

U.S. Foreign Policy (HIST 4342)
Spring Semester, 2024
Tuesday / Thursday 9:30 – 10:45 AM
Classroom: HALL 305

Instructor: Dr. William Kiser
Office: Central Academic Building 313F
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OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday & Thursday, 8:30-9:30 AM and 11:00AM-Noon
Or By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine the history of twentieth century U.S. Foreign Policy with a strong emphasis on the Cold War. Important themes include global colonialism and imperialism, military conflict, socialism, communism, capitalism, democracy, nuclear weapons, and U.S.-Soviet diplomacy into the modern era.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop critical thinking skills through classroom discussion, extended-length reading and writing assignments, and essay exams.
2. To practice and improve analytical writing skills.
3. To understand the history of The Cold War within the context of political, social, and cultural change over time.

REQUIRED COURSE READINGS:

- Jonathan M. House, *A Military History of the Cold War* (any edition)
- Timothy Garton Ash, *The File: A Personal History* (any edition)
- Andrew J. Rotter, *Hiroshima: The World's Bomb* (any edition)

EXAMS

There will be two tests: one midterm exam and one final exam. The exams are given in essay format to allow you to demonstrate your understanding of historical topics and to provide your own interpretations of events and themes. It is more important that you be able to demonstrate critical thinking skills by positing and defending an historical argument, rather than simply regurgitate a laundry list of names and dates. Prior to the exams, you will be provided with a list of five possible essay questions to study. Of those five, two will be on the exam, and you will select one question to write your essay on. You must bring a blank green/blue book to each exam. The questions will be based on lecture, class discussions, and supplementary readings.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Students are required to write two essays on the supplemental readings. These essays must be at least 1,200 words in length, double-spaced, with standard 1-inch margins and 12-point font. Additional instructions will be provided during the semester.

GRADING SCALE

Midterm Exam: 150 Points

Final Exam: 150 points

Essays: 400 points (2 essays worth 200 points each)

Book Exam (*The File*): 200 points

Attendance & Participation: 100 points

TOTAL POINTS: 1000

A = 1000-900; B = 899-800; C = 799-700; D = 699-600; F = 599 and below.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory. You will not be able to succeed in this course if you habitually miss class. Please be punctual – do not arrive late, and do not leave early. If you know that you will be late or must leave early, please inform me ahead of time.

Extra Credit: I do not offer extra credit.

Blackboard: This course has a Blackboard site, which is where your grades will be posted. I will also use Blackboard for course announcements throughout the semester.

Make-Up Exams: Make-up exams are only allowed for emergencies such as debilitating illness, a death in the immediate family, and religious or school functions. In any case, you must provide documentation of your absence in order to be allowed a make-up exam.

Late Paper Policy: I do not accept late papers. All assignments must be turned in by the deadline.

Classroom Etiquette: Please be respectful in the classroom. Do not get up and leave early, turn your cell phone to silent mode, and do not hold personal conversations during lecture or discussion. Laptops may only be used to take notes.

Communication: E-mail me at any time regarding questions or concerns that you might have. I do my best to respond to email within one day. You may also schedule an appointment to speak with me in my office outside of regular office hours.

Statement on Artificial Intelligence: All student work must be generated by the students themselves. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing or any other portion of

an assignment for them. This includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments, as well as using artificial intelligence tools including but not limited to ChatGPT.

Support Services & Disclosures

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dsupport@tamusa.edu.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance). **Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option ‘2’).** For more information and self-help resources, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the

institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Academic Misconduct: Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the particular paper or assignment or a failing grade in the course. Also, a referral may be issued to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities where the sanctions can vary up to possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation. All student term papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software.

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/provost/documents/ay2024-calendar-01112023.pdf>

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 22: First Book Essay Due (Rotter)

March 7: Midterm Exam

March 26: Book Exam (The File)

April 25: Second Book Essay Due (House)

May 1-7: Final Exam Week

Week 1: January 16, January 18

Tuesday: Course Introduction & Syllabus

Thursday: Capitalism and Communism

READINGS: Westad article, “The World the Cold War Made” (Blackboard)

Week 2: January 23, January 25

Tuesday: Origins of the Cold War

Thursday: World War II and Atomic Diplomacy

READINGS: Rotter for First Writing Assignment

Week 3: January 30, February 1

Tuesday: Atomic Weapons

Thursday: Nuclear Proliferation

READINGS: Rotter for First Writing Assignment

Week 4: February 6, February 8

Tuesday: Marshall Plan & Berlin Crisis

Thursday: Truman Doctrine & Containment Policy

READINGS: Rotter for First Writing Assignment

Week 4: February 13, February 15

Tuesday: Truman Doctrine & Containment Policy

Thursday: Korean War

READINGS: Rotter for First Writing Assignment

Week 5: February 20, February 22

Tuesday: Korean War

Thursday: National Defense Initiatives; **First Book Essay Due (Rotter)**

READINGS: Rotter for First Writing Assignment

Week 6: February 27, February 29

Tuesday: The 1950s: American Life during the Cold War

Thursday: The 1950s: Eisenhower’s Presidency

READINGS: *The File for Upcoming Exam*

Week 7: March 5, March 7

Tuesday: Exam Review

Thursday: Midterm Exam

READINGS: *The File for Upcoming Exam*

Week 8: March 12, March 14

Tuesday: Spring Break – No Class

Thursday: Spring Break – No Class

READINGS: *The File for Upcoming Exam*

Week 9: March 19, March 21

Tuesday: Dr. Strangelove Film

Thursday: Dr. Strangelove Film

READINGS: *The File* for Upcoming Exam

Week 10: March 26, March 28

Tuesday: Communist Containment in Latin America; **Book Exam (*The File*)**

Thursday: Communist Containment in Latin America

READINGS: House for Second Writing Assignment

Week 11: April 2, April 4

Tuesday: Vietnam War

Thursday: Détente and the Nixon Doctrine

READINGS: House for Second Writing Assignment

Week 12: April 9, April 11

Tuesday: Conservatism and the Cold War

Thursday: Cold War Diplomacy in the 1970s

READINGS: House for Second Writing Assignment

Week 13: April 16, April 18

Tuesday: The 1980s and the End of the Cold War

Thursday: The Cold War in Popular Culture

READINGS: House for Second Writing Assignment

Week 14: April 23, April 25

Tuesday: Current Events

Thursday: Current Events; **Second Book Essay Due (House)**

READINGS: House for Second Writing Assignment

Week 15: April 30

Tuesday: No Classes (Study Day)

Week 16: May 1-May 7, Final Exam Week

FINAL EXAM: TBA