

Syllabus, Culture and the Cold War

1. Course Information

21.512.383

Section 63

Thursdays, 6:00 to 9:00, Conklin 342

Culture and the Cold War

Rutgers University Newark

We will analyze the Cold War and the political and consumer culture associated with the superpower competition. The Cold War was global, so our course must, by definition, have elements of international history, but we will devote special focus to the relationship between the Cold War and American culture.

These are our learning outcomes:

Task	Desired Learning Outcome
Assigned Readings	familiarity with use of primary sources, especially the connections between the author's goals and his or her arguments and his or her method of argumentation
Lectures and Discussions	basic knowledge of Cold War history, recognition of broad patterns of history, familiarity with some common interpretations of Cold War history, and ability to engage critically with others who often do not share the same interpretations of events
Research Essay and Debate	improved skills in synthesizing and communicating historical information, constructing sound arguments, and using the English language demonstrably well

2. Instructor Information

Ray Ojserkis, PhD

ray.ojserkis@gmail.com

Office Hours on Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30, Conklin 326

3. Grading Policy

Attend class. Any student who misses four or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

These are the graded components of your course:

Unannounced Reading Quizzes	25%*
Debate Notes	Cancels two lowest reading quiz grades.
Midterm Exam	25%
Final (non-cumulative) Exam	25%
Research Essay	25%

Quizzes

The unannounced reading quizzes will be short quizzes that you should pass if you're doing the assigned reading. If you are absent or tardy your score for a quiz will be an F unless the absence is excusable. According to the Rutgers catalog, "The recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular

activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions.” Documentation will be required.

Debate

We will discuss the details of the debate in class, and collectively agree on topics and teams.

Exams

Take the exams in the designated session. If you miss an exam for any reason other than those specified in the Rutgers catalog, you will lose a full grade on your make-up exam.

Research Essay

Your research essay will address a question from a list posted to Blackboard.

Your research essay is due on or before the last day of the semester: Wednesday December 10th. We don't have class that day, and you will email me your essay as an attachment (not in the body of the email, please), in MS Word.

I call the essay a “research essay” to emphasize that the quality of your essay is largely dependent upon the quality of your research. Use at least four scholarly articles or published books. The phrase “at least” means you are allowed and encouraged to use more than four sources.

Cite your sources wherever you rely on them, using footnotes, parenthetical notes or end notes. Be very specific when citing a source, using either the Chicago, APA, or MLA format throughout. For details, please consult the [Rutgers Library Guide](#). Cite a source every time you make use of someone's ideas. Failure to do so will result in an F grade for plagiarism.

The length of the essay should be 1,500 to 2,500 words.

4. Classes

Class sessions will be used for examinations, debate, and lectures. For each of the topics listed in the schedule below, I will review terms on a handout that I upload to Blackboard at the start of class. Some of these handouts will include primary reading in addition to that assigned below.

Learning can be a collaborative process, and I will involve the class in discussions. Never feel that your comments or questions aren't appreciated.

5. Primary Sources

Primary sources are first-hand accounts, often created by participants or witnesses of events, and sometimes created by first-recorders of events. Examples include, but aren't limited to, memoirs, speeches, documents, data, polls, and contemporary newspaper accounts. Secondary sources are sources created by people who didn't participate or witness events, but often have the benefit of perspective, and typically draw from a variety of sources to create a nuanced and complex history that can account for multiple interpretations. Examples include history books and lectures.

We'll try to balance the lectures (which are secondary sources) by having numerous primary sources for our out-of-class reading. We will discuss many primary sources in class. If you think it will be difficult to read from the screen in the front of our room, bring printed copies or a laptop that is Internet-accessible.

6. Statement of Academic Integrity

For each exam, and on your research essay, and on your debate notes, you must agree in writing to the following:

“On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination/essay.”

Tentative Calendar

CLASS	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READING
1	Sep 4	Soviet/American Relations Before Cold War	n/a
2	Sep 11	Collapse of the Grand Alliance	X [George Kennan], <i>Sources of Soviet Conduct</i> M. Trachtenberg, <i>The Myth of Potsdam</i> (opens in MS Word)
3	Sep 18	Militarization, Atomic Spies, and McCarthyism	Transcript of <i>Secrets, Lies, and Atomic Spies</i> Christian Anti-Communist Crusade, <i>Two Faces of Communism</i> (click on each panel to turn page)
4	Sep 25	Thermonuclear Era, Space Race, Panic	A. Dobrynin Meeting with R. Kennedy (collection of primary materials edited by J. Hershberg) M. Mann, <i>Plain Facts About Fallout Shelters</i> , (an article in Popular Science) Script, <i>Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb</i>
5	Oct 2	“Peaceful Coexistence”, Aid Race, “Third World”, and Sino-Soviet dispute	N. Khrushchev speech to the CPSU 20th Congress New Evidence on the Cold War in Asia (collection of primary sources with commentary, from Wilson Center) Hint: The second reading is one of the longest, at 46 pages. It may help to start early.
6	Oct 9	Class Debate	Draft debate notes.
7	Oct 16	Propaganda, Espionage, US Civil Rights, Sports, Debates	N. Khrushchev and R. Nixon, “The Kitchen Debate” transcript (also on YouTube, if you prefer) M. Dudziak, <i>Brown as a Cold War Case</i> C. Hill, <i>The Cold War and the Olympic Movement</i>
8	Oct 23	Midterm Exam	n/a
9	Oct 30	Video: Fog of War (discussion and quiz following)	Script: <i>Fog of War</i>
10	Nov 6	New Left, Vietnam War Opposition, Non-Proliferation Treaty	Students for a Democratic Society, <i>Port Huron Statement</i> J. E Hoover, <i>Open Letter to College Students</i>
11	Nov 13	<i>Ostpolitik</i> , <i>Détente</i> , Human Rights, Marxism-Leninism Peaks	W Brandt, <i>Policy Statement (in his Inaugural Address to Bundestag)</i> J. Kirkpatrick, <i>Dictatorships and Double Standards</i>
12	Nov 20	Cold War Reheats, Reagan Doctrine	R. Regan, “Evil Empire” speech Memorandum of Conversation Between Y. Andropov and A. Harriman B. Obama, <i>Breaking the War Mentality</i> (an article by a college senior – included in part due to his current job.)
13	Nov 25	(Class is on Tuesday!) <i>Perestroika</i> , <i>Glasnost</i> , Collapse	M. Gorbachev, <i>Speech to the United Nations, December 1988</i> C. S. Gunther, <i>Gorbachev and Glasnost: Soviet Foreign Policy and the Future</i>

14	Dec 4	Aftermath, Legacies	J.L. Gaddis, <i>Toward the Post-Cold War World</i> E. Fukuyama, <i>End of History</i>
	Dec 10*	Research Essay Due	Wikipedia entry on plagiarism (read before submitting essay)
	Dec 18	Final Exam (6:20pm, in Finals Week)	n/a

*We do not have class this day.