GOV 312L: U.S.-Russian Relations

This course will examine how international relations affect American politics through a detailed examination of the relationship between the United States and Russia. During the Cold War, stability and crisis in the international order were largely determined by the relationship between the two great superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. Now that the Cold War has ended and the Soviet Union has dissolved, the United States and the rest of the world faces new adversaries and challenges, in particular an emergent “war on terror.” We will be comparing the current international environment with the Cold War in an attempt to make better sense of both eras. The course will be divided into three parts: 1) a historical examination of the origins and operating assumptions of the Cold War; 2) an examination of the end of the Cold War; and 3) an examination of the opportunities and challenges inherent in the post-Cold War world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Any student who does not complete all of the requirements will receive a failing grade.

The written work in the class will consist of three exams and a take-home essay. All exams will cover both lectures and readings. The essay will be based on class material and not require outside research. Please note the date of assignments. No make-up or early exams will be given except for compelling reasons such as a medical emergency with a doctor’s note. Academic dishonesty is treated very seriously and will be dealt with according to University guidelines. All written work is to be done individually.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

- First mid-term exam: 20%
- Second mid-term exam: 20%
- Third mid-term exam: 20%
- Take-home essay: 30%
- Participation: 10%

Participation will be determined by attendance (to be determined by random in-class quizzes).

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

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COURSE MATERIALS:

One book has been ordered for purchase through the University Co-op:


Additional readings marked by an asterisk (*) are also required and available on Blackboard.

Grading Policy Percentage:

I will be using the new +/− grading scale. Letter grades for the course will be based on the following scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A−</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B−</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C−</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
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Accommodations

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-6441 TTY.

Academic Integrity

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/ or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs). Refer to the Dean of Students Student Judicial Services website or call 471-2841 for the official university policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty.

Religious Holidays

A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.
LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Students are expected to do the readings the day they are assigned. The reading load is 50-100 pages per week. I have made efforts to distribute the reading equally but some issues necessarily required more reading than others. The lecture and reading schedule has been made as specific as possible to give the course structure and direction. However, realize that this schedule is subject to change to accommodate extended discussion of matters of interest for the class. Films shown in class or assigned as weekly material are an integral part of the course and should be treated as such.


Gaddis, The Cold War, preface and prologue.
*J. Nye, Understanding International Conflicts, Ch. 5

Week 2 (Jan. 23-25): Foundations of American Cold War Foreign Policy

Gaddis, The Cold War, Ch. 1 and 3.

Week 3 (Jan. 28-Feb. 1): The Role of Nuclear Weapons

Gaddis, The Cold War, Ch. 2.
*J. Nye, Understanding International Conflicts, Ch. 5 (review pp. 119-128).
*P. Morgan, Deterrence Now, Ch. 1.
*Film: CNN’s Cold War — Cuba

Week 4 (Feb. 4-8): The Cold War, Europe, and the Third World

Gaddis, The Cold War, Chs. 4.
*J. L. Gaddis, We Now Know, Ch. 6.

Week 5 (Feb. 11-15): Review and First Exam

*Film: CNN’s Cold War — Vietnam
** First Mid-term Exam, Friday, Feb. 15th **

Week 6 (Feb. 18-22): U.S. Foreign Policy and Domestic Politics During and After the Cold War

Gaddis, The Cold War, Ch. 5.
*E. Schrecker, Many are the Crimes, Ch. 4.

Week 7 (Feb. 25-March 1): The End of the Cold War, Competing Perspectives

Gaddis, The Cold War, Chs. 6, 7 and epilogue
*R. Lebow, “The Long Peace, the End of the Cold War, and the Failure of Realism,” need citation.
Week 8 (March 4-8): The End of the Cold War, Ronald Reagan, and Mikhail Gorbachev


Week 9 (March 11-15): Spring Break

Week 10 (March 18-22): The Post-Cold War World – Competing Perspectives

**Take-home essay due March 20th **

Week 11 (March 25-29): Conclusions and Second Mid-term Exam

** Second Mid-term Exam, Friday, March 29th**

Week 12 (April 1-5): U.S. Foreign Policy in the 1990s

*D. Chollet and J. Goldgeier, America Between the Wars: From 11/9 to 9/11, Ch. 1.

Week 13 (April 8-12): U.S. Foreign Policy and the War on Terror I


Week 14 (April 15-19): U.S. Foreign Policy and the War on Terror II

Week 15 (April 22-26): U.S.-Russian Relations after the Cold War

*J. Goldgeier and M. McFaul, Power and Purpose: U.S. Policy Toward Russia, Ch. 1.
*D. Treisman, The Return, Ch. 9.

Week 16 (April 29-May 3): Conclusions

** Third Mid-term Exam, Friday, May 3rd **