Swarthmore College
Department of History

History 1J
Spring, 2002
Professor M. Murphy
Hrs.W 2-4
Trotter 211 ext. 8091

First Year Seminar: The Cold War Era

The opening of the former Soviet Union archives has created a firestorm of historical debate concerning the politics of the Cold War. This seminar will focus on that debate and the new scholarship introduced into the hotly contested issues of: McCarthyism, Isolationism and Containment, the Korean war, Truman's issuance of the Loyalty Oath, Eisenhower's leadership, the CIA's role in Guatemala, Iran, Cuba and Nicaragua. Domestic politics—especially the rise of suburbia, the emergence of television and the subsequent transformation of the movie industry, the baby boom and the call for domesticity—provide us with a portrait of postwar America. Utilizing new archival material and basic primary sources as well as the newest literature, this course promises to introduce an overall historiography of the cold war which reflects the dynamic and dramatic changes over the last three years.

Seminars provide an excellent opportunity to explore a subject in depth. The reading in this course may therefore be heavier than you expected. Be sure to explore the assigned readings and understand your assignment before you begin reading. Because we are looking at the debates on various topics you have two basic assignments: one, to read the primary documents and two, to read the historiographic essays. These essays provide an interpretive view of what happened. In each case you should be prepared to summarize the author's argument and explain how it fits into your overall view of the cold war.

Assignments:
Bibliographies: For each class you will prepare an annotated bibliography. For reference you should see: Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations or the Chicago Manual of Style. Two rules apply to the idea of a bibliography, make it simple and be sure that references are easy to check by other scholars. After each entry summarize your source, explain who, what, when, where, how and why in concise sentences (not more than three). Describe any special circumstances surrounding your source and comment on its application (ie, this is an excellent summary for theses writing). Your bibliography will be no more than one page per class. You should revise this bibliography and hand it in at the end of the semester so keep all your entries in one file. (20% part graded on weekly basis and part on final product). To obtain book reviews you should use the Journal of American History, Diplomatic History and Reviews in American History; use J-Stor through the library.

Seminar papers. In addition to the weekly reading you will be asked to read three or four other sources for your seminar paper which is due in draft form during separate weeks of the semester. This paper should be 5-7 pages in length and should thoroughly explore the monographs and articles you have read as well as integrate this material into the common readings of the class. You will provide copies of your essay to members of the class in advance in the morning before noon on Thursday. A printed copy of the draft is due in my office at that time. You will have a chance to revise your
paper at the end of the semester and you are urged to take notes during the discussion of your paper in seminar. Also, you will be responsible for helping a colleague revise their paper. (60% = 30% original draft, 5% for your revision suggestions and 25% for your revised paper) Finally, because this is a reading seminar, you are responsible for the common readings of the class, some of you will be designated as discussion leaders for classes. (15%) If you fail to have done the reading you will lose credit, which you may make up by diligently participating in subsequent classes. However, if you do not keep up with the reading your performance in seminar may erode your graded paper work. (5%). It goes without saying that if you miss one session of the seminar, you have missed a weeks worth of work; if you miss more than one session your grade will deteriorate accordingly.


Calendar of Classes

**Week 1**  The origins of the Cold War  September 5th

World War II and the Post-War Settlement

Reading: Thomas G. Paterson, *Major Problems, volume II*. Read the basic documents generated by the war,

Written: One page summary of documents.

**Week 2**  The Historiography of the Cold War  September 12th


Assignment: Historiography: Using one of the suggested readings on pg. 268 of the reading, try your own hand at writing a two page analysis of the traditionalist-revisionist debate; you may also use two of the historians you have read in the general reading and explain how the authors differ in their approach, subject matter and philosophy of history. Write the essay as a first draft, include in it your thoughts about what is confusing in the debate, who is annoying you, why you think that is so and does it matter.

**Week 3**  Theories of History  September 19th


ch 1 and footnotes for additional sources. 2. George F. Kennan, American Diplomacy; Around the Cragged Hill; pick one other; John Lewis Gaddis, Strategies of Containment; The View From Inside; We Now Know; pick one other; Michael Hunt, Ideology and US Foreign Policy, ch 1.

Week 4 The Fifties: The Culture and Politics of The Nuclear Age
September 26th

Reading: Shane J. Maddock, The Nuclear Age
David Halberstam, The Fifties, Part 1

Seminar papers: Using the bibliography in the readings, devise the bibliography for your seminar paper.

Week 5 The Age of McCarthyism
October 3rd

Reading: Ellen Schrecker: The Age of McCarthyism: A Brief History with Documents.
Seminar papers: Using the bibliography in the readings, devise the bibliography for your seminar paper.

Week 6 The Cold War in the Fifties and the Sixties
October 10th

Reading: E.L. Doctorow, The Book of Daniel
Seminar papers: topics from the previous bibliographies and certainly a seminar paper on the Rosenberg case.

October 11-20th Fall Break

Week 7 The Home front of the Cold War
October 24th

Reading: Barbara Ehrenreich, The Hearts of Men.
Seminar papers: topics from the bibliography, cultural and social history.

Week 8 International Crisis: 1950-1960
October 31st
Reading: LaFeber, America, Russia and the Cold War ch. 5-10.
Seminar papers: For bibliographies use LaFeber and Paterson, Major Problems, vol. II. Topics include: China, Korea, the Middle East, Guatemala, and Cuba

Week 9 The Viet Nam War
November 7th.
Assignment: View three videos of the Stanley Karnow series on the Vietnam War in the library. (finish reading LaFeber, Schlesinger and begin Hunt).
Seminar papers: Use the reference section of the library; be sure not to aim at the general issues of the war, carefully select an issue, ie LBJ and the Escalation; Protests to the War.

Week 10 The End of the Cold War
November 14th
Assignment: Michael J. Hogan, *The End of the Cold War: Its Meaning and Implications*
Seminar papers: Use the bibliography, pp 271-275 only.

Week 11. John Wayne and Cold War Iconography November 21st
Movie: *Rio Grande*
Assignment: Paper revisions.

Week 12 Paper Revision Session December 5th
Week 13 Final Revised Papers and Bibliographies Due
December 10th