

SPRING SYLLABUS 2009  
HISTORY DEPARTMENT  
U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

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

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Professor

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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. <i>Quiet American</i> assignment	4%
8. Book review	5%
9. First version of research paper, including notes and bibliography	20%
10. Final research paper	20%
11. <i>Great Minds of American History</i> 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:**

1. My office is located in Nimitz Library, room 326. Third floor, turn right at painting of Fleet Admiral Nimitz. Telephone extension: 36901.

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](mailto: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:**

Walter LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945--2006*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition

Richard Marius, *A Short Guide to Writing About History*, 6th edition

Robert J. McMahon and Thomas G. Paterson, eds., *The Origins of the Cold War*, 4th edition

Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*

William Strunk, Jr., and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition

**Required Readings, Handouts (in order of appearance):**

Jules Benjamin, "How to Read a History Assignment and Take Notes in Class," from his *A Student's Guide to History*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition

Henry Luce, "The American Century," from William Appleman Williams, *et al.*, eds., *America in Vietnam: A Documentary History*

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*.

Eric Goldman on Senator Joseph McCarthy, from Goldman, *The Crucial Decade: America 1945-1955* (New York, 1956)

W. W. Rostow, "The Offensive of the International Communist Movement," from 3d edition of McMahon & Paterson (1991)

William Appleman Williams, "The Cold War Revisionists", *The Nation* (November 13, 1967)

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

Jules Benjamin, "How to Research a History Topic," from *A Student's Guide to History*

Mark A. Stoler, "From Continentalism to Globalism: General Stanley D. Embick, the Joint Strategic Survey Committee, and the Military View of American National Policy during the Second World War," *Diplomatic History* (1982)

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*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition (E744/A477)

Jules R. Benjamin, *A Student's Guide to History*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (D16.3/B4)

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:**

*American Foreign Relations Since 1600: A Guide to the Literature*, 2 vols. (Ref/E/183.7/G8)  
(and online version via Library's website)

*Encyclopedia of U.S. Foreign Relations*, 4 vols. (Ref/E183.7/E53)

*Encyclopedia of the Cold War: A Political, Social, and Military History*, 5 vols.  
(Ref/D840/E63/2008) (and online version via Library's website)

*Historical Statistics of the United States: Earliest Times to the Present*, 5 vols.  
(Ref/HA202/H57/2006)

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

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

*Documentary History of the Truman Presidency*, 35 vols. E813/D56/1995.

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

**For Consultation, on the Web:**

Truman Presidential Museum and Library: <http://www.trumanlibrary.org/>

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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**

Discuss: LaFeber text, vi, ix-xiii, xv, xvii, 1-7.

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”**  
 Discuss: Goldman, 203, 212-14, 250-57,270-79, 289, and review 137-45.  
**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  
1800

Tu 21 Apr Oral critiques of papers 1-5.  
**All written critiques due.**

Th 23Apr Oral critiques of papers 6-10.  
**“Great Minds” paper due**

Tu 28 Apr Oral critiques of papers 11-13. Summing up. Course review and evaluation.

**NO FINAL EXAMINATION**