

POL SCI 142D: US Foreign Policy I: Globalism and Cold War

Dr. Timothy Turnbull

Spring 2022

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Class Hours: T/Th 5:00-6:20pm
Class Room: SH 128

Course Description

From the end of WWII in 1945, to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, global politics was dominated by superpower competition between the United States and the Soviet Union. While relations between the two nations did not deteriorate into open hostilities, and thus they remained locked in a “cold” war, this competition was central to all foreign policy decisions made by both states during this time period.

In this course, we will cover the history of US foreign policy during the Cold War. We will begin by examining early US-USSR relations in the immediate aftermath of WWI and the Bolshevik Revolution. We will move our focus to WWII and the post-war settlements that set the stage for the Cold War. We will then cover the period from the early 1950s to the late 1960s, which saw a major conflict on the Korean Peninsula, two significant changes in the leadership of the Soviet Union, a major split in the global communist movement, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and deepening US involvement in Vietnam. From here, we will move on to discuss the paradoxical period of the 1970s, in which US-USSR relations entered a period of détente and yet proxy conflicts in the global periphery in which both nations were involved proliferated. Following this, we will examine the rise of US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev and their respective impacts on the late period of the Cold War. Finally, we will examine how the Cold War ended and briefly cover the state of US-Russia relations in the post-Cold War period, with a particular focus on the tensions underlying the current crisis in Ukraine.

Learning Objectives

By participating in this course, you will:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the history of US foreign policy over the past century.
- Be able to evaluate the central foreign policy challenges facing the United States and Europe in the 21st century.
- Enhance your analytical skills and your ability to think critically.

Assignments and Grade Breakdown

The final course grade will be determined by weighting your performance in the following areas:

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| 1. Participation (Attendance and Participation in Section) | 15% |
| 2. Midterm I (Thursday, April 21st) | 25% |
| 3. Midterm II (Thursday, May 18th) | 25% |
| 4. Final Exam (Thursday, June 9th, 4:00 - 6:00pm) | 35% |

Numerical grades will be converted to letter grades at the following values:

A+	=	97% and above	C+	=	77%-80%
A	=	93%-97%	C	=	73%-77%
A-	=	90%-93%	C-	=	70%-73%
B+	=	87%-90%	D+	=	67%-70%
B	=	83%-87%	D	=	60%-67%
B-	=	80%-83%	F	=	Below 60%

Further Course Information

Late Paper Policy

If you are unable to turn your assigned work in on time, you will be penalized one half grade per day on that assignment. For example, an otherwise A+ (100%) paper would be marked as 95% if it were to be turned in a day late, and 90% if turned in two days late. This penalty will be applied after the paper has been graded.

Absence Policy

Attendance is mandatory. If you must be absent from a class meeting, you must contact me beforehand with your reasoning and/or a relevant doctor's note. Failure to do so will result in a reduction of your participation score by 1 point.

Participation

Your participation grade will reflect your attendance and participation in the mandatory weekly discussion sections.

Accommodations

The UCI Disability Services Center provides equal opportunities to students with documented temporary and permanent orthopedic, visual, hearing, learning, chronic health, and psychological disabilities. If you qualify for services, please be sure to work with the Center to ensure I am notified of testing and other accommodations. If you are comfortable doing

so, please feel free to come talk with me during office hours about ensuring this class is accessible to you. If you are not sure whether you qualify for services, please contact the office at 949-824-7497.

Other Resources

- **Center for Excellence in Writing & Communication:** This center provides consultations designed to improve your writing via revising and editing and identifying what parts of your writing need work. You can book appointments up to two weeks in advance at <http://www.writingcenter.uci.edu/appointments/>; appointment slots fill up fast, so be sure to sign up well in advance of deadlines. They also offer walk-in and email consultations. For more information, visit www.writingcenter.uci.edu.
- **UCI Counseling Center:** The UCI Counseling Center provides access to counseling and clinical services, and it also offers support groups and workshops, peer programs, and wellness resources for managing stress. Phone: 949-824-6457.
- **UCI Dreamers' Resource Office:** This office serves AB540 and undocumented students through advocacy, guidance, and support. Some of their services are also available to students with undocumented family members. Contact their office for more information at: 949-824-6390.

Academic Honesty

Learning, research, and scholarship depend upon an environment of academic integrity and honesty. This environment can be maintained only when all participants recognize the importance of upholding the highest ethical standards. All student work, including quizzes, exams, reports, and papers must be the work of the individual receiving credit. Academic dishonesty includes, for example, cheating on examinations or any assignment, plagiarism of any kind (including improper citation of sources), having someone else take an examination or complete an assignment for you (or doing this for someone else), or any activity in which you represent someone else's work as your own. Violations of academic integrity will be referred to the Office of Academic Integrity and Student Conduct and will affect your grade in this course. Please familiarize yourself with UCI's Academic Integrity Policy (<https://aisc.uci.edu/policies/academic-integrity/index.php>) and speak to me if you have any questions about what is and is not allowed in this course.

Course Materials:

All readings will be available on Canvas. You will not need to purchase any books for this class.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: US-USSR Relations Before WWII

- 3/29 - Course Introduction and IR Theory Primer
- 3/31 - Bolsheviks, the Red Scare, US Support for a “Free Russia,” and Stalinism

Readings

- Donnelly, Jack, *Realism and International Relations* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), ch. 1
- Morgenthau, Hans, “The Mainsprings of American Foreign Policy: The National Interest vs. Moral Abstractions,” *American Political Science Review* 44:4 (1950)
- Trani, Eugene P., “Woodrow Wilson and the Decision to Intervene in Russia: A Reconsideration,” *The Journal of Modern History* 48:3 (1976)
- Mark, Eduard, “October or Thermidor? Interpretations of Stalinism and the Perception of Soviet Foreign Policy in the United States, 1927-1947,” *American Historical Review* 94:4 (1989)

Week 2: WWII and its Aftermath

- 4/5 - World War II
- 4/7 - Post-War Settlements and Conferences

Readings

- Leffler, Melvin P., “The American Conception of National Security and the Beginnings of the Cold War, 1945-1948,” *American Historical Review* 89:2 (1984)
- Orwell, George, “You and the Atomic Bomb,” *Tribune* (October 19, 1945)
- Gaddis, John Lewis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy During the Cold War* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), ch. 1
- Kissinger, Henry, *Diplomacy* (New York: Touchstone, 1994) chs. 16, 17

Week 3: The Early Cold War

- 4/12 - Rebuilding and Securing Europe and Containing Communism
- 4/14 - Berlin, Korea, and Thermonuclear Weapons

Readings

- Kennan, George, (X) “The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” *Foreign Affairs* 65:4 (1987)
- “Report to the National Security Council - NSC 68,” April 12, 1950
- Lefler, Melvyn P., “The United States and the Strategic Dimensions of the Marshall Plan,” *Diplomatic History* 12:3 (1998)

- Gaddis, John Lewis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy During the Cold War* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), ch. 2

Week 4: The 1950s: Korea, the “New Look,” and Geopolitical Change

- **4/19 - The Founding of the PRC, the Death of Stalin, and the Sino-Soviet Split**
- **4/21 - Midterm I**

Readings

- Gaddis, John Lewis, *The Cold War: A New History* (New York: Penguin, 2005) pp. 40-60.
- “Report to the National Security Council - NSC 162/2,” October 30, 1953
- Gaddis, John Lewis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy During the Cold War* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), ch. 6
- Li, Danhui, and Yafeng Xia, “Jockeying for Leadership: Mao and the Sino-Soviet Split, October 1961–July 1964,” *Journal of Cold War Studies* 16:1 (2014)

Week 5: The 1960s: Khrushchev and Kennedy, Cuba, and Vietnam

- **4/26 - Khrushchev Comes to America, Missiles Come to Cuba**
- **4/28 - JFK’s Assassination, Vietnam, and the Overthrow of Khrushchev**

Readings

- Khrushchev, Nikita, “On the Cult of Personality and Its Consequences,” Speech delivered at the Twentieth Party Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, February 25, 1956
- Allison, Graham T., “Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis,” *American Political Science Review* 63:3 (1969)
- Munton, Don, “Hits and Myths: The Essence, the Puzzles and the Missile Crisis,” *International Relations* 26:3 (2012)

Week 6: Cold War Stasis

- **5/3 - *Realpolitik*, *Détente*, and Domestic Crises**
- **5/5 - Arms Races and Arms Control**

Readings

- White, Brian, “The Concept of *Détente*,” *Review of International Studies* 7:3 (1981)

- Gaddis, John Lewis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy During the Cold War* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), ch. 9
- Kissinger, Henry, *Diplomacy* (New York: Touchstone, 1994) ch. 29

Week 7: Cold War Proxy Conflicts

- **5/10 - US Foreign Policy in Latin America During the Cold War**
- **5/12 - Angola and Afghanistan**

Readings

- Zanchetta Barbara, “Between Cold War Imperatives and State-Sponsored Terrorism: The United States and ‘Operation Condor,’” *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 39:12 (2016)
- de Sá, Tiago Moreira, “The World Was Not Turning in Their Direction:” The United States and the Decolonization of Angola,” *Journal of Cold War Studies* 21:1 (2019)
- Brown, James D.J., “Oil Fueled? The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan,” *Post-Soviet Affairs* 29:1 (2013)

Week 8: Reagan and Gorbachev

- **5/17 - A Changing of the Guard in the US and the USSR**
- **5/19 - Midterm II**

Readings

- Gaddis, John Lewis, *The Cold War: A New History* (New York: Penguin, 2005) pp. 222-236
- Gaddis, John Lewis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy During the Cold War* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), ch. 11
- Kissinger, Henry, *Diplomacy* (New York: Touchstone, 1994), ch. 30

Week 9: The End

- **5/25 - Communism Crumbles in Eastern Europe**
- **5/27 - The Soviet Union Collapses**

Readings

- Domber, Gregory, “‘Tear Down This Wall:’ The Fall of Communism and the Emergence of Eastern Europe,” in *Guide to U.S. Foreign Policy: A Diplomatic History*, Robert J. McMahon and Thomas W. Zeiler, eds. (Thousand Oaks: Sage CQ Press, Inc, 2012)

- Tudda, Christopher, “Glasnost and Perestroika: The End of the Soviet Union,” in *Guide to U.S. Foreign Policy: A Diplomatic History*, Robert J. McMahon and Thomas W. Zeiler, eds. (Thousand Oaks: Sage CQ Press, Inc, 2012)
- Brooks, Stephen and William Wohlforth, “Power, Globalization, and the End of the Cold War: Reevaluating a Landmark Case for Ideas,” *International Security* 25:3 (2000/2001).
- English, Robert, “Power, Ideas, and New Evidence on the Cold War’s End: A Reply to Brooks and Wohlforth,” *International Security* 26:4 (2002)

Week 10: Cold-War Post-Script

- **5/31 - The Unipolar Moment**
- **6/2 - US-Russia Relations Today**

Readings

- Gaddis, John Lewis, “The Long Peace: Elements of Stability in the Postwar International System,” *International Security* 10:4 (1986)
- Waltz, Kenneth N., “NATO Expansion: A Realist’s View,” *Contemporary Security Policy* 21:2 (2000)
- Kupchan, Charles A., “The Origins and Future of NATO Enlargement,” *Contemporary Security Policy* 21:2 (2000)

Final Exam

- **Thursday, June 9th, 4:00 - 6:00pm**