This course examines the history of international relations since the end of World War II, with emphases on the Soviet-American Cold War confrontation and its impact on the rest of the world; the collapse and breakup of the Soviet Union and manifestations of American unilateralism; the problems of arms control and nuclear proliferation; the end of colonialism and the challenges of ethnic conflict and terrorism; the re-emergence of an ambitious Russia and its potential consequences; and the rise of China as America’s new main rival for global dominance.

The chief aims of this course are to familiarize you with key aspects of post-World War II international history and enhance your comprehension of the significance of national foreign policies and their interactions and consequences. Those purposes are served by a two-track reading program: we follow the foreign news coverage in The New York Times seven days a week and bring up the rear with the assigned books. Your research paper serves the same purpose by examining closely an event currently unfolding while at the same time covering its historical background.

While breaking international crises may be covered as they occur, the course is organized mainly around the coverage in McWilliams & Piotrowski’s book. The other required texts cover topics of particular importance in depth, and daily newspaper reports bring these topics up to date. Some, such as NATO and EU, are given rather short shrift in the texts, and I suggest that you compensate by reading the main Wikipedia articles on them. By the same token, some topics well covered in your books will be given short shrift in class, while selected topics of great current or continuing interest (e.g., Afghanistan and Vietnam) will be dealt with in class far beyond their textbook coverage.

**Required Readings**

**For HIS 456 & 556:**

**PLH**  Peter L. Hahn, *Crisis and Crossfire: The United States and the Middle East Since 1945*  

**AMP**  Alan McPherson, *Intimate Ties, Bitter Struggles: The United States and Latin America Since 1945*  

(Boulder & London: Lynne Rienner, 2009).


+++ You should also follow international news daily by Googling “BBC News World”. Once in, you can click on “Latin America”, “Africa”, “Asia”, “Europe”, and “Mid-East”.

For HIS 556 Only:


Tests

Ignore the official final exam schedule! The only exams in this course are four 30-minute in-class essay tests, each worth 20% of your final grade. A list of questions is distributed well in advance of each test, three or more of those questions will be on the test, and you will answer one. Listed questions may be adjusted to take recent events into account. Your lowest test grade will be dropped unless you duplicate it, but you may not opt to skip one; a missed test must be made up before the following test, or it will cost you 20% of the course grade. Questions written in *italics* are designed especially for HIS 556 in order to take into account the extra readings and higher graduate-level expectations, but graduate students are free to choose any test question they wish. Unscheduled current events quizzes may be sprung on you. They will have no specific value except that the quality of your performance on them will influence your final grade slightly in a positive (if A or B) or negative (if D or E) direction.

In-class Coverage, Test by Test

Sep. 20:  Origins of the Cold War  
- Yalta & Potsdam conferences and their consequences  
- Sovietization of Eastern Europe  
- 1948 Berlin crisis  
U.S containment policy  
- The ‘Long Telegram’, Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, NATO, NSC 68, Korea  
Cuban missile crisis  
Readings:  M&P pp. 1-146, M&W pp. 1-103, JLG pp. 3-196  

Oct. 16:  The Arab-Israeli conflict, 1945-present  
The wars in Indochina, 1945-75

Nov. 8: The U.S. and Latin America
The U.S. and China

Dec. 11: Nuclear arms control
The U.S. and the Middle East
- The Gulf Wars
- Afghanistan
Terrorism

Research Paper

A research paper, worth 20% of your final grade, is required. Optimum length is 4,000 words for HIS 456 and 6,000 for HIS 556. It must be typed, double-spaced with 1” margins all around, carefully proof-read, and without visible corrections. A title page precedes the text, endnotes follow it (unless you use footnotes), and a bibliography listing all works usefully consulted, whether cited or not, brings up the rear. Number all pages (text, endnotes, bibliography, but not the title page) from 1 up. Use no covers; just staple in the top left corner. “The Happy Footnoter” will be distributed as a model for the general appearance of your paper and for when and how to use notes.

Topics must be chosen tentatively by Sept. 6; a preliminary bibliography, typed and in proper form, is due on Sept. 12; and the final paper is due on Nov. 29. All topics must be based on events or issues evolving during this semester; hence your time frame is Aug. 28–Nov. 28, 2012, and at least 50% of your coverage must fall within that period; the rest must be pertinent historical background. All topics must deal with international relations, which could be one state’s foreign policy, relations between or among states in any field (e.g., security, culture, trade), or the impact of certain issues (e.g., illegal immigration, ethnic strife, economic integration, terrorism) on international relations.

For the current events portion of your paper, BBC News World will be your initial source of information. Copy its main news coverage daily, record for later reference the source and date of publication on each item, and organize the accumulating collection topically. Supplement those items with other current sources such as high quality news magazines (e.g., The Economist), serious foreign affairs journals (e.g., Foreign Affairs, International Security, Foreign Policy, Current History, Journal of Contemporary China, Journal of Cold War Studies), and newspapers with good foreign affairs coverage (The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Financial Times). Newspapers often put articles on the Internet, which is also a good source for background history, the nature and history of international
organizations, etc. Journals also put their articles on the Internet but usually make you pay to read or copy them. Check with the UA Library Periodical Desk on how to use them for free.

Your research may start with a careful perusal of the bibliographies and source notes found in your textbooks. Information on topics such as yours is also likely to be found in journals, often indexed; in back issues of newspapers, also often indexed; as well as in books. Libraries remain good places to look for those things! On many topics, published collections of government and other records will be useful, even essential, for historical background, e.g., *Foreign Relations of the United States* (multiple annual volumes; for complete listings, check: www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/c4035.htm).

**General Rules**

**Attendance** is expected, and a signature list will be circulated most of the time. To arrive late or leave early is discourteous and disruptive -- and a disciplinary offense (see Code of Student Conduct).

**Cheating** on assignments earns a final grade of “E”, must be reported to the applicable administrative office, and may lead to suspension or expulsion. Read the “Standards of Academic Integrity” in the undergraduate or graduate bulletin, and note this warning from the History Department:

*Plagiarism is taking (which includes purchasing) the words and ideas of another and passing them off as one’s own work. If in a formal paper a student quotes someone, that student must use quotation marks and give a citation. Paraphrased or borrowed ideas are to be identified by proper citations. Plagiarism will result, at the minimum, in the student failing the assignment.*