HIST 456-01, Cold War America, Spring 2008

HIST 456 - Cold War America
Saxe - Clough 304, 2-3:15 MW
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Office Hours – MW, 1-2 or by appointment, 307 Clough

Course Description:
This course will survey the United States' involvement in the Cold War and how conflict with the Soviet Union shaped postwar international affairs, domestic politics, and American culture and society. Students will learn about the rise of the Soviet-American global rivalry and how this competition played itself out in different theatres. Readings will cover the growth of tensions over issues like the Truman Doctrine or Communist control of Vietnam, as well as Cold War nuclear policies. In addition, students will study the development of domestic anticommunism, the rise and fall of McCarthyism, and how the drive against the Soviets influenced domestic politics. Further, the course will examine Cold War culture in the United States and discuss issues of consensus and dissent in American society. Finally, students will be asked to assess the long-term implications of the Cold War on US foreign policy and American politics and culture, and what relevance the Cold War has in today's "multi-polar" world.

Required Texts:
Mary L. Dudziak *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy*.
Tom Engelhardt, *The End of Victory Culture: Cold War America and the Disillusioning of a Generation.*
Douglas Field, *American Cold War Culture*.
John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War, A New History*.
Ellen Schrecker, *Many are the Crimes: McCarthyism in America*.
Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era*.
The professor will provide additional readings throughout the course.

Course Requirements:
Exams
There will be two exams for this class:
Exam on Cold War terminology and chronology up to 1980
January 30 – 10% of final grade.

Take home final exam (1500 words); given April 23
Due in class, May 3 – 10% of final grade.

Class Participation
Active participation in class discussions over readings and other topics. This also includes presenting one week's readings. Students will prepare a list of discussion questions that will help lead the class for that week. Those weeks marked with an asterisk (*) will be led by the professor only. 20% of grade.

Essays
All essays should contain the following at the top of the first page: name, word count,

date, and a meaningful title. In addition, any use of sources must be cited using Chicago-style footnotes (see http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html for help or you may ask the instructor). A title page and works cited page are not necessary. At the end of each essay, the Rhodes pledge should be printed and signed.

Book Review –
You will construct a 1250-1500 word book review on one of the suggested readings. Remember, this is a review, not a book report. You want to discuss the contents of the book, but also debate its findings, put it in proper historiographical context, and render your own opinion about the work's merits. This book may not be a secondary source for the student's final essay. Due March 17 in class. 10% of final grade.

Short essay on Cold War culture –
You will read *American Cold War Culture* edited by Douglas Field. From that collection, you will select the essay that you found to be the more persuasive in its arguments, as well as the essay that was the least persuasive. In 750-1250, you will define your criteria for making your selections, as well as meditate on the effectiveness of using cultural studies to examine the topic of the Cold War. Due February 18 in class. 5% of final grade.

Short essay on the end of the Cold War –
You will read Tom Engelhardt's *The End of Victory Culture: Cold War America and the Disillusioning of a Generation*, as well as other selections on the importance of the Cold War to American life. Using Engelhardt as a starting point, I want you to assess the costs and benefits of the Cold War to America using material from the class. The essay should have a clear thesis and be between 1000 and 1500 words. Due April 14 in class. 5% of final grade.

Research Essay –
Research paper of approximately 5000 words. This paper must be a historiographic essay or a work of original research on a Cold War theme. The most difficult challenge of this kind of paper is to decide on a workable topic. A quick survey of the required readings may help to narrow down an area of interest. Another approach is to look at the types of sources that are both available and interesting to the writer and develop a topic from that point. The nature of the topic of this paper is wide open, but it will need to be related to the themes of the course. Students are encouraged to meet with the professor to discuss any questions with finding or shaping a topic. 40% of final grade.

List of deadlines for the final essay

1. February 4 – Introductory paragraph and bibliography

This is a 200-300 word abstract of your proposed topic in as detailed form as possible. You will also need to include a preliminary list of primary and secondary sources. This needs to be a hard copy turned that I receive in class

2. February 27 – Final Bibliography

The final list of all the sources you will include in your essay.

3. March 26 – Final draft of essay

The last draft of your essay is due. It needs to be typed and double-spaced, and it must include a bibliography. Due, in class, and an email copy must be sent to me, as well.

4. April 23 – Revised draft

After receiving comments from the professor, students will have the option of revising their draft and turning it in April 23 in class. Students can improve their paper grade up to one full letter grade through revision. Due, in my office by 5, and an email copy must be sent to me, as well.

Course Policies:
Class attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed two absences without penalty. Students are required to find out what they missed in class on the day of their absence. If students miss more than two classes, they are required to meet with the professor to discuss their absences. Failure to do so will result in the lowering of a student's final grade by one third grade point for every absence over one. Please consider this policy when planning for extracurricular activities (sports, mock trial, etc.)

Due dates and times for writing assignments are fixed. All assignments are due in class, not in the professor's mailbox. Late assignments will receive a failing grade. All assignments must be turned in to the professor. Failure to complete an assignment will result in a failing grade for the class. If you have questions about plagiarism, please talk to me directly.

The professor supports the Rhodes College Honor Code.

Course calendar:
January 9 *
Introduction

January 14; January 16
The Cold War Begins - International Conflict (Gaddis, Prologue; Ch. 1- 3)

Suggested Reading:
John Lewis Gaddis, *The United States and the Origins of the Cold War, 1944-1947* (1972)
Jon Halliday and Bruce Cumings, *Korea: The Unknown War* (1988)
Walter LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1944-1967*, rev. ed (1980)
Melvin P. Leffler, *A Preponderance of Power: National Security, the Truman Administration, and the Cold War* (1992)

Thomas J. McCormick, *America's Half-Century: United States Foreign Policy in the Cold War* (1989)
Robert Newman, *Owen Lattimore and the "Loss" of China* (1992)
Thomas G. Paterson, *Meeting the Communist Threat* (1988)

January 21
MLK Day – no class

January 23*
Trials and Tribulations – The International Arena Continued (Gaddis, Ch. 4)
Suggested Reading:
Michael R. Beschloss, *The Crisis Years: Kennedy and Kruschev, 1960-1963* (1991)
James G. Blight, Bruce J. Allyn, and David A. Welch, *Cuba on the Brink: Castro, the Missile Crisis and the Soviet Collapse* (1993)
Patrick Glynn, *Closing Pandora's Box: Arms Race, Arms Control, and the History of the Cold War* (1992)
James A. Nathan, ed., *The Cuban Missile Crisis Revisited* (1992)
William B. Pickett, *Dwight David Eisenhower and American Power* (1995)
Peter J. Roman, *Eisenhower and the Missile Gap* (1995)
Mark J. White, *The Cuban Missile Crisis* (1996)

January 28; January 30*
US in Decline? (Gaddis, Ch. 5)

Exam on Cold War terminology and chronology up to 1980, **January 30**

February 4; February 6
The War at Home - McCarthyism before McCarthy (Schrecker, Ch. 1-3)
FDR, Truman, and the development of domestic anticommunism

Suggested Reading:
Richard Freeland, *The Truman Doctrine and the Origins of McCarthyism: Foreign Policy, Domestic Politics, and Internal Security, 1946-1948* (1971)
Walter Goodman, *The Committee: The Extraordinary Career of the House Committee on Un-American Activities* (1968)
James G. Ryan, *Earl Browder: The Public Life of an American Communist* (1997)
Peter Steinberg, *The Great "Red Menace": United States Prosecution of American Communists, 1947-1952* (1984)
Sam Tanenhaus, *Whittaker Chambers: A Biography* (1997)
Athan Theoharis, *The Seeds of Repression: Harry S. Truman and the Origin of McCarthyism* (1971)
Allen Weinstein and Alexander Vassiliev, *The Haunted Wood: Soviet Espionage in America – The Stalin Era* (1999)

Introductory paragraph and bibliography due in class, February 4

February 11; February 13
Communism and America's Unions (Schrecker, Ch. 9)
Union radicals; The CIO and its purge

Suggested Reading:
James R. Barrett, *William Z. Foster and the Tragedy of American Radicalism* (1999)
Bert Cochran, *Labor and Communism: The Conflcit that Shaped American Unions* (1977)
Ronald Filippelli and Mark McColloch, *Cold War in the Working Class: The Rise and Decline of the United Electrical Workers* (1995)
Howard Kimmeldorf, *Reds or Rackets? The Making of Radical and Conservative Unions on the Waterfront* (1989)
George Lipsitz, *Class and Culture in Cold War America: "A Rainbow at Midnight"* (1981)
Harvey Leverstein, *Communism, Anticommunism, and the CIO* (1992)
Steve Rosswurm, ed., *The CIO's Left-Led Unions* (1992)

February 18; February 20
Cold War Cultural Studies (Field, all)
Unity and conflict in the fifties; Communism and American culture

Suggested Reading:
Paul Boyer, *By Bomb's Early Light: American Thought and Culture at the Dawn of the Atomic Age* (1985)
H.W. Brands, *The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War* (1993)
Larry May, ed. *Recasting America: Culture and Politics in the Age of the Cold War* (1989)
Richard Pells, *The Liberal Mind in a Conservative Age* (1985)
Kenneth Rose, *One Nation Underground: The Fallout Shelter in American Culture* (2001)
Richard A. Schwartz, *Cold War Culture: Media and the Arts, 1945-1990* (2000)
Stephen J. Whitfield, *The Culture of the Cold War* (1996)

Essay on Cold War culture due in class, February 18.

February 25; February 27
McCarthyism (Schrecker, Ch. 4-8, 10)
The rise and fall of Joe McCarthy; The lasting impact of McCarthyism

Suggested reading:
Daniel Bell, *The New American Right* (1955)
Carl Bernstein, *Loyalties: A Son's Memoir* (1989)
David Caute, *The Great Fear: The Anti-Communist Purge under Truman and Eisenhower* (1978)
Richard Fried, *Nightmare in Red: The McCarthy Era in Perspective* (1990)
Robert Griffith, *The Politics of Fear: Joseph R. McCarthy and the Senate*, 2nd ed. (1987)

John Earl Haynes, *Red Scare or Red Menace? American Communism and Anticommunism in the Cold War* (1996)
Richard Gid Powers, *Not Without Honor: The History of American Anticommunism* (1995)

Final bibliography of research essay due in class, February 27

March 3; March 5
Spring Break, no class.

March 10; March 12
Gendering the Cold War (Tyler May, all)
Manhood, "The Feminine Mystique," and American families during the Cold War

Suggested Reading:
Robert J. Corber, *Homosexuality in Cold War America: Resistance and the Crisis of Masculinity* (1997)
Robert D. Dean, *Imperial Brotherhood: Gender and the Making of Cold War Foreign Policy* (2001)
Cynthia Enloe, *The Morning After: Sexual Politics at the End of the Cold War* (1993)
Daniel Horowitz, *Betty Friedan and the Making of "The Feminine Mystique": The American Left, The Cold War, and Modern Feminism* (2000)
Susan Jeffords, *The Remasculization of America: Gender and the Vietnam War* (1989)
Joanne Meyerowitz, *Not June Cleaver: Women and Gender in Postwar America, 1945-1960* (1994)
Kate Weingard, *Red Feminism: American Communism and the Making of Women's Liberation* (2001)

March 17; March 19
Race and the Cold War (Dudziak, all)
African Americans and the shaping of the Cold War

Suggested Reading:
Thomas Borstlemann, *The Cold War and the Color Line: American Race Relations in the Global Arena* (2001)
Gerald Horne, *Black and Red: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Afro-American Response to the Cold War, 1944-63* (1986)
Michael L. Krenn, *Black Diplomacy: African Americans and the State Department, 1945-1969* (1999)
Azza Salama Layton, *International Politics and Civil Rights Politics in the United States, 1945-1960* (2000)
Brenda Gayle Plummer, *Black Americans and U.S. Foreign Affairs, 1935-1960* (1996)

March 24; March 26
Neglected Theatres and War's End (Gaddis, Ch. 6, 7)
US Cold War policy in the Third World; Ronald Reagan and the "evil empire"; fall of the

Soviet Union

Suggested Reading:
Scott Bills, *Empire and Cold War: The Roots of US-Third World Antagonism* (1990)
Frances Fitzgerald, *Way Out there in the Blue: Reagan, Star Wars, and the End of the Cold War* (2001)
Edward Tabor Linenthal, *Symbolic Defense: The Cultural Significance of the Strategic Defense Initiative* (1989)
Douglas J. Macdonald, *Adventures in Chaos: American Intervention for Reform in the Third World* (1992)
Peter Rodman, *More Precious Than Peace: The Cold War and the Struggle for the Third World* (1994)
Michael Rogin, *Ronald Reagan: The Movie and Other Episodes in Political Demonology* (1988)
Daniel Wirls, *Buildup: The Politics of Defense in the Reagan Era* (1992)

Final draft of research essay due in class, March 26

March 31; April 2*
Post Cold War (Englehardt, all)

April 7; April 9
Stalin Goes to the Movies – Cold War Film
From *Big Jim McClain* to *Dr. Strangelove*

Suggested reading:
Peter Biskind, *Seeing is Believing: How Hollywood Taught Us to Stop Worrying and Love the Fifties* (1983)
Paul Buhle and Dave Wagner, *Radical Hollywood: The Untold Story Behind America's Favorite Movies* (2002)
Larry Ceplair and Steven Englund, *The Inquisition in Hollywood: Politics and the Film Community, 1930-1960* (1979)
Ronnie D. Lipschutz, *Cold War Fantasies: Film, Fiction, and Foreign Policy* (2001)
James J. Lorence, *The Suppression of Salt of the Earth: How Hollywood, Big Labor, and Politicians Blacklisted a Movie in Cold War America* (1999)
Victor Navasky, *Naming Names* (1980)
Nora Sayre, *Running Time: Films of the Cold War* (1983)

April 14; April 16*
Film (cont.)
The Historians Cold War (Gaddis, Epilogue)

End of Cold War essay due in class, April 14

April 21; April 23*
Paper Presentations

Receive take home final, April 23
Revised draft of research essay due in class (if necessary), April 23

<u>May 3</u>
Take home final due in class, 1PM