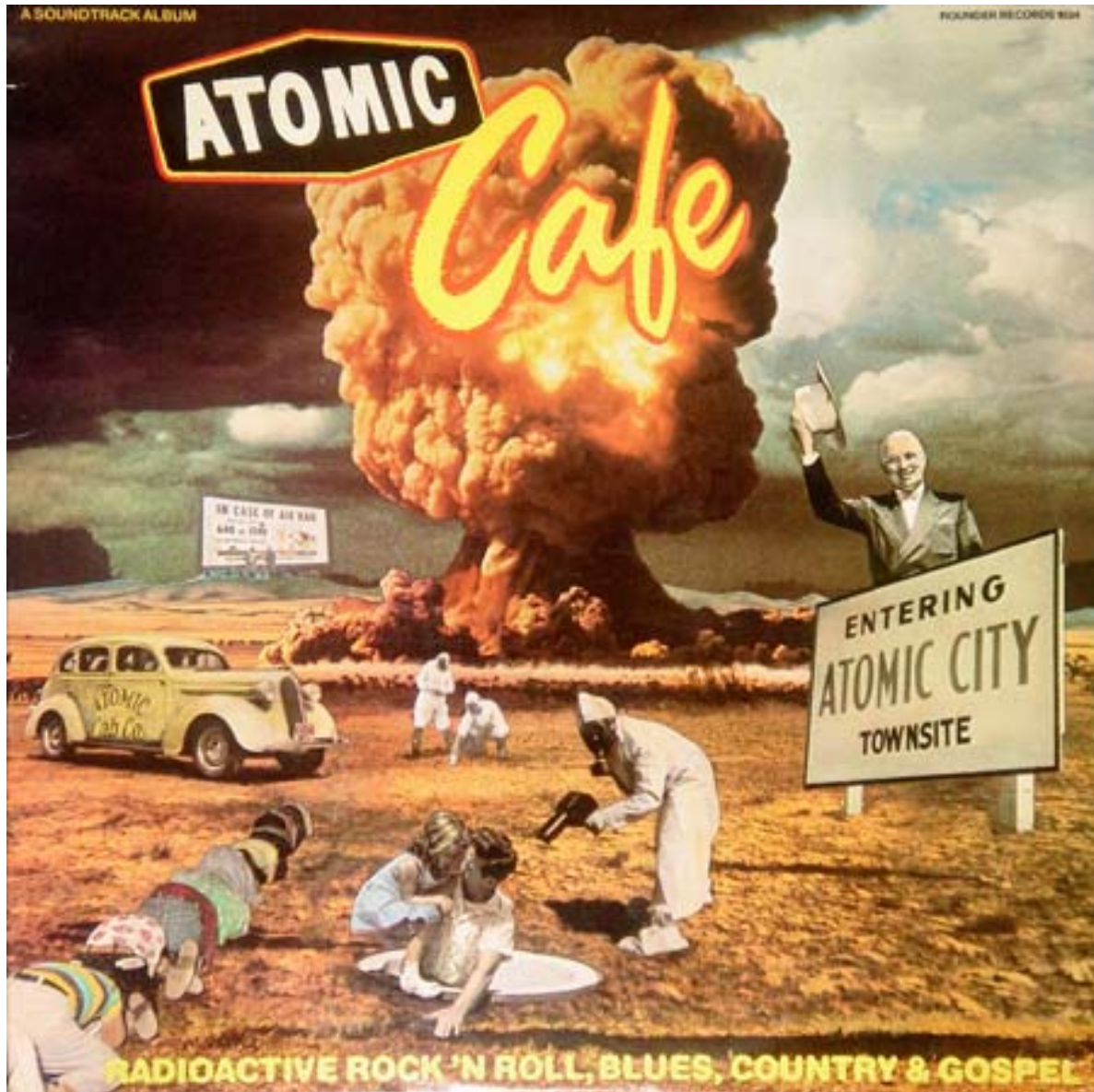


University of Georgia
Spring 2008

The United States in the Era of the Cold War



History 4092
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00-6:15pm / LeConte Hall 230

Instructor Information

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Course Description

This course will examine the history of the United States from the end of World War II to the present. The focus of the course will be the various ways in which the Cold War—the international rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union—dominated American foreign policy and shaped American politics, society, and culture for more than four decades. Course topics will include the legacy of World War II, the moral implications of the atomic bombings of Japan, the contested origins of the Cold War, the Red Scare and the Cold War culture of the 1950s, the relationship between world affairs and the civil rights movement, the lessons of the Vietnam War, the fracturing of American society in the 1960s, the failure of détente under Jimmy Carter, the resurgence of the Cold War under Ronald Reagan, the unexpected conclusion of the Cold War, and the major challenges of the post-Cold War era. Class sessions will include a blend of lecture and discussion and will often incorporate film clips and other audio/visual material.

Required Texts*

- Robert A. Divine, *Eisenhower and the Cold War*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981.
- Robert Griffith and Paul Baker, eds. *Major Problems in American History since 1945*, 3rd Edition. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006.
- Michael Herr, *Dispatches*. New York: Vintage Books, 1991.
- John Hersey, *Hiroshima*. New York: Vintage Books, 1989.
- Paul Kengor, *The Crusader: Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2006.
- Melvyn Leffler, *The Specter of Communism: The United States and the Origins of the Cold War, 1917-1953*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1994.
- Jonathan Rosenberg, *How Far the Promised Land: World Affairs and the American Civil Rights Movement from the First World War to Vietnam*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006.
- Stephen J. Whitfield, *The Culture of the Cold War*, 2nd Edition. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996.

*All of these books will be available at the UGA bookstore, but nearly all of them are available for purchase online at far cheaper prices than the prices in the bookstore. A good place to search for inexpensive books online is www.BookFinder.com.

Grading

Students will be graded on the following:

Attendance and Class Participation:	15%
Weekly Reading Responses:	15%
3 Short Papers:	45%
Final Exam:	25%

The grading scale is 94-100 = A, 90-93 = A-, 87-89 = B+, 84-86 = B, 80-83 = B-, 77-79 = C+, 74-76 = C, 70-73 = C-, 67-69 = D+, 60-66 = D, and 0-59 = F.

Attendance and Class Participation:

Although this course will be primarily lecture-based, nearly every class session will include a discussion component in which students will be invited to comment on the readings and various course topics. Students must complete the reading assignment for the week before class on Tuesday and must be prepared to discuss the readings in depth. Attendance is mandatory at all class sessions, and the student's attendance record will be taken into consideration when determining the Attendance/Class Participation grade. The Attendance/Class Participation grade will constitute 15% of the final grade.

Weekly Reading Responses:

Each week students will be expected to read and analyze a substantial quantity of reading material. To facilitate this process, students will be required to submit a one-page response to the week's assigned reading. Reading responses will be due in-class on Tuesday and will be scored on a $\sqrt{}$, $\sqrt{-}$ scale ($\sqrt{}$ = full credit; $\sqrt{-}$ = partial credit). The total score for all reading responses will constitute 15% of the final grade.

Short Papers

There will be four short paper assignments given over the course of the semester. Each student must complete **three** of these papers and may choose which three he/she would like to do. The papers will be 4 pages in length. Late papers will not be accepted. Each paper will constitute 15% of the final grade.

Final Exam

There will be a final exam at the end of the semester, which will be a combination of short answer questions and longer essay questions. Exam questions will be drawn from lectures, class discussions, and weekly reading assignments and will cover material from the entire course. The final exam will each be worth 25% of the final grade.

Classroom Etiquette

As your instructor, I will strive to ensure that the lectures and class discussions are well-organized, informative, and engaging. In return, I ask that you treat the classroom with great respect. To this end, I require that you arrive to class on time, stay awake and in your seat for the entire class period, refrain from eating in class, turn off all cell phones before entering the

room, and avoid extraneous conversations and all other forms of distracting behavior. Students who fail to abide by these guidelines will lose points from their Class Participation grade.

Honor Code

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible to inform themselves about these standards before performing any academic work.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One: Course Introduction

Reading: *Introductory Essays* (To Be Announced)

Week Two: World War II and the Dawn of the Nuclear Age

Reading: Hersey, *Hiroshima*.
Major Problems. 37-57

Writing: Reading Response (Due in Class on Tuesday)

Week Three: The Contested Origins of the Cold War

Reading: Melvyn Leffler, *The Specter of Communism*.
Major Problems. 96-118.

Writing: Reading Response (Due in Class on Tuesday)
Paper Option #1 (Due Friday, August 29)

Week Four: The Escalation of the Cold War

Reading: Allan M. Winkler, *Life Under a Cloud: American Anxiety about the Atom*. 57-83. (Available on Course Website)
Robert A. Divine, *Eisenhower and the Cold War*. 1-70, 105-155.

Writing: Reading Response (Due in Class on Tuesday)

Week Five: The Red Scare

Reading: Stephen J. Whitfield, *The Culture of the Cold War*. 1-100.
Essays from *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in American History*, 285-310 (Available on Course Website).

Writing: Reading Response (Due in Class on Tuesday)

Week Six: Conformity and Consumption: American Society in the 1950s.

Reading: Stephen J. Whitfield, *The Culture of the Cold War*. 101-178

Allan M. Winkler, *Life Under a Cloud: American Anxiety about the Atom*. 84-135.

Writing: Reading Response (Due in Class on Tuesday)
Paper Option #2 (Due on Friday, September 26)

Week Seven: International Affairs and The Early Civil Rights Movement

Reading: Rosenberg, *How Far the Promised Land*. 131-213.
Writing: Reading Response (Due in Class on Tuesday)

Week Eight: Kennedy's Cold War

Reading: *Major Problems*. 183-212.
Writing: Reading Response (Due in Class on Tuesday)

Week Nine: The Vietnam War

Reading: Michael Herr, *Dispatches*.
Writing: Reading Response (Due in Class on Tuesday)

Week Ten: The Fracturing of Society: America in the 1960s.

Reading: Rosenberg, *How Far the Promised Land*. 214-234.
Essays (To Be Announced)
Writing: Reading Response (Due in Class on Tuesday)
Paper Option #3 (Due on Friday, October 24)

Week Eleven: Carter and the Failure of Détente

Reading: Excerpts from Gaddis Smith, *Morality, Reason, and Power: American Diplomacy in the Carter Years* (Available on Course Website)
Paul Kengor, *The Crusader*. 40-72.
Writing: Reading Response (Due in Class on Tuesday)

Week Twelve: Ronald Reagan and the New Cold War

Reading: Paul Kengor, *The Crusader*. 73-189.
Writing: Reading Response (Due in Class on Tuesday)

Week Thirteen: The End of the Cold War (I)

Reading: Paul Kengor, *The Crusader*. 190-315.
Writing: Reading Response (Due in Class on Tuesday)

Week Fourteen: The End of the Cold War (II)

Reading: Major Problems. 514-521.
Essays Debating the End of the Cold War (Available on Course Website)

Writing: Reading Response (Due in Class on Tuesday)
Paper Option #4 (Due on Friday, November 21)

Week Fifteen: Thanksgiving Break

Week Sixteen: The Major Challenges of the Post Cold War Era

Reading: Essays (To Be Announced)

Writing: Reading Response (Due in Class on Tuesday)

Week Seventeen: Review for Final

Final Exam