

**WHO 4243/AFH 3931/ASH 3931/LAH 3931**  
**Empires, Nationalism and Revolutions 1945-1995**

**Tuesday/Thursday**

**T-5/R 5-6**

**125 Little Hall**

Professor Luise White

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484 Grinter Hall

Office hours: Tuesday 1-3pm

Friday 2-3pm

**Objectives:** The last time I taught this course I said its objectives were to show students the history of some of the critical concepts we hear in the news and talk about daily, but now the actors that shaped the Cold War are part and parcel of our daily lives and Russia is as important in US politics as it has been at any time since 1989. My point is not that history repeats itself but that some of its elements can return with a vengeance. To that end this class will show how terms like “the third world,” “terrorism,” “liberal democracy,” and “free and fair elections” have a linked point of origin in the specific historical conditions that emerged at the end of World War II. They are a history of the end of colonial empires and the practices of the Cold War. This class argues, as does our main text, that it is a mistake to see East and West as opposites, formed in inevitable conflict between free market democracies and state socialism; instead Soviet and US expansion in the decolonized world mirrored each other in both development projects and military might – the syllabus will follow the trajectory of military stalemate to military defeat, from the “loss” of China to the Korean war, the Cuban missile crisis, the war in Vietnam, the war in the Ogaden, Iran and the rise of Islamism, to US involvement in Central America and the defeat of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. We will also look at some of the political developments by which third world peoples tried to evade Cold War loyalties and ties to super-powers: race, ethnicity, religion, the non-aligned movement, and various local socialisms to show how these too cannot be fully understood without the rubric of the Cold War

**Off-line courses:** Now that UF offers on line classes I think it’s important that classes that physically meet be categorically different. Nevertheless, I use power point when I lecture and I send out announcements and assignments on the class listerserv. If you don’t normally use your ufl email please get into the habit of checking it regularly. In terms of what goes on in an actual classroom, I would like to keep technology and internet access to a minimum. To that end I would like to take a few minutes in the first week so that all of us can discuss the appropriate use of laptops in this class.

**Attendance:** I will take attendance. It is how I learn students’ names. I allow students to miss five classes without a medical or legal documentation: after that you are at risk to fail, as is consistent with university guidelines.

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

**Readings:** The following texts are required. Robert McMahon, *The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction*; Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War*; Richard Wright, "The Color Curtain," pp. 429-629 in *Black Power*; Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*. All of these books are in paperback and any edition, electronic or out of print, will do. I'll put copies on reserve at Library West.

**Assignments:** There will be a midterm, a final, a short paper and three twitter assignments in which you will imagine that there was twitter during the Cold War. The short paper (probably 3 pages but no more than 4) will be on the Bandung conference. I will give you the assignment well in advance. The twitter assignments are simply that: you are to write a single tweet (140 characters) that one of the people we have been reading about tweeted in response to a specific event. I will assign the tweeter and the situation well in advance but an example of this assignment might to imagine Ho Chi Minh's tweet when he declared Viet Nam independent from France in September 1945. The tweets must be grounded in the histories we study, obviously, and I will discuss this at length in class. (If you are taking this class as a 3931 and want regionally specific assignments, I'm happy to accommodate you). There will be 5 twitter assignments of which you must complete 3. Each of these is worth 10% of your grade but you must do 3 to pass the course. On this assignment I cannot accept late papers. There will be a midterm and a final. This is how I will grade:

Short paper	25%
Twitter assignments	30%
Midterm	20%
Final	25%

**Class schedule:**

Week 1: August 22-24: Introduction

Week 2: August 29-32: the superpowers' Cold War  
McMahon, *The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction*

Week 3: September 5-7: the superpowers' Cold War: genealogies and policies  
Westad, *The Global Cold War*, 8-72  
Declaration of independence, Viet Nam, 1945 <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5139/>

Week 4: September 12-14: decolonization and the Cold War  
Westad, *The Global Cold War*, 73-109

Week 5: September 19-21: Bandung  
**September 21: 1<sup>st</sup> twitter assignment due**  
Wright, Wright, *The Color Curtain* in *Black Power: Three Books from Exile*

Week 6: September 26-28: **no class**

Week 7: October 3-5: creation of the “third world”

**Papers due October 3 at the start of class**

Westad, *The Global Cold War*, 110-57

Week 8: October 10-12: modernizing the world

**Midterm October 10**

Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*

Week 9: October 17-19: Cuba and Vietnam

**October 19: 2<sup>nd</sup> twitter assignment due**

Westad, *The Global Cold War*, 158-206

Week 10: October 24-26: the Cold War without decolonization: Southern Africa

**October 26: 3<sup>rd</sup> twitter assignment due**

Westad, *The Global Cold War*, 207-249

Week 11: October 31-November 2: socialism in poor countries: the Horn of Africa

Westad, *The Global Cold War*, 250-287

Tanzania’s Arusha Declaration, 1967

<https://www.marxists.org/subject/africa/nyerere/1967/arusha-declaration.htm>

Week 12: November 7-9: religion as resistance: Iran and Afghanistan

**November 9: 4<sup>th</sup> twitter assignment due**

Westad, *The Global Cold War*, 288-330

Week 13: November 14-16: Ronald Reagan and anti-communist intervention

**November 16: 5<sup>th</sup> twitter assignment due**

Westad, *The Global Cold War*, 331-364

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mb1GfP5Rwys>

Week 14: November 21 **no class Thanksgiving, November 23**

Week 15: November 28-30: the end of the Cold War

Westad, *The Global Cold War*, 364-395

Week 16: December 5: legacy of the Cold War

Westad, *The Global Cold War*, 396-407

**Final exam: Friday December 15 in our classroom 10am-noon**

**Policies and procedures:**

**Students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities requesting accommodation for exams should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor; she will sign this and you can return it to the Disability Resource Center; it will allow you to take exams there, with extra time. If you need this service, please make sure you get the paperwork to me and the process up and running early in the semester. The Disability Resource Center website is [www.dso.ufl.drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.drc/)

**Grades:** Consistent with UF policy you will be graded on your understanding of the materials presented in the readings and lectures and your ability to construct a clear and well-grounded argument: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

**Honor code:** 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." This website details which behaviors constitute violations of the honor code. <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

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.

**Counseling:** It is suggested that I give you the phone number and website for the Counseling and Wellness Center. The phone is 392-1575 and the website is <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>

**Evaluations:** Students are requested to give feedback on a course and the quality of instruction therein during the last two or three weeks of the semester by completing on line evaluations. Students will be informed when this website is open to them: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Students can see the summary results of these assessments at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>