

## HISTORY 311

Dickinson College / Spring 2024

Tue / Thu 1030am

Classroom: Denny 211

URL: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/hist-coldwar>

## Cold War America

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"In these circumstances it is clear that the main element of any United States policy toward the Soviet Union must be that of a long-term, patient but firm and vigilant containment of Russian expansive tendencies."

--George Kennan, "Sources of Soviet Conduct," 1947

## Books

- John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment* (Oxford, Rev. Ed. 2005)

## Additional Readings & Resources

- *Alpha History: Cold War* (2018-23) [WEB]
- Dickinson student projects (HIST 204): Herzfeld // Nelkin
- Mary L. Dudziak, "Brown as a Cold War Case," *JAH* 91 (June 2004): 32-42 [JSTOR]
- Paul Frazier, "The Venona Project and Cold War Espionage," *OAH Magazine of History* 24 (Oct. 2010): 35-39. [JSTOR]
- Francis Fukuyama, "End of History?" *National Interest* (Summer 1989): 3-18 [JSTOR]
- George Kennan, "Long Telegram," February 22, 1946 [WEB]
- X [Kennan], "Sources of Soviet Conduct," *Foreign Affairs* 25 (Jul 1947): 566-82 [JSTOR]
- Walter LaFeber, "The Constitution and United States Foreign Policy: An Interpretation," *Journal of American History* 74 (Dec. 1987): 695-717. [JSTOR]
- Living Room Candidate, Select TV ads, 1952-68, Museum of the Moving Image [WEB]
- Joseph Locke and Ben Wright, eds., *The American Yawp* (Stanford University Press, 2023-24 ed.) [WEB]
- Elaine Tyler May, "Security Against Democracy: The Legacy of the Cold War at Home," *Journal of American History* 97 (March 2011): 939-57 [JSTOR]
- Cuban Missile Crisis, *National Security Archive*, George Washington University [WEB]
- Martin J. Sherwin, "Hiroshima as Politics and History," *Journal of American History* 82 (Dec. 1995): 1085-93. [JSTOR]
- Naoka Shibusawa, "The Lavender Scare and Empire: Rethinking Cold War Antigay Politics," *Diplomatic History* 36 (Sept. 2012): 723-52 [JSTOR]

## Course Policies

Attendance is expected and participation will be evaluated and count toward final grades. Those who miss class for any reason must also email a short reflection (about a paragraph or two) on the missed reading assignment within a week of the absence. For further details on course policies, including those regarding electronics, accommodations for disabilities, plagiarism, and general learning objectives, please consult the course website: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/hist-coldwar/course-policies>

## First Essay –Origins of Cold War

On **Monday, March 4**, students will submit a 3-5 page typed, double-spaced essay on the origins of the Cold War from a question provided to them in class on Thursday, Feb. 29. All essays must feature source material from the course site, including the Gaddis book, properly cited using Chicago-style footnotes. Outside research is allowed but not required. Additional information will be available on the annotated assignment guidelines at the course site. Essays will be graded on depth of analysis, use of evidence, and quality of prose. Late essays will be penalized up to 5 points each day.

## **Second Essay –Global Cold War**

On **Monday, April 8**, students will submit a 3-5 page typed, double-spaced essay on a topic about the global Cold War during the 1950s and 1960s provided to them in class on Thursday, April 4. All essays must feature source material from the course site, including the Gaddis book, properly cited using Chicago-style footnotes. Outside research is allowed but not required. Additional information will be available on the annotated assignment guidelines at the course site. Essays will be graded on depth of analysis, use of evidence, and quality of prose. Late essays will be penalized up to 5 points each day.

## **Final Web Projects**

The highlight of this semester will be a website project that students will undertake to explain the contributions of an American figure in shaping or illustrating aspects of the Cold War era. Subjects might include US diplomats or politicians who helped define the period 1945 to 1991, or ordinary Americans whose lives were shaped by Cold War developments in that timeframe. By **Monday, April 29**, students must submit an 8- to 10-page essay on their subject, relying on a range of primary and secondary sources, and employing Chicago-style footnotes. All essays should address some key element of Cold War historiography or interpretation. Papers will receive provisional or temporary grades. By **Thursday, May 9**, students should revise this essay and transform it into a website on the free platform Weebly. Each website should include an array of properly credited and captioned images as well as at least one embedded short video (about 1 to 2 minutes). Additional information will be available on the annotated assignment guidelines at the course site. Projects will be graded on depth of analysis, research and design effort, and quality of prose. Late project submissions will be penalized 5 points per day.

## **Grade Distribution**

Class Participation	20 percent
First Essay (Origins of Cold War)	25 percent
Second Essay (Global Cold War)	25 percent
Final web projects	30 percent

Day	Date	Discussion Topic	Reading Assignment
Tuesday	1/23	Methods & Expectations	
Thursday	1/25	World War II overview	Yawp, chap 24
Tuesday	1/30	Case study: Enola Gay exhibit	Sherwin article
Thursday	2/1	Cold War overview	Yawp, chap 25 + Alpha History
Tuesday	2/6	Kennan documents	Long Telegram + X article
Thursday	2/8	Origins of Containment	Gaddis, chap 1
Tuesday	2/13	Containment doctrine	Gaddis, chap 2
Thursday	2/15	Truman & Containment	Alpha: Truman Doctrine // Marshall Plan // Berlin Blockade // NATO
Tuesday	2/20	Symmetry and Asymmetry	Gaddis, chap 3
Thursday	2/22	Case study: Atomic spies	Frazier article
Tuesday	2/27	NSC-68 and Korea	Gaddis, chap 4
Thursday	2/29	Case study: McCarthyism	Dickinson projects: Herzfeld + Nelkin
<b>Monday</b>	<b>3/4</b>	<b>Origins of Cold War essay due</b>	<b>By 5pm</b>
Tuesday	3/5	Case study: Civil Rights	Dudziak chapter
Thursday	3/7	Case study: Lavender Scare	Shibusawa article
Tuesday	3/12	NO CLASS –SPRING BREAK	
Thursday	3/14	NO CLASS –SPRING BREAK	
Tuesday	3/19	New Look	Gaddis, chap 5
Thursday	3/21	Eisenhower and Dulles	Gaddis, chap 6
Tuesday	3/26	Flexible Response	Gaddis, chap 7
Thursday	3/28	Case study: Cuban Missile Crisis	GW National Security Archives
Thursday	3/28	LECTURE: Harold Holzer	Stern Great Room, 7pm
Tuesday	4/2	Vietnam and the Cold War	Gaddis, chap 8
Thursday	4/4	Case study: TV ads, 1952-68	Living Room Candidate
<b>Monday</b>	<b>4/8</b>	<b>Global Cold War essay due</b>	<b>By 5pm</b>
Tuesday	4/9	Détente	Gaddis, chap 9
Thursday	4/11	Imperial Presidency	Gaddis, chap 10
Tuesday	4/16	End of Cold War	Gaddis, chap 11
Thursday	4/18	Case study: Reagan & Gorbachev	Suri article
Tuesday	4/23	Fear and the Legacy of Cold War	May article
Thursday	4/25	Cold War and Constitution	LaFeber article
<b>Monday</b>	<b>4/29</b>	<b>Final project essays due</b>	<b>By 5pm</b>
Tuesday	4/30	End of History?	Fukuyama article
Thursday	5/2	Lessons & Legacies	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5/9</b>	<b>Final Web Projects due</b>	<b>By 5pm</b>