HH262C
The Early Cold War: The Truman Presidency, 1945 – 1953

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Course Objectives:

HH 262, "Perspectives on History," is a course designed to help History majors develop skills in the areas of critical analysis, synthesis, and communication. In pursuit of these objectives, the course will call upon you to do significant amounts of reading, writing, speaking, and 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 during 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 and holidays). Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due at the beginning of the class period.
Requirements and percentages of the course grade are as follows:

1. Class participation, including paper critiques 20%
2. Four short research assignments 4%
3. Midterm Examination 15%
4. Prospectus & preliminary bibliography 2%
5. Outline of research paper, and more complete bibliography 4%
6. Davidson & Lytle assignment 2%
7. *Quiet American* assignment 4%
8. Book review 5%
9. First version of research paper, including notes and bibliography 20%
10. Final research paper 20%
11. *Great Minds of American History* assignment 2%
12. Miscellaneous 2%

Unsatisfactory work will be returned to you with instructions to re-do and resubmit promptly.

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:**


2. My office hours, normally, are: 1) Tuesdays and Thursdays for half an hour after class; 2) most Wednesdays, 1030 to noon; and 3) by appointment. By all means feel free to make an appointment if these times shown are not convenient.

3. My e-mail address is rwerking@usna.edu. 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:


Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*


Required Readings, Handouts (in order of appearance):


Henry Luce, “The Day of Wrath,” from *Life*, December 22, 1941.

“The Atlantic Charter,” from Thomas Bailey, *A Diplomatic History of the American People*

President Harry S Truman, "The Truman Doctrine,” from Walter LaFeber, ed., *America in the Cold War* (hereafter *AICW*)

George F. Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct" (by "X"), from *AICW*.

Walter Lippmann, "Mr. 'X' Policy is Misconceived....," from *AICW*.

Undersecretary of State Dean Acheson, “The Marshall Plan....,” from *AICW*.

Secretary of State Dean Acheson, "The Triumph of the Communists in China....," from *AICW*.

"NSC-68" (National Security Council Memorandum #68)

President Harry S Truman, "Commitment of American Forces in Korea," from *AICW*.

Chinese Foreign Ministry, "Why China Intervened in Korea," from *AICW*.


Arnold Offner, “Harry S Truman as Parochial Nationalist,” from 3d edition of McMahon & Paterson


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

James W. Davidson and Mark H. Lytle, “Jackson’s Frontier--and Turner’s,” in Davidson & Lytle, After the Fact

For Consultation, All on Nimitz Library Reserve:

Dean G. Acheson, Present at the Creation  (E744/A2174)

Stephen E. Ambrose, Rise to Globalism, 8th edition  (E744/A477)


Richard D. Burns, Harry S Truman: A Bibliography of His Times and Presidency (E874/B87)

Robert Divine, Since 1945: Politics and Diplomacy in Recent American History (E743/D58)

David McCullough, Truman (E814/M26)

Julius Pratt, A History of U.S. Foreign Policy (E183.7/P73)

Vladislav Zubok, A Failed Empire: The Soviet Union in the Cold War from Stalin to Gorbachev (DK274/Z825)
**For Consultation, in Nimitz Library Reference Collection:**

(and online version via Library’s website)


(Ref/D840/E63/2008)  (and online version via Library’s website)

(Ref/HA202/H57/2006)

*The Harry S. Truman Encyclopedia*.  (Ref/E814/H336)

**For Consultation, in Nimitz Library General Stacks:**


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

**For Consultation, on the Web:**


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

**Th 8 Jan**  **Introductions: Professor and Student**  **Some Historical Background, to 1941**  

**Tu 13 Jan**  **1941-1945**  
Discuss: LaFeber text, chapter 1; Luce, “American Century” and “The Day of Wrath”;  
Benjamin, “How to Read a History Assignment.”

**Th 15 Jan**  **1946-1947: Toward the Truman Doctrine**  
Discuss: LaFeber text, 34- 66; President Truman, "Truman Doctrine."  
**First research assignment due: background sources**
Tu 20 Jan  NO CLASS – “MONDAY SCHEDULE”

Th 22 Jan  1947-1948: The Truman Doctrine and Containment
    Discuss: LaFeber text, 66-80; Acheson, “Marshall Plan”; Kennan; Lippmann.
    Second research assignment due: news magazines & journals of opinion

Tu 27 Jan  1948-1950
    Discuss: LaFeber text, chapter 4; “NSC-68.”

Th 29 Jan  Korea, 1950-51
    Discuss: Acheson, “China;” LaFeber text, chapter 5; President Truman, “Korea”; Chinese
    Foreign Ministry; Goldman, 137-145.

Tu  3 Feb  1951-1953
    Discuss: LaFeber text, chapter 6 and 150-161
    Third research assignment due: newspapers

Th  5 Feb  McCarthyism and the “Red Scare”
    Papers and Book Reviews
    Discuss: Marius, xii-xiv, 1-14, 79-85, 117-121; Benjamin, “How to Research a History
    Assignment”

Tu 10 Feb  Journeys
    Discuss: Stoler, “From Continentalism to Globalism.” Watch excerpts from film, Pride
    of the Marines, in class.
    Fourth research assignment due: official U.S. Government records (Foreign
    Relations of the U.S., Congressional Record, and Public Papers of the Presidents).

Th 12 Feb  Cold War Interpretations I
    Discuss: McMahon & Paterson chapters by Ferrell and Schlesinger, handouts by Rostow
    and Williams

Tu 17 Feb  Cold War Interpretations II
    McMahon & Paterson chapters by Bernstein, Zubok & Pleshakov, and the Kolkos

We 18 Feb  Grades Due for First Marking Period

Th 19 Feb  Cold War Interpretations III
    McMahon & Paterson chapters by Eisenberg, Tucker, and McMahon, and handout
    by Offner

Tu 24 Feb  Midterm Examination
Th 26 Feb  **Session on Library Resources**
Brief discussion of research techniques and tentative topics. Discuss Marius, chapter 3, 85-117, and previous Marius and Benjamin reading; Werking, “Cotton Mather”

Tu 3 Mar  Work on identifying and examining sources for papers and/or book review. Individual appointments as needed.
Look over Marius, 122-126, chapters 6-8, Appendix B; review previous Marius and Benjamin reading.

We 4 Mar  **Tentative paper topics due: prospectus and preliminary bibliography**
Noon

Th 5 Mar  Work on identifying and examining sources for papers and/or book review. Individual appointments as needed.

Tu 10 Mar  Work on identifying and examining sources for papers and/or book review. Individual appointments as needed.

We 11 Mar  **Outline and more complete bibliography due.**
Noon

Th 12 Mar  Work on identifying and examining sources for papers and/or book review. Individual appointments as needed.

**SPRING BREAK, March 14-22**

Tu 24 Mar  Work on identifying and examining sources for papers and/or book review. Individual appointments as needed.

Th 26 Mar  Work on identifying and examining sources for papers and/or book review. Individual appointments as needed.

**Quiet American assignment due**

Tu 31 Mar  Work on paper. Individual appointments as needed. “Great Minds of American History” #1, Stephen Ambrose (in class)

Book Review due

Th 2 Apr  Work on paper. Individual appointments as needed.

Mo 6 Apr  **First version of papers due, 1200**
Noon
Tu 7 Apr  Discuss Davidson & Lytle chapter. “Great Minds of American History”, #2, Richard White (in class)

Davidson & Lytle assignment due

Grades Due for Second Marking Period

Th 9 Apr  Discuss research and sources, topics 1-6. “Great Minds of American History”, #3, David McCullough (in class)

Tu 14 Apr  Discuss research and sources, topics 7-13. “Great Minds of American History”, #4, James McPherson (in class)

Th 16 Apr  Work on paper. Individual appointments as needed.

Su 19 Apr  **Final papers due.** One copy to professor, one copy to classmate who will be the principal critiquer

Tu 21 Apr  Oral critiques of papers 1-5.

All written critiques due.

Th 23 Apr  Oral critiques of papers 6-10.

“Great Minds” paper due


**NO FINAL EXAMINATION**