

[usually 12-14 students; a section of the History Department's required sophomore-level seminar, for History majors only]

United States Naval Academy
Department of History

HH262D
The Early Cold War: The Truman Administration, 1945-1953

Professor R. H. Werking

Spring Semester, 2003

Course Objectives:

HH 262, "Perspectives on History," is a course intended to help History majors develop their skills in critical analysis, synthesis, and communication through reading, writing, speaking, and conducting in-depth research.

Course Description:

This section of HH 262 will study the early years of the Cold War, during the presidency of Harry S Truman: 1945--1953. Hence an additional objective for our course is that you become familiar with some of the most important issues, events, and individuals of this critical period in our nation's history.

Your principal assignment will be to research and write a paper of 15 to 20 pages in length (plus notes and bibliography), using both primary and secondary sources. You will gather, evaluate, and organize your evidence, and you will develop a thesis supported by that evidence. In the process you will confront the raw materials on which historians base their interpretations. You will also be contending with conflicting interpretations among established scholars, and among your classmates, about how and why the past unfolded as it did.

Course Requirements:

You must complete all assignments in order to pass the course. Any assignment not handed in on time will be reduced one full letter grade for each day, or fraction thereof, it is late (excluding weekends or holidays). Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due at the beginning of the class period.

Requirements and percentages of the course grade are as follows:

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| 1. Six-Week Examination | 20% |
| 2. Book review | 5% |
| 3. Prospectus & preliminary bibliography | 5% |
| 4. Outline of research paper, and complete bibliography | 5% |
| 5. Draft of research paper, including notes and bibliography | 20% |
| 6. Final research paper | 15% |
| 7. Class participation and critiques | 20% |
| 8. <u>Quiet American</u> assignment | 2% |
| 9. Davidson & Lytle assignment | 2% |
| 10. Miscellaneous | 6% |

In addition:

a) You will complete several (short) research assignments, which will not be graded per se. Unsatisfactory work will be returned to you with instructions to re-do and resubmit promptly.

b) You are expected to do the assigned reading before the class period in which we discuss it. Your class participation is important, and I will be assessing it throughout the semester. You will be responsible for all material presented in class discussions or lectures.

Office Hours and Other Availability:

1. My office is located in Sampson Hall, room 321, phone 293-6259. Also, at Nimitz Library, 293-6901.

2. My office hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1115 to noon; also most Wednesdays, 1030 to noon; and by appointment. By all means feel free to make an appointment if these times are not convenient. Early in the semester, when the class meets in Sampson, I will generally hold office hours in Sampson; and later in the semester, when we meet in Nimitz Library, I will tend to hold office hours in Nimitz.

3. My e-mail address appears when you type "Werking" into either the Pine or Groupwise systems. I read my e-mail several times a day and encourage you to do the same. I will be sending e-mail to the class frequently.

Required Readings, For Purchase at Bookstore:

Walter LaFeber, America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945--1996, 9th edition

Richard Marius, A Short Guide to Writing About History,
4th edition

Thomas G. Paterson and Robert J. McMahon, eds., The Origins of the Cold War, 4th edition

Graham Greene, The Quiet American

William Strunk, Jr., and E. B. White, The Elements of Style, 4th edition

Merriam-Webster's Pocket Geographical Dictionary

Required Readings, Handouts or on Nimitz Library Reserve:

Henry Luce, "The American Century," in W. A. Williams, et al., eds., America in Vietnam: A Documentary History

Jules Benjamin, "How to Read a History Assignment and Take Notes in Class," in his A Student's Guide to History, 6th edition
(Reserve)

President Harry S Truman, "The Truman Doctrine," in Walter Lafeber, ed., America in the Cold War (Reserve)

Richard J. Barnet, "The Truman Doctrine and the Greek Civil War," in Barnet, Intervention and Revolution (Reserve)

George F. Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct" (by "X"), in Lafeber, ed.

Walter Lippmann, "Mr. 'X' Policy is Misconceived....," in Lafeber, ed.

Undersecretary of State Dean Acheson, "The Marshall Plan....," in Lafeber, ed.

Secretary of State Dean Acheson, "The Triumph of the Communists in China....," in Lafeber, ed.

"NSC-68" (National Security Council Memorandum #68), in Lafeber, ed.

President Harry S Truman, "Commitment of American Forces in Korea," in Lafeber, ed.

Chinese Foreign Ministry, "Why China Intervened in Korea," in Lafeber, ed.

David Kepley, "The Senate and the Great Debate of 1951," Prologue (Winter 1982)
(Reserve)

Eric Goldman on Senator Joseph McCarthy, in Goldman, The Crucial Decade (Reserve)

William Appleman Williams, "The Cold War Revisionists" The Nation (November 13, 1967)

Mark A. Stoler, "From Continentalism to Globalism: General Stanley D. Embick, the Joint Strategic Survey Committee, and the Military View of American National Policy during the Second World War," Diplomatic History (1982)

James W. Davidson and Mark H. Lytle, "Jackson's Frontier-- and Turner's," in Davidson & Lytle, After the Fact (Reserve)

R. H. Werking, "...Cotton Mather and Salem Witchcraft" William & Mary Quarterly (April 1972)

For Consultation, All on Nimitz Library Reserve:

Dean G. Acheson, Present at the Creation

Stephen E. Ambrose, Rise to Globalism, 8th edition

Thomas A. Bailey, A Diplomatic History of the American People

Jules R. Benjamin, A Student's Guide to History, 6th edition

Robert Divine, Since 1945: Politics and Diplomacy in Recent American History

John Gaddis, We Now Know

Melvyn Leffler, "What Do 'We Now Know'?", American Historical Review (April 1999)

David McCullough, Truman

Thomas Paterson, et al., American Foreign Policy: A History

Vladislav Zubok and Constantine Pleshakov, Inside the Kremlin's Cold War: From Stalin to Khrushchev

For Consultation, in Nimitz Library Reference Collection:

Encyclopedia of American Foreign Policy: Studies of the Principal Movements and Ideas, 3 vols. Ref/JX1407/E53.

The Encyclopedia of U.S. Foreign Relations, 4 vols.
Ref/E183.7/E53.

Historical Statistics of the United States from the Colonial Times to 1970, 2 vols.
Ref/HA202/A385/1975.

The Harry S. Truman Encyclopedia. Ref/E814/H336.

For Consultation, in Nimitz Library General Stacks:

Documentary History of the Truman Presidency, 35 vols.
E813/D56/1995.

Foreign Relations of the United States, 435 vols.
JX233/A3/[year].

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Preliminary Class Schedule & Reading Assignments: (subject to change, with notice, as circumstances warrant)

Tu 7 Jan Introductions; Lafeber text, vii, xi-xiii, xvi-xvii, 1-6.

Th 9 Jan 1941-1945: Lafeber text, ch 1; Luce, "American Century;" Benjamin, "How to Read a History Assignment."

Tu 14 Jan 1946-1947, to the Truman Doctrine: Lafeber text, 32- 64; Truman, "Truman Doctrine."

First research assignment due: background sources

Th 16 Jan 1947-1948, the Truman Doctrine and Containment: Barnet, "The Truman Doctrine and the Greek Civil War;" Lafeber text, 64-78; Acheson, "Marshall Plan"; Kennan; Lippmann.

Tu 21 Jan 1948-1950: Lafeber text, ch 4; "NSC-68."

Second research assignment due: popular magazines

Th 23 Jan Korea, 1950-51: Acheson, "China;" Lafeber text, ch 5; Truman, "Korea"; Chinese Foreign Ministry; Goldman, 137-145.

Tu 28 Jan 1951-1953: Lafeber text, ch 6 and 150-158; Kepley, "Great Debate of 1951."

Third research assignment due: newspapers

Th 30 Jan McCarthyism and the "Red Scare": Goldman, 203, 212-14, 250-57, 270-79, 289, and review 137-45.

Papers and book reviews: Marius, Introduction, chs 1-2, Appendix A, "Book Reviews"; Benjamin, 48-52, 54-56.

Tu 4 Feb Journeys: Stoler, "From Continentalism to Globalism;" excerpts from Pride of the Marines (in class)

Fourth research assignment due: official U.S. Government records (Foreign Relations of the U.S. and Public Papers of the Presidents).

Th 6 Feb Cold War Interpretations I: Paterson & McMahon, chapters by Ferrell, Schlesinger, and Zubok & Pleshakov; separately, Williams (handout).

Tu 11 Feb Cold War Interpretations II: Paterson & McMahon, chapters by the Kolkos, Tucker, McMahon, plus one other of your choosing. Also, Marius, Appendix B, "Essay Examinations." Recommended: Benjamin, 38-47, "How to Study for and Take an Examination."

Th 13 Feb In-class examination.

Tu 18 Feb Session on library resources: Meet at Nimitz Library. Also, brief discussion of research techniques and tentative topics. Marius, pp. 88-90, and review Marius, pp. 14-16, 32-33.

The Quiet American assignment due.

Th 20 Feb Special Collections & Archives: Meet at Nimitz Library. More discussion of research techniques and tentative topics. Werking; Marius, chs. 3-5.

Identify book for book review.

Tentative paper topics due.

Tu 25 Feb Meet at Library. Work on identifying and examining sources for papers and/or book

review. Individual appointments as needed.

Th 27 Feb Meet at Library. Discuss Marius, chs. 6-8, Strunk & White, on mechanics and style; Davidson and Lytle.

Tu 4 Mar Meet at Library. Work on paper. Individual appointments as needed.
Book review due.

Th 6 Mar Meet at Library. Work on paper. Individual appointments as needed.

Fr 7 Mar **Outline and annotated bibliography due.**

SPRING BREAK

Tu 18 Mar Meet at Library. Discuss research and sources, topics 1-6.

Th 20 Mar Meet at Library. Discuss research and sources, topics 7-12.

Tu 25 Mar Meet at Library. Work on paper. Individual appointments as needed.

Th 27 Mar Meet at Library. Work on paper. Individual appointments as needed.

Fr 28 Mar **Draft papers due.**
1700

Tu 1 Apr Meet at Library. Discuss draft papers.

Th 3 Apr Meet at Library. Discuss research and sources, topics 1-6.

Tu 8 Apr Meet at Library. Discuss research and sources, topics 7-12.

Th 10 Apr Meet at Library. Work on paper. Individual appointments as needed.

Fr 11 Apr **Final papers due.** One copy to professor, one copy
1700 to classmate who will be the principal critiquer.

Tu 15 Apr Oral critiques of papers 1-4.
All written critiques due.

Th 17 Apr Oral critiques of papers 5-8.

Tu 22 Apr Oral critiques of papers 9-12.

Th 24 Apr Summing up. Course review and evaluation.

