

Cold War in Europe

EUH 4282

Fall Term, 2019 T/R – 2-3, 3

Turlington 2350

University of Florida

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Office Hours: T: 12:40-1:40, R: 12:40-1:40

This course offers an historical assessment of what has come to be known as the Cold War era in Europe, 1947-1991. Special emphasis will be placed on its origins, its social, economic, political aspects as well as the historical consequences it had for Europe in the second half of the twentieth century. The focus throughout will be on Europe, though, whenever an understanding of European-centered events demands a wider perspective, the global dimensions of this conflict will be discussed. Part I. examines the origins of the Cold War. Here we shall review diplomatic, political, and military developments during the last stages of the Second World War which set the stage for the post-war division of Europe into mutually hostile camps. Next, we shall survey the political, economic, and political landscape of Europe in the immediate aftermath of the war, paying close attention to the impact of events like the Greek Civil War, the rise of Tito in Yugoslavia, and the resurrection of democratic regimes in Western Europe. The ways in which the ideological rivalry between the forces of liberalism (capitalism) on the one side and Stalinism (communism) on the other was intensified by the implementation of the Marshall Plan and the Truman doctrine, and the formation of pro-Soviet regimes in the east will also be examined. The extent to which the printed word (literature, propaganda, and academic scholarship) and the media (both film and radio) were employed by the rival systems as tools of persuasion will also be discussed. In Part II. we will concentrate on the defining features of the Cold War itself. This will be achieved by assessing the historical significance of episodes that have long been associated with this conflict, including the Hungarian uprising of 1956, the erection of the Berlin Wall (1961), the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962), and the Prague Spring of

1968. Various other topics, including a brief exploration of the contrasting cultural worlds that emerged in this period, will be featured in this part of the course. In Part III. we will survey the political and economic transformations that formed the backdrop to the last stages of the Cold War. We shall also discuss the significance of the end of the Cold War in Europe.

Required Texts: (Paperback editions available through UF Bookstore.)

- **[The Cold War. Edited by J.M. Hanhimäki and A. Westad, \(2004\).](#)**
- **[Carole K. Fink, Cold War: An International History \(2014\)](#)**
- **[Martin McCauley, The Origins of the Cold War, 1941-1949,\(1995\).](#)**

COURSE STRUCTURE/FORMAT:

This course is designed to allow the student to play an “interactive” role in teaching the class. At regular intervals throughout the term, there will be individual/group panel presentations that address the main themes we have been covering. The presentation itself can be in the form of a brief lecture, visual presentation (between 15 and 20 minutes) and/or an outline of questions that can be used as the basis of focused class discussion. In the latter case you will be expected to lead the discussion and ask follow-up questions etc. for a 15-20 minute period. At least once during the term, each student will be required to give such a presentation on a topic of his/her own choosing as long as it relates directly to the assigned readings and lectures. (Please note that this presentation can be used as the foundation for your term essay.)

EXAMS AND GRADING:

Your grade will be computed using the following formula:

2 Exams = 50%

Panel Presentation = 10%

2 Reaction papers = 40%

1. The exams will be taken in class.
2. The term Reaction papers will be written assignments of between 4-5 double-spaced pages.
- 3. Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will automatically lower your grade. You can take up to two absences during the**

term without penalty. 4. Student Code of Conduct: See Addendum at end of syllabus.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Acquire a general understanding of the ways in which the Cold War affected the course of European affairs between 1946 and 1989.
2. Develop a critical perspective on the ideological, cultural, economic, and political rivalry between East and West during the Cold War era.
3. Gain a historical perspective on the impact the Cold War has had on contemporary European and global affairs.

Course Calendar:

Part I. The Seeds of Conflict



Week of:

20 August – Introduction to the course: the Cold War as an historical event.

27 August – War-time realities, 1944-1945: (1) Soviet presence in Europe, (2) the Grand Alliance, (3) Planning for the future (Yalta, Potsdam and beyond).

3 September – Post-war Europe: the victors and the vanquished; Building a divided continent: the Marshall Plan and the Truman doctrine.

10 September – Spheres of influence: Promoting liberalism in Western Europe/Communists come to power in East Central Europe, 1945-1955. Cultural confrontations: art for art's sake and the "people's art."

17 September – Road to recovery: progress towards economic unity in the East and West (Comecon/from European Coal and Steel Community to European common market.); Armed camps: The impact of NATO, the Atomic weapons option, the Soviet military threat.

24 September/Panel Presentation

1 October – A Third Way? Social democratic movements in Great Britain, Italy, France, West Germany and Europe for the Europeans.

8 October/Panel Presentation/First Reaction Paper Due

Readings for Part I: The Origins of the Cold War (entire book); The Cold War, Chapters 1-4; Cold War: An International History, Chapters 1-3.

Part II: Cold War Crises



8-17 October -- Post-Stalinist era: Thaw or Freeze?; 1956: Suez/Hungarian uprising; 1961: Berlin War; Cuban Missile 1962 Crisis. Part I.

17 October/ First Exam

22 October – Post-Stalinist era: Thaw or Freeze?; 1956: Suez/Hungarian uprising; 1961: Berlin War; Cuban Missile 1962 Crisis. Part II.

29 October – Cold War at a stalemate, 1963-1968

5 November/Panel presentations



5-14 November --_A Year of Protests: 1968 : A generation of dissidents in Western Europe (CND, Feminism, the New Left); Preserving socialism in Czechoslovakia (Prague Spring).

19 November -- The Brezhnev doctrine and the coming of a Second Cold War. Moving towards peaceful coexistence? Détente and the persistence of the old regimes.

**21 November/Panel Presentations/Second Reaction Paper Due
Thanksgiving Holidays: 27-30 November**

Readings for Part II.: Cold War: An International History, Chapters 4-6; The Cold War, Chapters 8-10, 13, 14-16.

Part III.: The End of History?

26 November -- Economic realities: From EEC to EU; the decline of socialist economics. The end of a divided cultural world? Winds of change: democracy returns to Western Europe (Portugal, Spain, and Greece); Marxism with a human face? Post-Cold War Europe: the promise of a democratic Europe and the road to liberal capitalism.

3 December/Second Exam.

Readings for Part III Cold War: An International History, Chapters 7-10; The Cold War, Chapters 17-19.

ADDENDUM TO SYLLABUS

Code of Conduct/Make-up exam policies for EUH4282

UF faculty is now being asked to provide written guidelines relating to (1) student conduct in the classroom and (2) make-up examinations. Most of these can be deduced by exercising common sense. But to avoid any misunderstandings, students enrolled in the courses listed above should take note of the following:

Code of Conduct:

- (1) Cell phones must be turned off throughout the class period.
- (2) Students are asked not to talk, read papers, surf the internet, and otherwise distract the class from the lectures/class discussion.

(3) Students coming in after the lecture has begun should not interrupt the professor and/or students by walking in front of classroom, re-arranging desks to gain access to seating, etc. Latecomers should therefore take a seat at the back or wherever it is possible without disturbing others.

(4) Anyone who arrives more than ten minutes after class has begun will be counted absent unless he/she has the prior approval of the instructor.

(5) Intellectual honesty: any student caught plagiarizing the written work of others and/or cheating on an exam will automatically fail the course.

Make-up exams/Late Papers:

(1) Apart from documented illness, family emergencies (immediate family only), and exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the instructor), exams will have to be taken on the assigned day. The scheduling of permitted make-up exams will be at the discretion of the instructor.

(2) All written assignments – term papers and the like – are due on the day assigned in the syllabus and/or as announced by the instructor during class. Papers must be handed into the instructor on the due date in a hard-copy format. (That is, do not send your paper as an e-mail attachment etc.) No late papers will be accepted for any reason(s).