

History 3305/01: The World since 1945

<i>Fall 2009</i> <i>MW 2:00-3:15PM, SO 3029</i> <i>Syllabus</i> Dr. Gerrit Voogt	Office hours: MW 3:30-4:45 PM, or by appointment Office: SO 4106 Tel.: 770-423-6645
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Required Texts: Wayne C. McWilliams & Harry Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945: A History of International Relations*, 6th edition (Boulder, London: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2005); John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History* (New York: The Penguin Press, 2005).

It is important in this class (as well as in general) to keep up with world news and its backgrounds.

► suggested: Jim Lehrer News Hour (nightly, 6PM and 7PM, on PBS); <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/index.shtml> (BBC World News: you can listen live on line, news broadcasts every hour); <http://www.washingtonpost.com/?nav=globetop> (Washington Post); <http://www.nytimes.com/> (New York Times; hard copies available free on campus); <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/> (CIA World Fact Book; good source of quick updates); <http://www.un.org/documents/> (United Nations site); English-language newspapers from all over the world: <http://www.world-newspapers.com/index.html>; <http://www.economist.com/index.html>.

1. **Course description:** This course examines major developments that mark the post-World War Two world, with a focus on political, economic, and social developments. Topics such as decolonization, North-South relations, the United Nations, the post-9/11 world will be discussed, with until c. 1990 the Cold War as a unifying theme.

An accompanying goal of this course is for students to become familiar with the important debates and varying interpretations of world events, such as the destruction of Hiroshima in 1945, the Cuban Missile Crisis, or the question of “Who won the Cold War.” This should enhance the students' understanding of the ramifications and historical roots of current events and issues, and thus afford a better grounding in the age that we live in.

2. **Course requirements:** *Students are expected to come to class prepared, i.e. you must be able to discuss the assigned readings. Overall class participation plays a role in the determination of the final grade.

- Most of the handouts for this course will be made available through WebCT-Vista; it is the student’s responsibility to *print and bring these materials to class*, to keep up with the calendar and possible revisions of the syllabus posted on WebCt.
- The book by McWilliams & Piotrowski is our basic text (henceforth referred to as TEXT). Students are expected to keep up with daily international developments (see suggested sites above). The book by Gaddis is a recent interpretation of the Cold War.
- There will be three major exams on the topics discussed in class. Additionally, there will be an in-class review on the book by Gaddis.

- Absence from an exam will result in a zero grade. In case of a medical or other emergency, contact me *before or on* the day of the exam, and submit the proper documentation. Excuses after the exam day will not be accepted.
- Arrive promptly; if you have to leave early, tell the instructor at the beginning of class. **CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS.** Don't annoy the class and embarrass yourself! In case of an anticipated emergency, please set phone to vibrate and inform the instructor.
- The participation grade is determined based on class attendance, the occasional quiz, and participation.
- Grading is as follows:

Exam 1	=20%
Exam 2	=20%
Final	=30%
Gaddis test	=20%
Participation	=10%
- Academic integrity: Every KSU-student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an informal resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.

3. **Course schedule:** readings and test/exam dates indicated in **bold**:

August 17 Introduction: history and bias; different interpretations of recent history; World War II and the origins of the Cold War [TEXT: Introduction; chs. 1 & 2]	August 19 Origins Cold War cont'd: spheres of influence: wartime conferences and the falling apart of the Grand Alliance. [TEXT: Introduction; chs. 1 & 2]
August 24 Importance and limitations of the United Nations; Cold War conflict in Asia, Europe [TEXT Chs. 3 & 4]	August 26 Facing the abyss: the Cuban Missile Crisis and its aftermath [TEXT Ch. 4]
August 31 Decolonization Asia & Africa [TEXT chs. 5-6]	September 2 Decolonization; Review [TEXT chs. 1-6]
September 7 Labor Day –no classes	September 9 *TEST 1 (TEXT chs. 1-6)
September 14 Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict [TEXT Ch. 7]	September 16 Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict [TEXT Ch. 7] –cont'd

September 21 COLD WAR 1953-1985: Developments in the Communist bloc: Eastern Europe; the Sino-Soviet split [TEXT Ch. 8]; beginnings of détente and a multi-polar world [TEXT Ch. 10].	September 23 War in Indochina [TEXT Ch. 9, and pp. 118-122]
September 28 War in Indochina [TEXT Ch. 9, and pp. 118-122]-cont'd	September 30 *TEST 2 (TEXT chs. 7-11)
October 5 Professor in Europe –no class	October 7 Post-colonial, sub-Saharan Africa; apartheid in South Africa and its dismantling [TEXT Ch. 12]
October 12 (Midpoint) Post-colonial, sub-Saharan Africa; apartheid in South Africa and its dismantling [TEXT Ch. 12] -cont'd	October 14 “Backyard”: South and Central America (TEXT ch. 13) [10/11: Midpoint]
October 19 “Backyard”: South and Central America (TEXT ch. 13) –cont'd	October 21 Mao and the post-Mao era in China [TEXT Ch. 14]
October 26 Mao and the post-Mao era in China [TEXT Ch. 14] –cont'd	October 28 Centrifugal forces in postcolonial India (TEXT ch. 15)
November 2 India continued (TEXT ch. 15)	November 4 How Communism, the Wall, and Gorbachev came down [TEXT Ch. 18]
November 9 How Communism, the Wall, and Gorbachev came down [TEXT Ch. 18]; discussion of Gaddis [Gaddis, <i>The Cold War</i>].	November 11 Discussion: Gaddis, <i>The Cold War</i> .
November 16 Test/review on Gaddis, <i>The Cold War</i>	November 18 Islamic fundamentalism on the rise: Iran, the Gulf Wars [TEXT Ch. 20]
November 23 Islamic fundamentalism on the rise: Iran, the Gulf Wars [TEXT Ch. 20]	November 25 Thanksgiving break
November 30 Iran, the Gulf Wars (cont'd) [Ch. 20]; The post-9/11 world [Ch. 21]	December 2 Conclusions and review (TEXT Ch. 22)
	December 9, 2-4 PM *FINAL (TEXT chs. 12-15; 18; 20-22 & Introduction, pp. 3-5)