



Fall 2019

## HISTORY 3402ID

Topics in Modern World History Since 1945: Section D774 or D775

# THE UNITED STATES AND THE GLOBAL COLD WAR

*Wednesdays, 2:30-5pm or Thursdays 2:30-5pm*

Prerequisites: EG1101 and a History Course (any HIS 1000-3000 series course or AFR 1460, 1461, 1465, 1466 or LATS 1462). HIS 3402 satisfies the World Cultures/Global Issues, as well as both the Capstone and Interdisciplinary Course (ID) requirement.

Course Description: History 3402 is an interdisciplinary course that explores the history of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union in a global context. After examining the origins and effects of the Cold War and the nuclear arms race which accompanied it, we will then analyze how Cold War era conflicts, especially US efforts to “contain” Communism globally, impacted various areas of the world, from Eastern Europe and Central America to the Middle East and Southeast Asia. We will also discuss how specific conflicts in Cuba, Guatemala, Chile, Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Iran and Afghanistan left troubling problems in US foreign relations which still reverberate today. The history of the global Cold War will be approached from an interdisciplinary angle: guest speakers are featured from various scholarly backgrounds, each of whom who will offer a different perspective on questions raised by this very complex history. Course materials include primary sources, historiographical readings, documentary films and newspaper articles. Since so many tensions in the world today have their origins in events occurring in the Cold War era, we will regularly discuss current events in light of our recent past.

### Major Questions:

- *What actions did the CIA take in Iran in the 1950s and how might these events still affect Iran-US relations?*
- *Why and how did the US try to topple Fidel Castro in 1961? Can Cuba and the US repair their relations now?*
- *What happened in Afghanistan in the Cold War era that contributed to the rise of terrorist groups today?*
- *Why is Korea divided into two hostile nations--North and South Korea? Why did the US fight a war in Korea?*
- *To halt Communism, the US engaged in war and nation-building in Vietnam. How did that turn out?*
- *What did the building of the Berlin Wall signify, and why did it fall in 1989? Why did the Cold War finally end?*
- *To what extent does the legacy of the Cold War still impact relations between the US and Russia today?*

