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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Desired Learning Outcome</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assigned Readings</td>
<td>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</td>
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<td>Lectures and Discussions</td>
<td>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</td>
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<td>Research Essay and Debate</td>
<td>improved skills in synthesizing and communicating historical information, constructing sound arguments, and using the English language demonstrably well</td>
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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.”
<table>
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<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNED READING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sep 4</td>
<td>Soviet/American Relations Before Cold War</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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| 2     | Sep 11 | Collapse of the Grand Alliance | X [George Kennan], *Sources of Soviet Conduct*  
M. Trachtenberg, *The Myth of Pax Sordida* (opens in MS Word) |
| 3     | Sep 18 | Militarization, Atomic Spies, and McCarthyism | Transcript of *Secrets, Lies, and Atomic Spies*  
Christian Anti-Communist Crusade, *Two Faces of Communism* (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, *Plain Facts About Fallout Shelters*, (an article in Popular Science)  
Script, *Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* |
| 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. Khruschev and R. Nixon, “The Kitchen Debate” transcript (also on YouTube, if you prefer)  
M. Dudziak, *Brown as a Cold War Case*  
C. Hill, *The Cold War and the Olympic Movement* |
| 8     | Oct 23 | Midterm Exam | n/a |
| 9     | Oct 30 | Video: *Fog of War* (discussion and quiz following) | *Script: Fog of War* |
| 10    | Nov 6  | New Left, Vietnam War Opposition, Non-Proliferation Treaty | Students for a Democratic Society, *Port Huron Statement*  
J. E Hoover, *Open Letter to College Students* |
| 11    | Nov 13 | Ostpolitik, détente, Human Rights, Marxism-Leninism Peaks | W. Brandt, *Policy Statement (in his Inaugural Address to Bundestag)*  
J. Kirkpatrick, *Dictatorships and Double Standards* |
| 12    | Nov 20 | Cold War Reheats, Reagan Doctrine | B. Regan, “Evil Empire” speech  
Memorandum of Conversation Between Y. Andropov and A. Harriman  
B. Obama, *Breaking the War Mentality* (an article by a college senior – included in part due to his current job.) |
| 13    | Nov 25 | (Class is on Tuesday!) *Perestroika, Glasnost, Collapse* | M. Gorbachev, Speech to the United Nations, December 1988  
C. S. Gunther, *Gorbachev and Glasnost: Soviet Foreign Policy and the Future* |
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<tr>
<td>Dec 4</td>
<td>Aftermath, Legacies</td>
<td>J.L. Gaddis, <em>Toward the Post-Cold War World</em> F. Fukuyama, <em>End of History</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 10*</td>
<td>Research Essay Due</td>
<td>Wikipedia entry on plagiarism (read before submitting essay)</td>
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<td>Dec 18</td>
<td>Final Exam (6:20pm, in Finals Week)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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*We do not have class this day.*