This reading seminar will tackle literature on the “new” Cold War history, with particular reference to several trends: “peripheral” readings of the Cold War; the politics of economic development; and the use of Soviet bloc archives to shed new light on familiar Cold War episodes. The overarching goal is to expose students to research prospects in the dynamic field of international history.

Course Requirements and Policies

As in any graduate course, regular attendance and participation is expected as a matter of course. Students are allowed one pre-arranged absence for the semester. In case of illness, please contact me as soon as you become aware of your condition.

To ensure the best use of our seminar time, all students will be required to submit two discussion questions to me in advance of each class session (due by Mondays at noon). I will edit these questions and distribute them to the class as a kind of “agenda” for that session’s discussion.

The course grade will be calculated as follows: 40% for class participation, and 60% for the final paper. Students are responsible for seeking regular consultation concerning the final paper, whether during office hours or by appointment. My office hours in UNIV 328 will run on Mondays & Wednesdays from 10:30 - 11:30, with appointments possible also on Tuesday & Thursday afternoons. The phone number there is (765) 494-4160, but it's usually easiest to catch me via e-mail at <wggray@purdue.edu>.

Your final paper assignment will involve a fifteen-page exploration of the historiography of some facet of the Cold War experience. My hope is that you will use this paper, as any graduate school paper, to advance your understanding of the broader themes you have set out to study in this program.

Two shorter assignments will also be due. The first is an “encyclopedia analysis,” asking you to evaluate a recently published guide to the “New Cold War History.” It will be due Tuesday, Jan. 19 by 5:00 pm (electronic submissions will be accepted). The second is a preliminary bibliography for your historiographic essay, due Monday, March 1 in class. These two assignments will factor into your participation grade.

Course Readings and Class Schedule

Please note: all of the materials listed on the following pages will be made available either on 24-hour reserve in the library (in the case of whole books), as PDFs (in the case of book chapters), or on-line (in the case of journal articles). In the event that you choose to purchase any of the full books assigned below, complete ordering information appears as relevant.

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE (Jan. 11)

Encyclopedia assignment introduced (due Tuesday, Jan. 19)

Historiographic essay introduced (due at semester’s end)
II. GRAND NARRATIVES I: GADDIS AND HIS CRITICS (Jan. 25)


III. GRAND NARRATIVES II: THE SOVIET EXPERIENCE (Feb. 1)


Jonathan Haslam, “Collecting and Assembling Pieces of the Jigsaw: Coping with Cold War Archives,” *Cold War History* 4, 3 (April 2004): 140-152.


IV. THE POLITICS OF NON-ALIGNMENT (Feb. 8)


V. CRISIS POINTS: HUNGARY (Feb. 15)

VI. CRISIS POINTS: ALGERIA (Feb. 22)


VII. CRISIS POINTS: KHRUSHCHEV AT HIS PEAK (March 1) – Prelim bibliographies due!

Fursenko and Naftali, *Khrushchev’s Cold War* (as above), pp. 185-213, 292-387, 438-492

VIII. ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS: THE MODERNIZATION PARADIGM (March 8)


Jeffrey James Byrne, “Our Own Special Brand of Socialism: Algeria and the Contest of Modernities in the 1960s,” ibid., 427-447


Nick Cullather, “Commentary: The Third Race,” ibid., 507-512

IX. UNCOMFORTABLE ALLIES I: EUROPEANS IN THE “CRUCIAL DECADE” (March 22)


Hal Brands, “Non-Proliferation and the Dynamics of the Middle Cold War: The Superpowers, the MLF, and the NPT,” *CWH* 7, 3 (August 2007): 389-423.

X. UNCOMFORTABLE ALLIES II: THE SOVIET BLOC (March 29)


XI. THE COLD WAR AND THE MIDDLE EAST (April 5)

Yaacov Ro’i and Boris Morozov, eds., *The Soviet Union and the June 1967 Six Day War* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2008). [Note: this volume is overly pricy ($60.00) so we will take extraordinary measures to make this text available.]


XII. NIXON AND DÉTENTE (April 12)


XIII. FLASHPOINTS OF THE 1970s (April 19)
