

Fall 2009  
 HIST 6501-602  
 Th 6-8:45 pm

Dr. Günter Bischof

Office Hours: Th 5 – 6 pm (or by appointment)  
 Tel: 280-3223 (CenterAustria)  
 e-mail: [gjbhi@mobiletel.com](mailto:gjbhi@mobiletel.com) or [gjbischo@uno.edu](mailto:gjbischo@uno.edu)

## ***American History Proseminar: The Cold War Era***

This graduate proseminar offers an in-depth introduction to some of the debates that have defined Cold War scholarship, particularly in the past decade. Historical discourse constantly re-invents itself. In few fields has this been so self-evident as in Cold War scholarship after the end of the East-West conflict in 1989. New sources from formerly Communist controlled archives have forced us to rethink many of our assumptions about the Cold War, even if overall conclusions have not entirely changed. Cold War scholarship has become more sophisticated and complex. On the one hand new methodological approaches have redefined the entire field of diplomatic history (culture and gender); on the other hand, the Cold War is no longer seen as a simple *U.S. vs. Soviet Union* affair – the weak also had leverage in the Cold War. We need to understand the imperial structures of both superpowers in the Cold War and how allies and “satellites” constantly challenged the imperial centers of power. This proseminar aims at confronting students with these debates, but also to make them place the Cold War era into the larger context of twentieth century (“the American Century”) history. In order to control the huge amount of scholarship available and make for a coherent discussion, the foci will be on the Cold War in Europe and the Third World and on American domestic politics.

Students are asked to come to class well prepared and able to contribute to class discussions on the weekly readings.

Every student has to chair one class session and co-direct the discussion that week with the instructor. The weekly chair is asked to prepare a one-page summary of his questions, submit it to the class instructor first, and then distribute it on the day prior to the class

### **Required Class readings:**

Michael J. Hogan/Thomas G. Paterson, eds., *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2004 Pb

Vladislav Zubok. *Failed Empire: The Soviet Union in the Cold War from Stalin to Gorbachev*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press 2007 Pb

Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, *Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman, and the Surrender of Japan*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press 2005 Pb

Marc Trachtenberg, *A Constructed Peace: The Making of the European Settlement 1945-1963*. Princeton 1999 Pb

Victoria De Grazia, *Irresistible Empire: America's Advance through the 20<sup>th</sup>-Century*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press 2006 Pb

Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2007 Pb

Alexander Stephan, ed. *The Americanization of Europe: Culture, Diplomacy, and Anti-Americanism after 1945*. New York: Berhahn Books 2005 Pb

Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era*. New and rev. edition New York: Basic Books 2008 Pb

Jeremy Suri, *Henry Kissinger and the American Century*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press 2009 Pb

Charles S. Maier, *Among Empires: American Ascendancy and its Predecessors*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press Pb 2007 Pb

### **Grading System:**

3 Papers:	2 document memos	10 %
	2 book reviews, 1 chapter & 1 exhibit review	20 %
	Final paper	30 %
Chair:		10 %
Class participation		30 %

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online at [http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/policy%20Manual/judicial\\_code\\_pt2.htm](http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/policy%20Manual/judicial_code_pt2.htm).

## Students with Disabilities

Students who qualify for services will receive the academic modifications for which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of the student to register with the Office of Disability Services (UC 260) each semester and follow their procedures for obtaining assistance.

## Student Learning Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- ◆ Have a basic understanding of the Cold War in the framework in the 20<sup>th</sup> century global history
- ◆ Be familiar with the major historical approaches in the field of Cold War studies
- ◆ Be intoned with the basic historiographical debates in Cold War scholarship
- ◆ Understand and be able analyze the major themes and turning points in Cold War history
- ◆ Comprehend basic decision-making processes in American and Soviet foreign policy
- ◆ Develop a grounding in the debates on the “rise and fall of Cold War empires” in the framework of 20<sup>th</sup> century imperial discourses?

## Important Cold War Links:

The National Security Archives: The George Washington University  
<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/>

The Cold War International History Project: The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
<http://cwihp.si.edu/>

The Parallel History Project on NATO and the Warsaw Pact  
<http://www.isn.ethz.ch/php/>

*Journal of Cold War Studies*

<http://fas.harvard.edu/~hpcws/journal.htm>

H-Diplo & H-Diplo Reviews/Roundtable

<http://www.h-net.org/~diplo/>      <http://www.h-net.org/~diplo/roundtables/>

State Department's office of the Historian  
[www.history.state.gov](http://www.history.state.gov)

State Department's *Foreign Relations of the United States* series of documentary volumes  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/>

## Weekly Readings and Assignments Schedule

Aug 27 Introduction: Themes, Chronology, Historiographical Schools

Sept 3 **ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR**

*Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*, pp. 1-51  
Trachtenberg, *A Constructed Peace*, 3-91

**2-page memo due:** Compare the Kennan and Novikov documents and their respective views on who is responsible for the deteriorating U.S. – Soviet relationship. Who is more persuasive?

Sept 10 **ORIGINS: CHANGING PERSPECTIVES OF HISTORIOGRAPHY**

Hunt, McCormick, and Hogan essays in *Explaining*, pp. 137-61, 221-40  
Zubok, *Failed Empire*, pp. 1-93  
John Lewis Gaddis, “The Emerging Post-Revisionist Synthesis on the Origins of the Cold War,” and responses by L.C. Gardner, L.S. Kaplan, W.F. Kimball, B.R. Kuniholm, in: *Diplomatic History*, vol. 7, no 3 (Summer 1983): 171-204

### Class Presentation of Book Reviews

#### Books for Review:

Choose one of these books and write a **2-3-page book review** (questions to be addressed: what is this author’s overall thesis? Who is to blame for the outbreak of the Cold War? Does the author deal more with personalities involved in the growing East-West confrontation or structural factors?)

George F. Kennan, *Memoirs 1925-1950*. New York 1967

William Appleman Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*. New York 1959 rev.ed. 1972

Lloyd C. Gardner, *Architects of Illusion: Men and Ideas in American Foreign Policy 1941-1949*. Chicago 1970

John Lewis Gaddis, *The United States and the Origins of the Cold War 1941-1947*. New York 1972

Daniel Yergin, *Shattered Peace: The Origins of the Cold War and National Security State*. Boston 1977

Hugh DeSantis, *The Diplomacy of Silence: The American Foreign Service, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War, 1933-1947*. Chicago 1979

Robert L. Beisner, *Dean Acheson: A Life in the Cold War*. New York 2006.

Robert A. Pollard, *Economic Security and the Origins of the Cold War, 1945-1950*. New York 1985

- Deborah Welch Larsen, *Origins of Containment: A Psychological Explanation*. Princeton 1985
- Fraser J. Harbutt, *The Iron Curtain: Churchill, America, and the Origins of the Cold War*. New York 1986
- Anders Stephanson, *Kennan and the Art of Foreign Policy*, Cambridge, MA 1989
- Harold B. Schonberger, *Americans and the Remaking of Japan, 1945-1952*, Kent, OH 1989
- Randall B. Woods/Howard Jones, *Dawning of the Cold War: The United States' Quest for Order*. Athens, GA 1991
- Melyn P. Leffler, *A Preponderance of Power: National Security, the Truman Administration, and the Cold War*. Stanford 1992
- Odd Arne Westad, *Cold War & Revolution: Soviet-American Rivalry and the Origins of the Chinese Civil War*. New York 1993
- David Holloway, *Stalin and the Bomb*. New Haven, CT 1994
- Vladislav Zubok/Constantine Pleshakov, *Inside the Kremlin's Cold War: From Stalin to Khrushchev*. Cambridge, MA 1996
- Vojtech Mastny, *The Cold War and Soviet Insecurity: The Stalin Years*. New York 1996
- Wilson D. Micamble, *From Roosevelt to Truman: Potsdam, Hiroshima, and the Cold War*. Cambridge 2007
- Jussi M. Hanhimäki, *Containing Coexistence: America, Russia, and the "Finish Solution." 1945-1956*, Kent, OH 1997
- Günter Bischof, *Austria in the First Cold War, 1945-55: The Leverage of the Weak*. Basingstoke 1999

Sept 17      **NUCLEAR ARMS RACE**

- Leffler in *Explaining*, pp. 123-36  
 Trachtenberg, *A Constructed Peace*, 95-247  
 Full text of NSC-68 in Ernest R. May, ed., *American Cold War Strategy: Interpreting NSC-68* (Boston 1993)

**2-page memo due:** How do the authors of NSC-68 see the nature of the Soviet threat?

**ORIGINS: THE DROPPING OF THE ATOMIC BOMB**

Sept 24      Hasegawa, *Racing the Enemy* (entire)

**Write book review of Hasegawa (3 pp)**  
**Due: Oct 1**

Oct 1           **GENDER: A New Perspective**

Costigliola and Hoganson essays in *Explaining*, pp. 279-322  
 Petra Goedde, “From Villains to Victims: Fraternization and the Feminization of Germany, 1945-1947,” *Diplomatic History*, 23 (Winter 1999): 1-20  
 May, *Homeward Bound* (entire)

Oct 8           **NO CLASS!**

Oct 15          **DISCOURSE AND NATIONAL SECURITY**

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Ira Chernus**

Ira Chernus, *Apocalypse Management: Eisenhower and the Discourse of National Security*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2008) (entire)  
 Immerman and Costigliola in *Explaining*, pp. 103-22, 279-303

Oct 22          **CRISES IN THE THIRD WORLD**

Horne essay in *Explaining*, pp. 323-335  
 Perez and Cullather in *Explaining*, pp. 162-75, 212-40  
 Westad, *The Global Cold War* (entire)

Oct 29          **THE COLD WAR IN EUROPE**

Trachtenberg, *Constructed Peace*, pp. 251-402  
 Zubok, *Failed Empire*, pp. 94-153  
 De Grazia, *Irresistible Empire*, pp. 1-225  
 Peter Ruggenthaler: “Stalin’s Big Bluff: The Story of the Stalin Note of 10 March 1952 as Reflected in the Documents of the Soviet Leadership,” Cold War International History Project Working Paper.

**Exhibit assignment (3 pp):** Visit the exhibit “*1989 – Year of Miracles: Austria and the End of the Cold War*” (curator: Günter Bischof) at the National World War II Museum and write an exhibit review: what do you learn from this exhibit? what is its visual impact? is it balanced? do such exhibits by nature “dum down” and “popularize” the complexity of history?

Nov 12          **CULTURE AND SOFT POWER**

Iriye and Gienow-Hecht essays in *Explaining*, pp. 241-78  
 De Grazia, *Irresistible Empire*, pp. 226-480  
 Berghahn, ed., *Americanization of Europe* (entire)

Nov 19        **DÉTENTE**

**In-class viewing of Stanley Kubrik's film *Dr. Strangelove***

Holsti and Clifford essays in *Explaining*, pp. 51-102  
 Suri, *Kissinger* (entire)  
 Günter Bischof, "No Action": The Johnson Administration's Response to the Czech Crisis of 1968," in Günter Bischof, Stefan Karner, Peter Ruggenthaler, eds., *The Prague Spring and the Warsaw Pact Invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968* [Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2009 forthcoming]

Nov 26        **N O C L A S S        (Thanksgiving Holiday)**

Dec 3         **THE END OF THE COLD WAR**

Rosenberg, Citino and Schulzinger in *Explaining*, pp. 176-211. 336-52  
 Zubok, *Failed Empire*, pp. 227-344  
 Maier, *Among Empires* (entire)

**Final Paper Due (10-12 pages):** Write an analytical essay on the question "were the United States and the Soviet Union *empires*"? What kind of empires were they?