rise of Political Islam

November 10

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 20

November 12

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 21

PART II: AMERICA IN THE POST-COLD WAR WORLD

Week XII: 9/11 and the Neo-Conservative Moment

November 17

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp. 21

November 19

McWilliams/Piotrowski, Chp 22

Week: XIII: U.S. Strategic Choices and Core International Relationships

November 24

American Foreign Policy (Unit 1)

NOVEMBER 25-29 THANKSGIVING RECESS

December 1

American Foreign Policy (Unit 2)

Week XIV: U.S. Military Power after Iraq

December 3

American Foreign Policy (Unit 7)

December 8

American Foreign Policy (Unit 8)

TERM PAPERS DUE ON DECEMBER 8 (LAST DAY OF CLASS) BY 5PM IN MY OFFICE