History 630:
Cold War United States and the World

This course will introduce a range of cultural, racial, gender, and political discourses concerning the Cold War. The United States has become an unprecedented superpower since World War II. We will pay particular attention to how the US Cold War policies affected the United States domestically and around the globe. In addition, we will go beyond the world view of the United States and investigate how and why the ideology of battling communism was not prioritized by numerous Third World countries.

Course Objectives: In this course, students are expected to learn the knowledge and skills listed as follows:
1. To become informed about the major debates and theories in the Cold War history.
2. To develop an ability to form historical arguments and learn how to glean data from primary and secondary sources and weigh the reliability of such sources.
3. To understand historical relationships, including cause-and-effect that affects continuity and change.
4. To develop critical thinking, reading, and writing skills in analyzing and understanding primary and secondary sources that explain major developments in the Cold War history.
5. To develop presentation and discussion-leading skills in presenting and discussing history.
6. To cultivate an ability to work in a group and to give constructed criticism and responses in a scholarly community.
7. To recognize diverse perspectives, cultures, peoples, and histories around the globe.

Required Texts:
Articles on Blackboard

Recommended Readings:
Thomas Borsttelmann, *The Cold War and the Color Line*
Pual Boyer, *By the Bomb’s Early Light*
Charlotte Brooks, *Alien Neighbors, Foreign Friends*
Stephanie Coontz, *The Way We Never Were*
Tanya Harmer, *Allende’s Chile and the Inter-American Cold War*
Andrew Kohut, *America Against the World*
Kevin Kruse, *White Flight*
Richard Kuisel, *Seducing the French*
Douglas Little, *American Orientalism*
Robert McMahon, *The Limits of Empire*
Katharine Moon, *Sex Among Allies*
Robert D. Dean, *Imperial Brotherhood*

**Requirements:**

1. **Class Participation (10%)**: Students are required to attend all classes, except in cases of illness and emergency. (If you are sick, please do not come to class. You don’t need to provide me with a doctor’s note if you are ill.) I will pass around a sign-in sheet at the beginning of each class. Students are expected to complete the weekly reading assignments and actively participate in discussions.

2. **Discussing Leading (15%)**: Each student is required to present one week’s required reading and generate at least 10 interesting and, preferably, controversial discussion questions and distribute them one week in advance through blackboard.

3. **Weekly Critical Reviews (30%)**: Students are expected to turn in 2-3 page double-spaced critical reviews of the assigned readings, due every week in class. Each review needs to address the following questions.
   a. What is the thesis of the book?
   b. What new ideas or theories does the book introduce?
   c. What kind of primary sources does the author use?
   d. How does the author substantiate her/his argument?
   e. What is your evaluation of the author’s idea/argument?

4. **Presentation (10%)**: 10-15 minute presentation on a book listed under **Recommended Readings**. The presentation should summarize the main argument of the book and make a connection to the required reading of the week.

5. **A 15-20-Page Historiographical Essay (35%)**: You are required to write a well-organized and well-written essay about the evolution of one aspect of Cold War history in which you have an interest. The essay should include at least 4-5 books that cover the major debates of the chosen topic.

6. Late papers will receive half credit, and will not be accepted later than the Friday of the week in which they are due. No make-ups without prior permission. No incompletes will be given for the course. Students are responsible for retaining a copy of each of their papers.

7. All students must regularly access their SDSU email accounts for class announcements and information.

8. Academic integrity is expected of every student. See the *SDSU General Catalogue* for more information.

9. If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid
any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

10. The professor reserves the right to modify the syllabus during the semester. Always feel free to come to my office hours for any course-related questions.

Schedule

1/26  Introduction to the course

**The Making of the Cold War**

2/2  Reading: White “Cold War Historiography”; Gladdis, *We Now Know*, pp.1-112

2/9  Reading: Gladdis, *We Now Know*, finish

2/16  Gender and Family
Reading: Cuordileone, “Politics in an Age of Anxiety”; Rosenberg, “Consuming Women”; Rosales, “Macho Nation?”; *May, Homeward Bound*, pp 1-38

2/23  Reading: May, *Homeward Bound*, pp. 39-finish

3/1  Race and Ethnicity
Reading: Yeh, *In the Traditions of China and in the Freedom of America*; Arnesen, “Civil rights and the Cold War at Home”; Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights*, pp.3-78

3/8  Reading: Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights*, pp.79-finish

3/15  The Rise of Conservatism

3/22  Reading: *McGirr, Suburban Warriors, pp.111-Finish*

3/29  Spring Break, no class

4/5  US Military

4/12  Public and Cultural Diplomacy

4/19  Policy
LeFeber, *Inevitable Revolution*

4/25  Anti-Americanism
Reading: McPherson, *Yankee No!*

5/3  Student Presentation (**Final Paper Due**)