Course Description
Emerging from the chaotic destruction of WWII, the Cold War seemed to divide the world in two in both physical and symbolic ways. It amplified extant political and sociocultural binaries of “good” and “evil,” “us” and “them,” and “capitalism” and communism,” to an unprecedented degree. Under the harsh glare of the threat of total destruction, nearly all aspects of Soviet and American life were organized around these poles for a period of almost fifty years. What were the American and Soviet cultural responses to the intense and unprecedented situation of the “atomic age?” How can we compare these “rival” visions and experiences? In this course, students will be asked to examine the culture of the Cold War from the Soviet and American perspectives across a wide range of phenomena (including literature, film, and propaganda), to consider how and why relations between the U.S. and the USSR came to be framed as a global ideological contest, and to be aware of the legacy of the Cold War and cultural responses to it in today’s world.

Texts
7. Additional required texts are located on E-Reserves: https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/.
Attendance and Participation (10%). Attendance (5%) is mandatory and is included in your participation grade. Participation (5%) in this class is an important part of your grade. Please come to class having completed the assigned reading/viewing and prepared to take part in discussion. Failure to participate at least once per class meeting will be noted and will affect your grade. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Five Response Papers (20%) of 1-2 pages in length are due during the course of the semester. These require you to respond to some aspect of the reading, film, or class discussion that you find particularly interesting. Please be prepared to share your ideas in class. Due dates are indicated on the syllabus. These are not graded.

Oral History Interview (30%). You will be expected to conduct an interview with someone who directly experienced the Cold War, either in the U.S. or in the Soviet Union or Eastern Bloc countries. This assignment requires you to a) identify a suitable interviewee, b) prepare a set of relevant interview questions, c) conduct an approx. 60-minute interview, and d) prepare a short summary for the class. Due in class March 21.

Research Poster (30%). You will be expected to complete a research poster that explores a question pertinent to Cold War culture. A list of sample topics will be provided, but you will be free to pursue your own topic given instructor approval. Posters will be shared with the class in two sessions at the end of the semester on April 20 and April 23. Final posters will be due in class on April 25.

Presentation (10%). You will be expected to participate in one 10-15 minute group presentation on a topic relevant to the course. Topics and sign-up sheet will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

Grading Scale

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Note: A grade of C− is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF’s Grading Policy, see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx.

Learning Without Borders Internationalization Objectives
The Culture of the Cold War will address a) global and intercultural conditions and interdependencies, b) will ask students to analyze and interpret global and intercultural issues, and c) will ask students to communicate effectively with members of other cultures (and across generations). The course will focus on issues of seminal cultural importance in multiple national contexts, including the U.S., Soviet Russia, and the countries of the former Eastern Bloc, and it will explore the global ramifications of the division of the world into two spheres of influence.

General Education Objectives
This course will provide students with an opportunity to explore the interrelationship between culture, geopolitics, and national identity. In so doing, it is designed to fulfill General Education distribution requirements in the categories of “Humanities” (H) and “International” (N). The content of the course draws students’ attention to the values, attitudes, and norms that shape Russian/Soviet, American, and Eastern European cultures (N). Students will be exposed to a
variety of theoretical and critical approaches in the humanities, such as philosophy, history,
critical theory, and film and music studies, as well as to techniques of close textual analysis of
literary, visual, and historical texts (H). Students will be asked to develop their critical thinking
skills through examination of a variety of cultural norms, including their own (N), and critique of
various approaches to fundamental questions of history, narrative, representation, and identity
(H). Additionally, students will be required to communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning
clearly and effectively in written assignments, class presentations, and in small group/whole
class discussion (H).

Class Demeanor: Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner
that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones
and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be
respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be
held at minimum, if at all.

University Honesty Policy: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. UF students are bound by The
Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to
hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the
Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the
following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received
unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code
(https://www.dso.ufl.edu/scr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of
behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are
obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.
If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Accommodations: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the
Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student
who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.
For more information see https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/.

Resources Available for Students
Health and Wellness
-U Matter, We Care: umatter@ufl.edu; 392-1575
-Counseling & Wellness Ctr.: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx 392-1575
-Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center; 392-1161
-University Police Dept.: http://www.police.ufl.edu/; 392-1111 (911 for emergencies)

Academic Resources
-E-learning technical support: Learningsupport@ufl.edu; https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml; 352-392-4357
(opt. 2)
-Career Resource Center: Reitz Union; http://www.crc.ufl.edu/; 392-1601
-Library Support: http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask
-Teaching Center: Broward Hall; 392-2010 or 392-6420
-Writing Studio: 302 Tigert Hall; http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/; 846-1138
COURSE SCHEDULE
Reading/assignment due on date listed.

WEEK 1 JANUARY 8-12
Introduction to course; origins of the Cold War and the nuclear age; establishing the postwar order in Europe; Kennan, Zhdanov, and the Truman Doctrine; 1984 and the Orwellian vision of totalitarianism.

Monday, January 8
Introduction to course, no assignment due.

Wednesday, January 10
1. 1984, pp.1-65 (Bk I:Ch.1-5).
2. George Kennan, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct:”
   [link](http://www.historyguide.org/europe/kennan.html)
3. Andrei Zhdanov, “Report on the International Situation to the Cominform:
   [link](http://slantchev.ucsd.edu/courses/ps142j/documents/zhdanov-response-to-x.html)

Friday, January 12

WEEK 2 JANUARY 15-19
1984 and the Orwellian vision of totalitarianism cont’d; staging the Iron Curtain

Monday, January 15:
No Class (MLK Day), see below

Wednesday, January 17
1. 1984, pp.119-183 (II:2-8).
3. Watch Mikhail Romm’s The Russian Question (1948) on your own for 1/22:
   [link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ePawW0W-do&t=3754s)
4. **Response Paper #1** due in class on 1/22.
   [5. Optional: watch Carol Reed’s *The Third Man* (1949).]

Friday, January 19
2. In-class viewing of William Wellman’s *The Iron Curtain* (1948), part 2.
3. Watch Mikhail Romm’s The Russian Question (1948) on your own for 1/22:
   [link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ePawW0W-do&t=3754s)
4. **Response Paper #1** due in class on 1/22.
   [5. Optional: watch Carol Reed’s *The Third Man* (1949).]
WEEK 3 JANUARY 22-26
1984 and the Orwellian vision of totalitarianism cont’d; staging the Iron Curtain cont’d; introduction to Soviet socialist realism

Monday, January 22
1. Watch Mikhail Romm’s *The Russian Question* (1948): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ePawW0W-do&t=3754s
3. In-class discussion of *The Russian Question* and *The Iron Curtain*.

Wednesday, January 24 | [Presentation #1]
1. *1984*, pp.246-308 (III:2-6)

Friday, January 26

WEEK 4 JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 2
Ehrenburg’s *The Thaw* and “the thaw”; Stalin’s death; the Soviet ‘50s; 6th World Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow (1957); the Soviet cinematic “soft” Cold War

Monday, January 29
1. *The Thaw*, pp.1-89
2. Watch F. Mironer and M. Khutsiev’s *Spring on Zarechnaya Street* (1956) for Feb.2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjB9azswzl

Wednesday, January 31 | [Presentation #2]
1. *The Thaw*, pp.90-154
2. Watch F. Mironer and M. Khutsiev’s *Spring on Zarechnaya Street* (1956) for Feb.2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjB9azswzl

Friday, February 2
1. *The Thaw*, pp.155-228
2. In-class discussion of *Spring on Zarechnaya Street* (1956).

WEEK 5 FEBRUARY 5-9
The “Atomic Age,” the American ‘50s, McCarthyism

Monday, February 5

Wednesday, February 7 | [Presentation #3]
Friday, February 9
1. **In-class viewing** of John Ford’s *The Searchers* (1956), part 1.

**WEEK 6 FEBRUARY 12-16**
The “Atomic Age,” the American ‘50s, the Cold War Western, competition on the domestic front: the “Kitchen Debate” and the American Exhibition of 1959

**Monday, February 12**
1. **In-class viewing** of John Ford’s *The Searchers* (1956), part 2.

**Wednesday, February 14**
1. Discussion question(s) on *The Searchers*.
2. In-class discussion of the *The Searchers* and the Cold War Western.

**Friday, February 16**
3. **In-class viewing** of the “Kitchen Debate”: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CvQOuNecy4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CvQOuNecy4)

**WEEK 7 FEBRUARY 19-23**
1950s-early 60s: the global Cold War (Korean War, Vietnam), construction of the Berlin Wall, Cold War satire

**Monday, February 19**
   [3. Optional: watch Rouben Mamoulian’s *Silk Stockings* (1957).]

**Wednesday, February 21** | [**Presentation #4**]
   [3. Optional: watch Rouben Mamoulian’s *Silk Stockings* (1957) for 2/23.]

**Friday, February 23**
   [3. Optional: watch Rouben Mamoulian’s *Silk Stockings* (1957).]
WEEK 8 FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 2
1960s: Cold War satire cont’d, spies and spy novels, Cold War noir, the Cuban Missile Crisis, Brezhnev and the Era of Stagnation, Détente, the space race, Sinyavsky-Daniel trial (1966), dissidence and rock music in the Eastern Bloc, Prague Spring (1968)

Monday, February 26
1. In-class viewing of Eduard Zmoiro’s short film Foreigners (1961): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lcP0Iw1L1Q
2. The Spy Who Came in from the Cold, pp.1-82 (ch.1-8).

Wednesday, February 28 | [Presentation #5]
1. The Spy Who Came in from the Cold, pp.83-152 (ch.9-16).
2. Watch Billy Wilder’s One, Two, Three (1961) for 3/2.

Friday, March 2
1. The Spy Who Came in from the Cold, pp.153-225 (ch.17-26).
2. Discussion of Billy Wilder’s One, Two, Three (1961).

WEEK 9 MARCH 5-9 | SPRING BREAK
1. Watch John Frankenheimer’s The Manchurian Candidate (1962) for 3/16.
2. Complete Interview due March 21.

WEEK 10 MARCH 12-16
1960s: Cold War satire cont’d, Cold War noir, the Cuban Missile Crisis, Brezhnev and the Era of Stagnation, Détente, the space race, Sinyavsky-Daniel trial (1966), dissidence and rock music in the Eastern Bloc, Prague Spring (1968)

Monday, March 12
1. In-class viewing of Stanley Kubrick’s Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964), part 1.
2. Watch John Frankenheimer’s The Manchurian Candidate (1962) for 3/16.
4. Interview due March 21.

Wednesday, March 14
1. In-class viewing of Stanley Kubrick’s Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964), part 2.
2. Watch John Frankenheimer’s The Manchurian Candidate (1962) for 3/16.

Friday, March 16
2. Discussion of The Manchurian Candidate and Dr. Strangelove.
WEEK 11 MARCH 19-21
1970-80s: spies and spy novels, Cold War noir, Brezhnev and the Era of Stagnation, Détente, the space race, dissidence and rock music in the Eastern Bloc

Monday, March 19 | [Presentation #6]
1. Seventeen Moments of Spring, pp.5-87 (ch.1-5).
3. Interview due March 21.

Wednesday, March 21
1. Seventeen Moments of Spring, pp.87-169 (ch.6-11).
2. Oral History Interview due.

Friday, March 23

WEEK 12 MARCH 26-30
1970-80s: late Cold War, spies and spy novels, Cold War noir, the second Cold War

Monday, March 26 | [Presentation #7]
1. Seventeen Moments of Spring, pp.239-305 (ch.15-17).
   Part 1: https://ufl.kanopystreaming.com/video/stalker
   Part 2: https://ufl.kanopystreaming.com/video/stalker

Wednesday, March 28
   Part 1: https://ufl.kanopystreaming.com/video/stalker
   Part 2: https://ufl.kanopystreaming.com/video/stalker

Friday, March 30
WEEK 13 APRIL 2-6
1970-80s: late Cold War, spies and spy novels, Cold War noir, the second Cold War; Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, 1980 Olympic boycott, doomsday clock and nuclear anxiety, Samantha Smith, Soviet children’s culture/cartoons

Monday, April 2
2. In-class viewing of *Cheburashka, Pat and Mat*

Wednesday, April 4 | [Presentation #8]
2. Watch Episode 1 of *Amerika* (1987) for 4/11: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KU49MR19CcA

Friday, April 6
1. In-class viewing of K. Lopushanskii’s *Dead Man’s Letters* (1987), part 1.

WEEK 14 APRIL 9-13
1970-80s: late Cold War, doomsday clock and nuclear anxiety, 80s rock and the Cold War, Samantha Smith, Soviet children’s culture/cartoons, end of the Cold War

Monday, April 9
1. In-class viewing of K. Lopushanskii’s *Dead Man’s Letters* (1987), part 2.

Wednesday, April 11
1. In-class discussion of *Dead Man’s Letters* and *Amerika*.

Friday, April 13
**WEEK 15 APRIL 16-20**

*End of the Cold War, remembering the Cold War or Cold War nostalgia*

**Monday, April 16**
1. Discussion of *Goodbye Lenin*

   [https://ufl.kanopystreaming.com/video/vanished-empire](https://ufl.kanopystreaming.com/video/vanished-empire); *Deutschland 83* (episode or series), and/or Askold Kurov’s *Leninland* (2013): [http://docuseek2.com/v/a/SMJ/1/0/0](http://docuseek2.com/v/a/SMJ/1/0/0)

**Wednesday, April 18 | [Presentation #9]**
1. Watch Episode 1 of *The Americans*

   [https://ufl.kanopystreaming.com/video/vanished-empire](https://ufl.kanopystreaming.com/video/vanished-empire); *Deutschland 83* (episode or series), and/or Askold Kurov’s *Leninland* (2013): [http://docuseek2.com/v/a/SMJ/1/0/0](http://docuseek2.com/v/a/SMJ/1/0/0)

**Friday, April 20**
Poster Session 1

**WEEK 16 APRIL 23-25 | Conclusion**

**Monday, April 23**
Poster Session 2

**Wednesday, April 25**
1. **Poster** due.