Overview:
In the span of only a few years, America went from a nation wracked by economic depression and confronted by enemies in Europe and the Pacific to being one of the most powerful nations in the world and (albeit briefly) the sole nation possessing nuclear weapons. Over the course of the next four decades, American officials and the American public settled into a new role on the international stage: leaders of the “free world” in an ideological and sometimes literal battle with the Soviet Union, the People’s Republic of China, international communism, and other real and perceived threats to US national security. Over the course of this class, we will examine how Americans in and out of government viewed the Cold War and America’s mission in the world. We will also look at and how those views changed over the course of this conflict and the lasting legacies of the Cold War on American politics and culture.

Requirements:
This is a writing and reading intensive course. While a lot is expected of you, the more you put into this course the more you will get out of it. Much of this material is deeply engaging and well written (we are far away from the realm of dry textbooks) and we will be looking at some of the most discussed, and controversial, decisions in the history of US foreign policy.

A major portion of this course will be driven by in-class discussions, and class participation forms 25% of your grade. Most weeks we’ll start off class by having two or three students poses a series of questions to the class and run a mini-discussion (this will count for 10% of your grade).

In addition to class participation, you will be asked to write a substantive (15 page minimum) research paper on a topic of your choosing. In addition to writing this paper, you will give a presentation to the class at the end of the semester. In the run-up to writing your paper, you will also complete several smaller written assignments that are designed to help you develop your thesis and identify possible sources.

The complete grade breakdown is as follows:
Related to Discussion
10%-Leading Class Discussion
25%-General Participation/End of the Semester Presentation

Related to Paper
10%-Paper Pitch
15%-Intro, Paper Outline, and Partial Bibliography
Late Work Policy:
Late papers will be penalized one-third grade per day (example: a B paper that is one day late becomes a B-).

Attendance:
This course is a seminar, which means that attendance is required and participation in discussion is essential not only for your final grade but also for the class to function well as a whole.

Plagiarism:
[Just don’t do it…but see below if you have any questions]
Plagiarism is the passing off of another’s words or ideas as your own, and it is a serious academic offense. Cases of plagiarism will be handled in accordance with the disciplinary procedures described in the College of Arts and Science Academic Conduct Code. All students are subject to the CAS code, which can be read online at: http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/
Penalties for plagiarism can range from failing an assignment or course to suspension or expulsion from the university. If you have any questions about plagiarism, please speak with me.

Required Texts
John Lewis Gaddis, The Strategies of Containment
Jussi Hanhimaki, The Rise and Fall of Détente
James Wilson, The Triumph of Improvisation

Suggested Text
Campbell Craig and Frederick Logevall, America’s Cold War

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

January 25-Introduction to the Course
O.A. Westadt, “Exploring the Histories of the Cold War: A Pluralist’s Approach” in Uncertain Empire

February 1-The Start of the Cold War
Readings:
John Lewis Gaddis, The Strategies of Containment, Chapters 2 and 3
Blackboard Readings
Melvyn Leffler, The Specter of Communism, Chapters 3

February 8-Korea and China
Readings:
John Lewis Gaddis, The Strategies of Containment, Chapter 4
Blackboard Readings
John Thompson, “The Geopolitical Vision: The Myth of the Outmatched USA” in Uncertain Empire
Melvyn Leffler, *The Specter of Communism*, 4
Paul Heer, *Mr. X and the Pacific*, Chapter 2
Jian Chen, *Mao's China and the Cold War*, Chapter 2

**In Class: Discuss Initial Paper Ideas**

**February 15**: Enemies, Foreign and Domestic
Blackboard Readings
Ellen Schrecker, *Many Are the Crimes*, Chapter 1, 5, and 7
David Johnson, *The Lavender Scare*, Chapter 6

**February 22**: Ending the World: Nuclear Weapons
Blackboard Readings
Edward Kaplan, *To Kill Nations*, Chapter 5
Daniel Ellsberg, *The Doomsday Machine*, Chapters 6 and 7
Fred Kaplan, “JFK’s First Strike Plan”, *The Atlantic*

**Due: Paper Pitch**

**March 1**: Cuba Missile Crisis/Meetings About Paper Pitch
Blackboard Readings
All Read
Thomas G. Patterson, “Fixation with Cuba” in *Kennedy's Quest for Victory*
Robert F. Kennedy Group
Robert Kennedy, *Thirteen Days*, Pages 1-88
Sheldon Stern, *The Cuban Missile Crisis in American Memory*, Chapter 3
McGeorge Bundy Group
McGeorge Bundy, *Danger and Survival*, Chapter 9
Sheldon Stern, *The Cuban Missile Crisis in American Memory*, Chapter 7
Robert McNamara Group
Historical Office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Oral History Interview with Robert McNamara, p. 1-9
James Blight, *The Fog of War*, Lesson 1
Sheldon Stern, *The Cuban Missile Crisis in American Memory*, Chapter 4

**March 8**: Hollywood and the Cold War
Assignment TBA

**March 15**: NO CLASS (Spring Break)

**March 22**: Hearts and Minds: Selling America to the World/Peer Editing
Blackboard Readings
Gregory Tomlin, *Murrow's Cold War*, Chapter 5
Kenneth Osgood, *Total Cold War*, Chapter 8
Penny von Eschen, *Satchmo Blows up the World*, Chapter 2

**In Class: Bring Intro, Outline, and Partial Bibliography for Peer Edit**
March 29-Vietnam
Readings:
   All Read
   John Lewis Gaddis, *The Strategies of Containment*, Chapter 8
The (Mostly) Unrepentant Architect
   Andrew Preston, *The War Council*, Chapters 6-9
The Repentant Architect
   Robert McNamara, *In Retrospect*, Chapters 5-8
The Rebels
   Daniel Ellsberg, *Secrets*, Prologue, Chapters 10-13
   James Thomson, “How Could Vietnam Happen?”, *The Atlantic*

**Due: Intro, Paper Outline, Partial Bibliography Final Draft**

April 5-Detenete/Meetings with Students
Readings
   John Lewis Gaddis, *The Strategies of Containment*, Chapter 10
   Jussi Hanhimaki, *The Rise and Fall of Détente*

April 12- The 1980s and the End of the Cold War/Meetings with Students
Readings
   John Lewis Gaddis, *The Strategies of Containment*, Chapter 11
   James Wilson, *The Triumph of Improvisation*

April 19-Student Presentations
Readings: None (work on paper)

April 26-Student Presentations
Readings: None (work on paper)

**Final Paper Due: Thursday, May 2 by 5pm (Hardcopy to Prof. David’s office or mailbox)**
When Is Everything Due?

Class Discussion: Your Choice

Idea (or ideas) for Paper Topic: February 8 [Note: this is just to get you thinking. You won’t be turning anything in]

Paper Pitch (1-2 pages): February 22

              Final draft, March 29

Class Presentation: Either April 19 or April 26 [Will pick dates after Spring Break]

Final Paper (15 pages minimum): May 2 by 5pm in my mailbox (226 Bay State Rm 308) or at my office