The period of heightened geopolitical tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union known as the Cold War lasted from the end of the Second World War to the early 1990’s. The Cold War, however, had causes existing long prior the 1940’s, and likewise yielded effects that still exist with us today. Geographically, the conflict touched nations far from the Iron Curtain, including states in Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Africa. What caused the Cold War to begin? What led it to end? In what ways is the Cold War analogous, or not, to U.S.-China competition today, and are we now in a “New Cold War”?

While this class will cover much of the history of the Cold War, it will also relate events in the conflict with theoretical and empirical research in political science. For example, political science themes touched upon in the course will include:

- Security Competition
- Perception of Adversary Motivations
- Political Ideology
- Domestic Politics in International Relations
- Alliances
- Nuclear Weapons and Arms Races
- Resolve
- The Imperial Presidency
- The Rise of China

Required Reading:

“Readings” will consist of a mixture of book readings, academic articles, blog posts, short videos, etc. There is one required book for the class, available from the bookstore, Amazon, or other vendors:


All other readings will be posted on the course web page on Canvas and/ or will be accessible via the hyperlinks below.

Note: The course schedule displays readings that students are expected to complete before each lecture. List of readings may be updated as the quarter progresses.

Office Hours:

I will hold office hours between 10 and 12 on Fridays. Please sign up here.
Grade Structure:

1. Critical essays (45% x 2)
   - Two take-home essays are assigned, one at midterm and one at the end of the quarter, to evaluate students’ ability to comprehend and critically discuss lectures and readings.
   - Each one is worth 45% of the overall grade. The due dates and times are indicated below. Students will submit the essays via Canvas exclusively. Prompts will be released a few days prior, as indicated in the course schedule.
     - Essay 1: topic released April 17th and paper due on May 8th by midnight.
     - Essay 2: topic released May 19th and paper due on June 7th by midnight.

2. Class Participation (10%)

Statement on Academic Integrity:

All work should be original and written exclusively by the student. All assignments will be turned in on Canvas before 11:59 pm on the date they are due. Note that papers pass through a plagiarism detector, so use proper citation! All cases of suspected cheating will be referred for adjudication to the Office of Academic Integrity. Any violation for which a student is found responsible is considered grounds for failure in the course, not simply on the assignment. To review the policy, please go here.

Learning Disabilities

Students with University-documented learning disabilities should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs.

Class Schedule

- **March 30—Class 1: Class Intro and What Was the Cold War About?**
  - Gaddis, Cold War, “Epilogue,” pp. 259-66

- **April 1—Class 2: IR Theory and Cold War Ideology**
  - “Cold War Historiography”
  - Mearsheimer, “Structural Realism”

- **April 6—Class 3: Origins of the Cold War**
  - Gaddis, Cold War, Ch. I, “The Return of Fear,” pp. 5-48
- Nikolai Novikov, “The Novikov Telegram”
  https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/110808
- CNN, Cold War, “Comrades”, Ep. 1

**April 8—Class 4: Origins of the Cold War**
- CNN, Cold War, “Iron Curtain”, Ep. 2
- CNN, Cold War, “Marshall Plan”, Ep. 3
- Documents:
  - Truman Doctrine
  - Yalta Agreement
  - Potsdam Agreement

**April 13—Class 5: The Arms Race**
- Gaddis, Cold War, Chap. II, “Deathboats and Lifeboats,” pp. 48-83 (R)

**April 15—Class: 6: The Arms Race**
- George Kennan, “Containment: Then and Now,” Foreign Affairs (Spring 1987)
- CNN, Cold War, “Sputnik”, Ep. 8
- CNN, Cold War, “MAD”, Ep. 12
- Documents:
  - NSC-68, excerpts.

**April 20—Class 7: Korean War**
- Chen Jian, Chapter 4: “China’s Strategies to End the Korean War, 1950-1951” in Mao’s China and the Cold War, 85-117
- CNN, Cold War, “Korea”, Ep. 5

**April 22—Class 8: Allies**

**April 27—Class 9: Allies**
- CNN, Cold War, “Good Guys Bad Guys”, Ep. 17
- Documents:
  - North Atlantic Treaty

**April 29—Class 10: Cold War in East Asia**
• May 4—Class 11 Resolve: Berlin and Cuba
  o Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis Author(s): Graham T. Allison The American Political Science Review, Vol. 63, No. 3 (Sep., 1969).
  o CNN, Cold War, “Berlin”, Ep. 4
  o CNN, Cold War, “The Wall”, Ep. 9
  o CNN, Cold War, “Cuba”, Ep. 10

• May 6—Class 12: The Vietnam War
  o CNN, Cold War, “Vietnam”, Ep. 11

• May 11—Class 13: The Imperial Presidency
  o Documents:
    - Nixon Veto Statement to WPR

• May 13—Class 14: Détente, Opening to China, and Arms Control
  o CNN, Cold War, “Detente”, Ep. 16
  o CNN, Cold War, “Freeze”, Ep. 19

• May 18—Class 15 The “Second Cold War”
  o The collapse of superpower détente, 1975–1980, Olav Njølstad
  o China and the Cold War after Mao, Chen Jian
  o CNN, Cold War, “Backyard”, Ep. 18
  o CNN, Cold War, “Soldiers of God”, Ep. 19
  o Documents:
    - Carter Doctrine

• May 20—Class 16 Reagan
  o Gaddis, Cold War, “Actors,” pp. 195-236
  o Kirkpatrick, Jeane J. “Dictatorships & Double Standards.”
  o CNN, Cold War, “Star Wars”, Ep. 22
  o Documents:
    - Ronald Reagan’s “Evil Empire” speech (8 March 1983)

• May 25—Class 17 End of the Cold War
- CNN, Cold War, “The Wall Comes Down”, Ep. 22
- CNN, Cold War, “Conclusions”, Ep. 24

**May 27—Class 18 After the Cold War**

**June 1—Class 19: A New Cold War?**

**June 3—Class 20: A New Cold War?**
- Westad, Odd Arne. “The Sources of Chinese Conduct.”
- “US-China relations: Beyond the 'Cold War' cliché” BBC, [here](#).
- Chen Jian, Chapter 10: “Epilogue” Mao’s China and the Cold War (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2001)
- Documents:
  - United States Strategic Framework for the Indo-Pacific, [here](#).