

# Cold War in Europe, 1946-1989

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**EUH 4282**/Course Syllabus

Fall, 2021

T/R, 4, 4-5

**Flint 101**

University of Florida:

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## Course Description:

*This course offers a 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.*

### **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.

*Note on prerequisites: As this is an advanced course on Europe, it is assumed that the student has a background in history/politics and particularly in European history.*

**Required Texts:** Available at UF Bookstore and Orange and Blue Textbooks.

- [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 lecture course is designed to allow the student to play an “interactive” role in teaching the class. Each week throughout the term there will be individual panel presentations which address the main themes to be discussed during that week’s seminar. The presentation itself can be in the form of a brief lecture, visual presentation (between 15-25 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 the second half of the seminar.

### **EXAMS AND GRADING:**

Your grade will be computed using the following formula:

Mid-term and Final Exam = 50%

Panel Presentation = 20%

Reaction papers = 30%

1. The midterm and final exams will be taken in class.
2. Two reaction papers: Reaction papers are not research papers. Rather they are short essays – approximately 1,200 words -- that are meant to demonstrate your own critical assessment of the themes being covered in the weekly course

- calendar. The analysis you present in the paper should be exclusively focused on and derived from lectures and all assigned reading materials. All references to works used in your analysis should follow the standard conventions -- MLA, Chicago MS, APA -- for citing works in a footnote/endnote/in text.
3. **Attendance is mandatory. Three unexcused absences will automatically lower your final grade by one letter. You can take up to two absences during the term without penalty.**
  4. Student Code of Conduct: See Addendum at end of syllabus.

## **Course Calendar:**

### **Part I. The Seeds of Conflict**

**Readings for Part I.:** 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.

Week 1 (23 August)– Introduction to the course: The Cold War as an historical event.

Week 2 (30 August)– War-time realities, 1944-1945: (1) Soviet presence in Europe, (2) the Grand Alliance, (3) Planning for the future (Yalta, Potsdam and beyond).

Week 3 (6 September/Labor Day on Monday) -- Post-war Europe: the victors and the vanquished; Rebuilding war-torn Europe and building the foundations of a divided continent: the Marshall Plan and the Truman doctrine.

Week 4 (13 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."

Week 5 (20 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.

Week 6 (27 September)– A Third Way? Social democratic movements in Great Britain, Italy, France, West Germany and Europe for the Europeans.

**28 September: Panel Presentations/First Reaction Paper Due.**

### **Part II: Cold War Crises**

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

Week 7 (4 October)– Post-Stalinist era: Thaw or Freeze?; 1956: Suez/Hungarian uprising; 1961: Berlin War; Cuban Missile 1962 Crisis. Part I.

Week 8 (11 October) – Cold War at a stalemate, 1963-1968

### **14 October/Panel Presentations**

Week 9 (18 October) – A Year of Protests: 1968 : A generation of dissidents in Western Europe (CND, Feminism, the New Left); Preserving socialism in Czechoslovakia (Prague Spring).

### **21 October: Mid-term Exam**

Week 10 (25 October)– The Brezhnev doctrine and the coming of a Second Cold War. Moving towards peaceful coexistence? Détente and the persistence of the old regimes.

## **Part III. The End of History?**

**Readings for Part III:** [Cold War: An International History, Chapters 7-10;](#) [The Cold War, Chapters 17-19.](#)

Week 12 (1 November) – Economic realities: From EEC to EU; the decline of socialist economics.

Week 13 (8 November) – Eurocommunism/Marxism with a human face? The end of a divided cultural world?

Week 14 (15 November) – Winds of change: democracy returns to Western Europe (Portugal, Spain, and Greece).

### **16 November/Panel Presentations**

Week 15 (22 November) – Post-Cold War Europe: the promise of a democratic Europe and the road to liberal capitalism

### **30 November 2<sup>nd</sup> Reaction paper due**

Week 16 (6 December) – **7 December/Final Exam.**

## **ADDENDUM TO SYLLABUS**

UF faculty are 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).

### **Academic honesty:**

In this course, it is especially important that you do not commit plagiarism, which is the failure to properly cite and give credit when you use the ideas, words, phrases, or arguments of other people in your writing assignments. This includes material from the internet or other forms media (films, pictures, etc.). Information obtained on-line cannot be copied or used in a presentation or paper without proper attribution of authorship.

Plagiarism is a serious breach of the academic code of behavior expected at UF and other institutions of higher learning. The University of Florida's policies regarding cheating

and plagiarism and the consequences for violating those policies may be viewed at:- <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2020/12/Orange-Book-Web-Version-2020.pdf> . Some of the consequences which might result from violating this code include a zero grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, and (in more egregious cases) expulsion from school.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office:- <http://dso.ufl.edu>. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide that documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

### **Covid-19:-**

- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus:-- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.
- Please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms:- <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect-2/frequently-asked-questions/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/>
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Find more information in the university attendance policies:-<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.