

HI 338: Cold War America, 1945-1968
Boston University, Spring 2014
Tuesdays and Thursday 12.30-2.00, CAS224

Professor Michael Holm
History Department
Office: 226 Bay State Road, # 506
Email: mholm@bu.edu Phone: (617) 353-8305
Office Hours: Tuesday 10-11.30; Thursday 2.30-4.00



COURSE DESCRIPTION/FORMAT:

In HI 338 you will become familiar with the dynamic processes that shaped postwar America at home and America's role in the world from 1945 to the end of the 1960s. You will acquire the ability to interpret a variety of primary sources and to craft written historical interpretations. Generally speaking you will do well in this course if you (1) attend class; (2) complete the readings in advance of class; (3) listen carefully during lectures and recognize that they do not repeat readings but provide complementary contexts and alternative interpretations; (4) take notes during lecture and while studying at home, and review your notes before the next class; (5) budget plenty of time to complete the writing assignments and to study for the exams; (6) meet with your professor to discuss your papers in advance of the deadlines.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Michael J. Hogan, *A Cross of Iron: Harry S. Truman and the Origins of the National Security State, 1945-1954*

Michael H. Hunt, *Lyndon Johnson's War: America's Cold War Crusade in Vietnam, 1945-1968*

Ellen Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism: A Brief History with Documents*

Van Gosse, *The Movements of the New Left, 1950-1975*

Stephen J. Whitfield, *The Culture of the Cold War*. 2nd Edition.

Books are available the Barnes and Noble Bookstore. Additional assigned readings will be uploaded to the course Blackboard site. On the syllabus these are designated “**.”

COURSE WEBSITE:

The course’s Blackboard site is your location for readings, the course syllabus, and practical information regarding writing assignments. Here you will also find a writing guide for analytical papers and the list of movies you will be using for your first paper.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Midterm in class, March 6 (25%)
Movie Analysis 4-5 pages, due March 18 (20%)
Analytical Paper 6-8 pages, due April 22 (25%)
Final Exam during Exam Week (30%)

NOTE ON WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: For a detailed description of the proper format for historical essays, students should consult the BU History Department Writing Guide.

<http://www.bu.edu/history/undergraduate-program/resources/writing-guide/>

NOTE ON PLAGIARISM: **Remember that plagiarism is a serious offense.** The Boston University Code of Academic Conduct defines plagiarism as “any attempts by a student to represent the work of another as his or her own.” Plagiarism is subject to serious sanctions, including reprimand, suspension, and expulsion. For a detailed description of Boston University’s rules, consult the code of conduct at:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/academic-conduct/>

Schedule of Lectures and Weekly Assignments

January 16	Introduction to the course
January 21	American Dreams for the Post-War Era Wendell Willkie, <i>One World</i> ** Fousek, <i>To Lead the Free World</i> , pp. 16-29; 41-48** President Truman’s Speech to the U.N., June 25, 1945 (audio) http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/mediaplay.php?id=12188&admin=33
January 23	In the War’s Aftermath, 1945-1946 <i>New York Times</i> on the Bomb** President Truman’s Statement to the media** Patterson, pp. 91-104**
January 28	The Cold War, 1946-1947 Hogan, pp. 23-68 The Truman Doctrine**

- January 30** **“Truman Defeats Dewey”: The Election of 1948**
 Busch, “Truman’s Triumph”**
 Truman’s State of the Union, 1949 (Fair Deal Address)**
- February 4** **The Cold War, 1948-1950**
 Hogan, pp. 69-113
 Truman’s Inaugural Address**
- February 6** **The Korean War at Home and Abroad**
 Hogan, pp. 265-365
- February 11, 13** **McCarthyism, Espionage, and Political Culture**
 Schrecker, pp. 1-103; 134-170; 237-241
 Whitfield, pp. 1-51
- February 18** **Moderate Conservatism and the Election of Dwight Eisenhower**
 Holm, “Also Present at the Creation: Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. and the
 Coming of the Cold War”**
 Eisenhower’s Inaugural Address**
- February 20** **Cold War Culture and Religion**
 Whitfield, pp. 77-100; 153-178
 Schrecker, pp. 229-236; 242-257
- February 25** **Documentary in Class: McCarthy v. Murrow**
- February 27** **Eisenhower’s New Look**
 Hogan, pp. 366-418
- March 4** **Civil Rights I: The 1950s**
 Chafe, “The Civil Rights Revolution, 1945-1960”**
 Dudziak, “Brown as a Cold War Case”**
 Van Gosse, pp. 46-48
 Midterm Review
- March 6** **Midterm in Class**
- March 18** **Science, Technology, Education, and the Cold War**
 Friedberg, “Science, The Cold War, and The American State”**
 Listen to Eisenhower’s Farewell Address**
First paper due

- March 20** **The Coming of the Quagmire: The U.S. and Vietnam, 1945-1960**
 Mark A. Lawrence, “The European Influence on America’s Commitment to Vietnam”**
 David Anderson, “The Tragedy of U.S. Intervention”**
- March 25** **The Election of John F. Kennedy**
 Theodore White, *The Making of the President*, (1961) **
 Kennedy’s Inaugural Address (video)**
- March 27** **The Kennedy Years**
 Patterson, pp. 486-523**
- April 1** **The Cuban Missile Crisis**
 Gaddis, “Cuban Missile Crisis,” 260-281**
 John F. Kennedy’s American University Speech, 1963 (video)**
- April 3, 8** **LBJ: The Great Society and Civil Rights**
 Johnson’s Speech to Congress, November 27, 1963**
 Schulman, “Shall We Overcome”**
 Van Gosse, pp. 72-86; 91-95
Recommended Reading: Schulman, “Let Us Continue”**
- April 10** **Documentary in Class**
- April 15, 17,** **Vietnam, 1961-1968**
 Hunt, *LBJ’s Vietnam* (all)
 Van Gosse, pp. 114-119
 “We Can Win in Vietnam”**
Recommended: LBJ’s speech at Johns Hopkins (watch)**
- April 22** **The New Left and the New Right in the Sixties**
 Van Goss, pp. 7-38; 65-67;
 Goldwater, *Conscience of a Conservative***
Analytical Paper Due
- April 24** **No Class: BU on Monday schedule**
- April 29** **Movements in the Sixties**
 Van Goss, pp. 68-71; 107-109; 123-127
 “The Sixties”**
- May 1** **The Reemergence of Richard Nixon**
 White, *The Making of the President, 1968***
 Final Exam Review