

IR 250/POL 248

Imagining Cold War Competition

WHEN: Tuesday and Thursday 2:40-3:55pm

WHERE: Williston 618

INSTRUCTOR: Bryan Nakayama

EMAIL: bnakayam@mtholyoke.edu

OFFICE HOURS: 10am-11:00am Monday & Wednesday and by appointment

OFFICE: Skinner 211



COURSE DESCRIPTION

The development of nuclear weapons and the ascendance of the Soviet Union following World War II led to the rise of an influential class of professionals tasked with managing the contours of American Empire. This course seeks to answer three questions: first, how did these thinkers understand the dynamics of world order and the place of the United States in superpower competition? Second, what were the social, cultural, and political contexts that influenced and underwrote these theories of global domination? And finally, how were these theories put into practice in American foreign policy and with what consequences for competition with the Soviet Union and the rest of the world?

I ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

- ✓ Attendance and Participation 10%
- ✓ Weekly Reading Reaction 20%
- ✓ Midterm 25% 3/10
- ✓ Simulation 10% 4/3
- ✓ Final paper and presentation 35% 5/7 by 12pm

Attendance and Class Participation 10%

Students are expected to arrive in class having read and thought about the assigned materials. Unexcused absences, side conversations, late arrivals, or early departures will detract from your overall participation grade. Being an active participant in class requires both contributing your own perspective as well as carefully listening to and engaging with others. All students are allowed to miss up to two classes without it impacting their grade. Beyond that you must provide a documented reason for missing class otherwise your participation grade will be penalized.

Weekly Reading Response 20%

Thursday evening of each week I will email out a short prompt based on that week's class discussions to which students must write a 1-2 page response. These are due via email by the next class sessions. Responses will be graded based on the quality of their analysis and the specificity with which they reference course readings. No formal citations are necessary. All students will be allowed to miss up to two responses.

Midterm 25% 3/10

The midterm will consist of a five page essay. Instructions and further details will be distributed two weeks in advance of the due date.

Simulation 10% 4/3

On 4/3 we will have a in-class simulation of a meeting of the ExComm during the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Students will be expected to provide recommendations based on their assigned roles. Further details to be distributed two weeks in advance of the simulation.

Presentation and Final Exam 35% 5/7

The final exam for this class will have a presentation and written component. The presentation will be 10-15 minutes and the paper will be 7-8 pages. These will be tied to the question of "Why

did the Cold War end?" Instructions will be distributed three weeks before the first presentation day.

****All written assignments are due via email****

II REQUIRED MATERIALS

This course requires that you purchase three books. Copies of these books are also on reserve at the library.

- William J. Lederer and Eugene Burdick, *The Ugly American* (New York, New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1999)
- Fred Kaplan, *The Wizards of Armageddon* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1991)
- John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: a critical appraisal of American national security policy during the cold war. Rev. and expanded ed.* (New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 2005)

III EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

Assignments and Due Dates

Due dates for assignments will be strictly enforced, **the penalty for an unexcused late assignment is 1/3 of a letter grade per day**. Of course contingencies arise and exceptions to a due date will be granted on a case by case basis. However, **extensions will not be granted after the assignment is due**. In fairness to classmates, students will be required to provide some sort of written documentation for their late work or excused absence from class. Please contact me well ahead of time if you will need an extension or other accomodation. Course incompletes and final paper extensions will be granted in accordance with college policy (See: <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/academicdeans/incompletes-extensions>).

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is critical to a productive learning and classroom environment. All students are expected to make a good faith effort to complete their assignments with *fairness* and *honesty*. Not only is academic dishonesty unfair to your classmates, it also limits your own ability to learn and develop critical faculties. Using proper citation and attribution practices is critical to respecting the work of others and demonstrating the hard work you are doing.

In this class there will be a zero tolerance policy for cases of plagiarism. Therefore, assignments that plagiarize other sources will garner an automatic F grade. Repeated instances of plagiarism

will result in an F grade for the course. We will briefly discuss what constitutes plagiarism at the beginning of the semester, I also encourage all students to utilize the “Proper Use of Sources Tutorial” provided by LITs: <https://sites.google.com/a/mtholyoke.edu/proper-use-of-sources-mhc/home/>

Fostering a Positive Classroom Environment

Effective learning can only occur in a positive classroom environment, therefore we have a shared responsibility in ensuring that everyone in the class feels welcome to contribute. Over the course of this class we will be discussing issues of war and violence and oftentimes it is easy to forget the real human suffering involved in these events. Therefore, it is incumbent on us to continually recognize that we are talking about things and events that impacted real people and speak about them with due respect. Everyone enters the classroom with their own unique perspective and relationship to historical events. Events that seem historically abstract to you may have involved the family or friends of a classmate. It is critical that we take care to recognize this as we go through class.

On the first day of class we will engage in an activity to develop a shared set of norms for conduct in the classroom. These norms will be posted to the Moodle with the expectation that all students abide by them for the semester.

If students have any concerns about the conduct of class please do not hesitate to contact me by email, online anonymous comment box (<https://goo.gl/forms/IbogL1YXv3ZksMBU2>), or in office hours.

Alternative Accommodations

All students are welcome in class and should provide reasonable notice to myself for any potential alternative accommodations needed.

Email Policy

When emailing me regarding the course please include in the subject line the course number and a short description of your query. I will only respond to emails between the hours of 7am-9pm, please plan accordingly for urgent queries.

Recording Policy

With the exception of an AccessAbility accommodation, all audio/visual recording of class sessions is expressly prohibited.

If and When Problems Arise

While I expect students to come to every class prepared and ready to engage in discussion I also realize that life has many complications. University approved reasons for missing due dates or classes will be honored given proper documentation. If life throws you a curveball that will impact your ability to succeed in class I strongly recommend that you contact me immediately so we can work out a solution. On innumerable occasions students have missed opportunities to do better in class by failing to communicate with me. My role is to be an educator and not a disciplinarian, so please get in touch with me the moment you know you will have difficulty fulfilling course requirements.

IV CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

1/23: Introductions

Issues at the Beginning

1/25: What comes after the war?

John Lewis Gaddis, *The United States and the origins of the Cold War, 1941-1947* (New York, New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), 1-62

1/30: What will be the meaning of air power and the atomic bomb?

George Orwell, *You and the Atomic Bomb*, October 19, 1945

Selections from *One World or None: A Report to the Public on the Full Meaning of the Atomic Bomb*

Paul S. Boyer, *By the bomb's early light : American thought and culture at the dawn of the atomic age* (New York, New York: Pantheon, 1985), 3-26, 76-81

Carl Schmitt and G. L. Ulmen, *The nomos of the earth in the international law of the Jus Publicum Europaeum* (New York, New York: Telos Press, 2003), 351-355

John H Herz, "RISE AND DEMISE OF THE TERRITORIAL STATE," *World Politics* 9, no. 4 (1957): 473-493

Strategy and Structure

2/1: Mr. Kennan and Mr. X

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: a critical appraisal of American national security policy during the cold war. Rev. and expanded ed.* (New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 1-52

X., "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," *Foreign Affairs* 65, no. 4 (1987): 852–868

The Long Telegram, <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu//coldwar/documents/episode-1/kennan.htm>

2/6: The "Cold War" and a dissenting voice

Walter Lippmann, *The Cold War: A Study in U.S. Foreign Policy* (New York, New York: Harper, 1947)

2/8: Atomic initiates

Fred Kaplan, *The Wizards of Armageddon* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1991), 9-73

Daniel Ellsberg, *The doomsday machine : confessions of a nuclear war planner* (New York, New York: Bloomsbury, 2017), 23-40

2/13: Meanwhile...Geopolitics

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: a critical appraisal of American national security policy during the cold war. Rev. and expanded ed.* (New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 53-124

Selections from NSC-68

2/15: Omnipotence/Impotence

Fred Kaplan, *The Wizards of Armageddon* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1991), 74-110

Selections from Albert Wohlsetter et al., *Selection and Use of Strategic Air Bases* (Santa Monica: RAND Corporation, 1999)

2/20: The All-Seeing Eye

Selections from Meron E. Davies and William R. Harris, *RAND's Role in the Evolution of Balloon and Satellite Observation Systems and Related U.S. Space Technology* (Santa Monica, California: Rand Corporation, 1988)

Paul Kecskemeti, *RM-567 The Satellite Rocket Vehicle: Political and Psychological Problems* (Santa Monica, California: RAND Corporation, 1950)

2/22: The New Look

Selections from *NSC 162/2*

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: a critical appraisal of American national security policy during the cold war. Rev. and expanded ed.* (New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 125-196

Interregnum: Cold War life

2/27: Nuclear Families

Elaine Tyler May, "Cold War—Warm Hearth: Politics and the Family in Postwar America," in *The Rise and Fall of the New Deal Order, 1930–1980* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1989), 41-53

Sarah A. Lichtman, *Do-It-Yourself Security: Safety, Gender, and the Home Fallout Shelter in Cold War America*, 39–55

E. T. May, "Security against Democracy: The Legacy of the Cold War at Home," *Journal of American History* 97, no. 4 (March 2011): 939–957

3/1: Manchurian Candidates

Ellen Schrecker, "McCarthyism: Political Repression and the Fear of Communism," 71 (2004): 1041–1086

Susan L. Carruthers, "'The Manchurian Candidate' (1962) and the Cold War brainwashing scare," *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television* 18, no. 1 (March 1998): 75–94

Richard M. Fried, "Springtime for Stalin in Mosinee," in *The Russians Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming! Pagaentry and Patriotism in Cold-War America* (New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 1992), 67–86

3/6: Imagining the End

Michael Mandelbaum, "The Bomb, Dread, and Eternity," *International Security* 5, no. 2 (1980): 3–23

Paul Brians, "The History of Nuclear War in Fiction," in *Nuclear Holocausts: Atomic War in Fiction*

Minding the Gap

3/8: Decolonization and the Invention of the Third World

Selections from O.A. Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (New York, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Selections from Thomas. Borstelmann, *The Cold War and the color line : American race relations in the global arena* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001)

3/13 & 3/15 Spring Break!!!!

3/20: The Problem with SE Asia

William J. Lederer and Eugene Burdick, *The Ugly American* (New York, New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1999)

3/22: Doubling Down on Danger

Fred Kaplan, *The Wizards of Armageddon* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1991), 111-184

Massive retaliation speech http://www.nuclearfiles.org/menu/key-issues/nuclear-weapons/history/cold-war/strategy/article-dulles-retaliation_1954-01-12.htm

Albert Wohstetter, *The Delicate Balance of Terror*, December 1958

3/27: Rationalizing the Irrational

Fred Kaplan, *The Wizards of Armageddon* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1991), 185-247

Lawrence Freedman, *The Evolution of Nuclear Strategy*, vol. Third (New York, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003), 165-178

3/29: MADness

Selections from Thomas C. Schelling, *Arms and influence* (New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press), 331

Selections from Robert Jervis, *The meaning of the nuclear revolution : statecraft and the prospect of Armageddon* (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1989), 266

4/3: Cuban Missile Crisis Simulation

Reading materials and assignment details TBD after enrollment stabilizes.

4/5: Two Crises and the Myth of the Gap

Fred Kaplan, *The Wizards of Armageddon* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1991), 248-327

4/10: The Many Meanings of Vietnam

Jerome Slater, "The Domino Theory and International Politics: The Case of Vietnam," *Security Studies* 3, no. 2 (1993): 186–224

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: a critical appraisal of American national security policy during the cold war. Rev. and expanded ed.* (New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 235-271

Fred Kaplan, *The Wizards of Armageddon* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1991), 328-342

Cracks in the Foundations

4/13: Divide and Conquer

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: a critical appraisal of American national security policy during the cold war. Rev. and expanded ed.* (New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 272-341

4/17: New Technologies

Fred Kaplan, *The Wizards of Armageddon* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1991), 343-391

4/19: Sanitizing the future

Matthew Connelly et al., "“General, I Have Fought Just as Many Nuclear Wars as You Have”: Forecasts, Future Scenarios, and the Politics of Armageddon.," *American Historical Review* 117, no. 5 (2012): 1431–1460

Carol Cohn, "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals," *Signs* 12, no. 4 (1987): 687–718

4/24 & 4/26 In class presentations and debate: Why did the Cold War end?

5/7: Final paper due via email by noon