

POLS UN3961, Fall 2016: Seminar on the Cold War
Professor Jervis (rlj1)
1333 IAB
Office hours: Mon., Tues, 11:00-12:00.

This seminar will allow students to do in-depth research on the political history of the Cold War. This is not an introduction to the Cold War; students are expected to know the basic history and arguments as a pre-requisite. We will cross-walk theories and analytical approaches from political science with the historical accounts of the events and evolution of the Cold War, asking both how we can explain this history and how it confirms or disconfirms more general arguments.

The primary requirement is writing a 30-40 page research paper on a topic of your choosing. I also expect you to have completed the readings before each class session, to contribute to the discussion, and to provide brief written comments on the drafts of 1 of your colleagues' papers. Your own paper cannot re-use what you have written for another class without my permission.

A 1-3 page paper proposal with some bibliography attached is due on October 4, although you can turn it in sooner. Students will briefly summarize their drafts during the last 2 weeks of the class, and a draft will therefore be due during that period. The final paper is due at my office at 5:00 on December 16.

The books listed under the readings marked with an * are required and can be purchased at Book Culture. More those who need a reminder of the basic history and arguments, I have asked the store to get copies of 2 books by John Lewis Gaddis, We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History, and The Cold War. Both are good. The former is more interpretative and the latter provides a good overview.

Class Schedule

September 6 and 13: What was the Cold War About?

Robert Jervis, "Was a Cold War a Security Dilemma?" Journal of Cold War Studies, vol. 3, Winter 2001, pp. 36-60.

"Memorandum of Conversation [between Kennedy and Khrushchev]," Foreign Relations of the United States, 1961-1964, vol. V, The Soviet Union, pp. 172-97, 206-25, 229-30 (documents # 83-85, 87, 89).

John Mueller, "What Was the Cold War About? Evidence From its Ending," Political Science Quarterly, vol. 119, Winter 2004-05, pp. 609-31.

John Mueller, "Questing for Monsters to Destroy," in Melvyn Leffler and Jeffrey Legro, eds., In Uncertain Times, pp. 117-30.

Michael Sulick, "Intelligence in the Cold War," The Intelligencer, vol. 21, Winter 2014-

15, pp. 47-52.

September 20 and 27: Beginnings

*Joseph Jones, The Fifteen Weeks.

Eduard Mark, "The War Scare of 1946 and its Consequences," Diplomatic History, vol. 21, summer 1997, pp. 381-415.

October 4 and 11: Nuclear Weapons and Berlin

*Campbell Craig, Destroying the Village.

Robert Jervis, The Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution, chapter 1.

"Memorandum of Conference with the President," December 1, 1960 (DNSA Nuclear History: NH 00290).

October 18: The Cuban Missile Crisis

*Sheldon Stern, The Week the World Stood Still: Inside the Secret Cuban Missile Crisis.

Ryurik Ketov, "The Cuban Missile Crisis as Seen Through a Periscope," Journal of Strategic Studies, vol. 28, April 2005, pp. 217-31.

Robert Jervis, "The Cuban Missile Crisis: What Can We Know, Why Did it Start, How Did it End?" in Len Scott, ed., The Cuban Missile Crisis: A Critical Reappraisal.

October 25 and November 1: Vietnam

*George Herring, America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975.

Students who are familiar with the basic history may want to read Jeffrey Kimball, The Vietnam War Files: Uncovering the Secret History of the Nixon-Era Strategy.

Robert Dean, "Masculinity as Ideology: John F. Kennedy and the Domestic Politics of Foreign Policy," Diplomatic History, vol. 22, Winter 1998, pp. 29-62.

Evanthis Hatzivassiliou, "Nixon's Coup: Establishing the NATO Committee on Challenges of Modern Society, 1969-70," International History Review, vol. 38, February 2016, pp. 88-108.

Optional: Robert Hanyok, "Skunks, Bogies, Silent Hounds, and the Flying Fish," Cyptologic Quarterly, vol. 19-20, Winter 2000/Spring 2001, pp. 1-55, available at http://www.nsa.gov/public_info/files/gulf_of_tonkin/articles/rel1_skunks_bogies.pdf

November 15: The End of the Cold War

*Don Oberdorfer, From the Cold War to a New Era: The US and the Soviet Union, 1983-

1991.

Dmitry Adamsky, "The 1983 Nuclear Crisis—Lessons for Deterrence Theory and Practice," Journal of Strategy Studies, vol. 36, February 2013, pp. 4-41.

Deborah Welch Larson and Alexei Shevchenko, "Redrawing the Soviet Power Line: Gorbachev and the End of the Cold War," in Ernest May, Richard Rosecrance, and Zara Steiner, eds., History and Neorealism, ch. 13.

Robert English, "Power, Ideas, and New Evidence on the Cold War's End," International Security, vol. 26, Spring 2002, pp. 70-92.

Stephen Brooks and William Wohlforth, "From Old Thinking to New Thinking in Qualitative Research," *ibid*, pp. 93-111.

November 22-December 6: Presentations