CENTRE FOR CANADIAN, US & LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

Course level : MA
Course Title : **International Relations during the Cold War**
Course Type : Optional
Course Teacher : Dr. Saumyajit Ray
Credits : 4
Contact hours : 4 per week

Course Objectives

The Cold War was a period of intense superpower rivalry, suspicion, and distrust. Both the United States and the Soviet Union adopted policies and formed military alliances in a struggle for the hearts and minds of men (and women), threatening global peace and security as never before, and intensifying matters time and again to take the world to the brink of a third World war, even as attempts began to be made to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

To understand international politics as it is today, it is necessary to examine and understand the world as it was during the Cold War, to grasp the causes that gave rise to it, the way it was played out, why certain newly-independent states thought it prudent to keep clear of the blocs in which the world stood divided, and why it came to an abrupt but certain end. This course is aimed at giving students precisely such an understanding.

Learning outcomes

After a semester-long study of this advanced level course on the Cold War, along with the writing of the term paper and the making of the documentary movie, students are expected to:

1. Understand the Cold War in a historical, political, and ideological setting;
2. Have thorough knowledge of the various personalities who made a lasting impression on world politics during the Cold War period and beyond, regardless of how history judges them;
3. Know why wars, revolutions, ethnic wars, and secessionist movements happened during this period and their consequences for their respective countries and the rest of the world;
4. Understand why and how the “Third” world kept out of this bipolar arrangement and the extent of their success;
5. Examine the foreign policy decisions and actions of various countries during this dangerous yet interesting period of world history and their implications.

Evaluation Method

1. Term paper (on a topic selected by the course teacher) of about 2500 words with citation in the SIS Manual Style and accompanied by a Turnitin plagiarism report: 20%
2. Documentary movie on the term paper topic made using latest desktop software: 20%
3. Oral examination based on the term paper/movie topic: 10%
4. End Semester examination: 50%

Course Content

1. **The Cold War:** Origin, causes, stages
2. **American policy: Leadership of the free world**
    - Containment (Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan)
    - Collective defense and military aid
    - Beyond containment (massive retaliation, brinkmanship, domino theory, limited nuclear war)
3. **Soviet policy: The Iron Curtain**
    - Buffer States
    - Peaceful coexistence
    - Military intervention
4. **Chinese policy: The Bamboo Curtain**
    - Maoism: New Democracy, people's democratic dictatorship, Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution
    - Mao's rivals: Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping
    - The Chinese alternative, socialist polycentrism, and Sino-Soviet split
5. **Landmark events**
    - Europe (Berlin Blockade, Berlin Wall)
    - Americas (Cuban Missile Crisis)
    - Asia (Korean War, Vietnam War, Arab-Israeli wars, Islamic Revolution in Iran, Iran-Iraq War, Gulf War-I)
6. **Détente**
    - US-Soviet and Sino-US détente
    - Arms race, arms control, disarmament
    - Failure of détente
7. **New Cold War: The Afghan misadventure**
    - Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
    - Islamization of Pakistan and the Afghan *Mujahideen*
    - Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan

8. **The Third World**
    - The Global South
    - Neocolonialism
    - Non-alignment
9. **India during the Cold War**
    - India and the superpowers
    - India and the Third World (NAM, SAARC)
    - Major secessionist campaigns in and around India: Bangladesh, Tamil Eelam, Khalistan, Kashmir
10. **The end of the Cold War**
    - The Gorbachev phenomenon
    - The collapse of the Soviet bloc
    - The disintegration of the Soviet Union

Suggested Readings

1. Acheson, Dean (1988), *Present at the Creation: My Years in the State Department*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company)
2. Agwani, M.S. (1975), *Détente: Perspectives and Repercussions*. New Delhi: Vikas
3. Ambrose, Stephen E. & Douglas G. Brinkley (2011), *Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy since 1938*. New York, NY: Penguin Books
4. Baylis, John; Steve Smith: and Patricia Owens (2010). *The Globalization of World Politics* Oxford: Oxford University Press
5. Beschloss, Michael R. and Strobe Talbott (1993), *At The Highest Levels: The Inside Story of the End of the Cold War*. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Company
6. Buhite, Russell D. (1981), *Soviet-American Relations in Asia, 1945-1954*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press
7. Brzezinski, Zbigniew (1993), *Out of Control: Global Turmoil The Eve of the Twenty-First Century*. New York, NY: Charles Scribner's Sons
8. Caldwell, Dam (1981), *American-Soviet Relations: From 1947 to the Nixon Kissinger Grand Design*, Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.
9. Calvocoressi, Peter (2001), *World Politics 1945-2000*. New Delhi: Pearson
10. Castro, Fidel with Ignacio Ramonet (2008), *Fidel Castro: My Life* (London: Penguin UK)
11. Chen, Jan (1952). *Mao's China and the Cold War*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press
12. Dockrill, Michael Land Michael F. Hopkins (2006), *The Cold War, 1945-1991*. New Delhi: Palgrave McMillian
13. Gaddis, John Lewis (1992), *The United States and the End of the Cold War Implications, Reconsiderations, Provocations*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press
14. Gaddis, John Lewis (2006), *The Cold War: A New History*. New York, NY: Penguin Books
15. George, Alexander L. (1967), *The Chinese Communist Army in Action*: *The Korean War and its Aftermath*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press
16. Harding, Harty (1992), *A Fragile Relationship. The United States and China since 1972*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution.

17. Heywood, Andrew (2014), *Global Politics*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan
18. Hill, Kenneth L. (1993), *Cold War Chronology: Soviet-American Relations, 1945-1997*. Washington, D.C: Congressional Quarterly.
19. Ingram, Kenneth (1.55)*, History of the Cold War*. London: Darwen Finlayson Ltd.
20. Kennan, George F. (1984), *American Diplomacy*, Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press
21. Kissinger, Henry (2011), *White House Years*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster
22. Levering, B Ralph (2005), *The Cold War: A Post-Cold War History*. Arlington Heights, IL: Harlan Davison Publication
23. Mason, W John, *The Cold War, 1945-1991*. New York, NY: Routledge Publishers, 1996
24. McCormick, Thomas J. (1992), *America's Half-Century: the United States Foreign Policy in the Cold War*, New Delhi: Affiliated East-West Press
25. McWilliams, Wayne C and Harry Piotrowski (2006), *The World Since 1945: A History of International* Relations. New Delhi: Viva Books
26. Messer, Robert L. (1982), *The End of an Alliance: Roosevelt, Truman, and The Origin of* the *Cold War*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press
27. Mishra, K.P. (ed.) (1982), *Non-Alignment: Frontiers & Dynamics*. New Delhi: Vikas
28. Tan, Qingshan (1992), *The Making Of US-China Policy: From Normalization to the Post Cold War Era*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers
29. Trachtenberg, Marc (2012), *The Cold War and After: History. Theory, and the Logic of International Politics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press
30. Young, John W. (2013), *International Relations Since 1945* Oxford: Oxford University Press

[Further readings on particular topics will be suggested as and when they are taught.]