Using the methods of diplomatic history and political science, this course will explore the evolution of American diplomacy from the end of the Korean War to the end of the Cold War. Our central concern will be to understand how and why the United States was able to emerge from decades of dangerous bipolar conflict into a position of unipolar predominance. Among the topics we will examine are the globalization of the Cold War under Eisenhower and Kennedy; the Cuban Missile Crisis; the escalation of the Vietnam War under Kennedy and Johnson and the domestic conflict over Vietnam; the efforts of Nixon and Kissinger to use detente with the Soviet Union, the opening to China, and step by step diplomacy in the Middle East to stabilize the Cold War and to achieve a peace in Vietnam consonant with American interests; the American defeat in South East Asia and its consequences under Ford and Kissinger; Carter’s achievements in Panama and the Middle East, and the origins of the Carter Doctrine amidst the crises of 1979-1980; the revitalization of American diplomacy under Reagan and the domestic conflicts over policy in Central America; and Reagan, Bush and Gorbachev and the ending of the Cold War on American terms.

SYLLABUS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

(1) You can find the electronic version of this syllabus at
http://www.amherst.edu/~pmachala/syllabi.

(2) The course is divided into fourteen sections. Unless otherwise indicated, each section corresponds to one seminar meeting.

(3) Course requirements:

- Regular attendance.
• Read all the assigned literature in advance of each class session.

• **FOUR BLACKBOARD “DISCUSSION BOARDS” LETTERS** (each “Discussion Board” corresponds to one class meeting). During the first class we shall distribute the class roster, identifying FOUR specific classes for which readings you will responsible for commenting on. No later than proceeding Sunday morning we shall post questions in the Discussion Board” that will address the readings for the Thursday’s seminars for you to keep in mind while writing your comments. Please submit your comments no later than **Thursday morning 5:00am** prior to the given seminar meeting. Because these comments will be available to anyone enrolled in the course, our hope is that some of them will generate serious counter-comments, which will then spill over into our seminar meetings. (*None of these comments will be graded, though we will consult them if your final grade is borderline.*)

• **TWO PAPERS – midterm (eight pages) AND final (twelve pages).**

  **Midterm Paper** – chose ONE of the following topics: (In a sign-up sheet circle your first and second preference. If you have no preference, circle all four options. By our second meeting we will let you know which topic you will write on your mid-term essay.)

  o **FINAL PAPER** will be due on **XXX, 2007** on the following topic: (the topic will be announced by December 3)

• **IF you choose to take this course to fulfill the ADVANCED SEMINAR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENT:** Same TWO regular papers + **one fifteen-page research paper.** If you decide to write a research paper, you need to submit a two-three page proposal, including a preliminary bibliography. After you produce your paper proposal you are welcome to come to see about it. The deadline for the proposal will be Sunday, November 1, and the paper will be no later than Tuesday, December 1. For producing your preliminary bibliography you may want to consult [http://www.amherst.edu/library/research/courserelated/spring07/polisci38.html](http://www.amherst.edu/library/research/courserelated/spring07/polisci38.html)

  *As pursuant to the honor code, plagiarism, multiple submissions, or any other serious violations will result in failure for the course.*

(4) **Materials to be Read:**

• **Books.** The following books are available at the Amherst Books (corner of Main and South Pleasant Street), and 2 copies of each book are also on reserve at Frost Library’s Circulation/Reserve Desk. All other assigned readings are in the multilithed form.
John Lewis Gaddis, WE NOW KNOW, Oxford

Henry Kissinger, DIPLOMACY, Simon and Schuster

David F. Schmitz, THANK GOD THEY’RE ON OUR SIDE, North Carolina

Steven L. Spiegel, THE OTHER ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, Chicago

Patrick Tyler, A GREAT WALL, A Century Foundation Book, Public Affairs, New York

George Herring, AMERICA’S LONGEST WAR, McGraw-Hill

William Taubman, KHRUSHCHEV, THE MAN AND HIS ERA, Norton


- **Multilith.** You may also purchase all other assigned readings in THREE multilith volumes. The first volume of the multilith is already available. The second volume of the multilith will be ready by early October. **You can purchase the multiliths the in the Political Science Office, Room 103, Clark House.**

- **The readings for the VERY FIRST CLASS (Wednesday, September 12) are already included in the first volume of the multilith packet. Since none of the readings in the multilith packets are available on Reserve, you need to purchase this multilith as soon as possible so that you can read all the material for the first seminar meeting prior Wednesday, September 12 and be ready to discuss it at the meeting.**
ONE: Wednesday, September 12
From Truman to Eisenhower

John Lewis Gaddis, STRATEGIES OF CONTAINMENT, 25-126 (M)

McGeorge Bundy, DANGER AND SURVIVAL, 236-260, 273-305 (M)

John Lewis Gaddis, WE NOW KNOW, 70-84, 115-129, 221-234 (P)

Henry Kissinger, DIPLOMACY, 493-521 (P)
TWO: Wednesday September 19
Eisenhower and World Politics, I

George Herring, AMERICA’S LONGEST WAR, 24-68 (P)


David Schmitz, THANK GOD THEY’RE ON OUR SIDE, 178-187, 193-209 (P)

Kenneth M. Pollack, THE PERSIAN PUZZLE, THE CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND AMERICA, 57-71 (P)


Kissinger, DIPLOMACY, 522-567 (P)

Steven Spiegel, THE OTHER ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, 50-82 (P)

Gaddis, WE NOW KNOW, 163-176, 208-211 (P)

THREE: Wednesday, September 26
Eisenhower and World Politics, II

Kissinger, DIPLOMACY, 568-583 (P)

Taubman, KRUSHCHEV, 347-360, 388-441, 447-455 (P)

Gaddis, WE NOW KNOW, 129-143, 234-253 (P)

Herring, AMERICA’S LONGEST WAR, 68-97 (P)

Kissinger, DIPLOMACY, 628-642 (P)


Taubman, KRUSHCHEV, 441-447, 455-479 (P)

Schmitz, THANK GOD THEY’RE ON OUR SIDE, 209-233 (P)

Spiegel, THE OTHER ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, 83-93 (P)
FOUR: Wednesday, October 3
Kennedy and Krushchev

Taubman, KHRUSHCHEV, 482-493, 500-506 (P)


Kissinger, DIPLOMACY, 583-593 (P)

Letter of John J. McCloy to Nikita Krushchev, September 6, 1961 (M)

Beschloss, THE CRISIS YEARS, 431-545 (M)

Taubman, KRUSHCHEV, 529-537, 567-577 (P)
**FIVE: Wednesday, October 10**  
**From Kennedy to Johnson**

Beschloss, THE CRISIS YEARS, 596-608, 618-638, 671-678 (M)

Taubman, KHRUSHCHEV, 582-585, 597-599, 602-606 (P)

Herring, AMERICA’S LONGEST WAR, 89-129 (P)

Schmitz, THANK GOD THEY’RE ON OUR SIDE, 234-250, 255-264 (P)

Amos Elon, “A Very Special Relationship,” THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS, January 15, 2004 (M)

Herring, AMERICA’S LONGEST WAR, 131-169 (P)

Schmitz, THANK GOD THEY’RE ON OUR SIDE, 264-292

Frederick Logevall, CHOOSING WAR, 375-395 (M)


Tom Wells, THE WAR WITHIN, 24-26 (M)

Alexander Bloom and Wini Breines, eds. TAKIN IT TO THE STREETS, A SIXTIES READER, 214-229 (M)
SIX: Wednesday, October 17
Johnson and World Politics

Herring, AMERICA’S LONGEST WAR, 171-223 (P)

C. Dale Walton, THE MYTH OF INEVITABLE US DEFEAT IN VIETNAM, 61-63, 75-79, 83-84 (M)

Wells, THE WAR WITHIN, 158-164 (M)

Spiegel, THE OTHER ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, 118-165 (P)

Herring, AMERICA’S LONGEST WAR, 225-268 (P)

Kissinger, DIPLOMACY, 643-673 (P)


Michael Lind, VIETNAM, THE NECESSARY WAR, 60-66
SEVEN: Wednesday, October 24
Nixon, Kissinger and World Politics

Herring, AMERICA’S LONGEST WAR, 271-296 (P)

Wells, THE WAR WITHIN, 364-375 (M)

Mark W. Woodruff, UNHERALDED VICTORY, 194-197 (M)

John M. Shaw, THE CAMBODIAN CAMPAIGN, 153-170 (M)

N. Gordon Levin, Jr., “Nixon, the Senate and the War,” COMMENTARY, November 1970, 69-79 (M)

Herring, AMERICA’S LONGEST WAR, 296-320 (P)

Kissinger, DIPLOMACY, 674-695, 703-732 (P)

Spiegel, THE OTHER ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, 181-218 (P)
EIGHT: Wednesday, October 31
From Nixon to Ford

Spiegel, THE OTHER ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, 263-305 (P)

Robert Dallek, NIXON AND KISSINGER, 509-533, 582-586 (M)


Herring, AMERICA’S LONGEST WAR, 323-353 (P)

Walton, THE MYTH OF INEVITABLE DEFEAT IN VIETNAM, 137-139, 142-150 (M)

Kissinger, DIPLOMACY, 695-702, 732-761 (P)


Tyler, A GREAT WALL, 193-210
NINE: Wednesday, November 7
Carter and World Politics


Raymond Garthoff, DETENTE AND CONFRONTATION, 653-673 (M)

Zbigniew Brzezinski, POWER AND PRINCIPLE, 146-150 (M)

Tyler, A GREAT WALL, 229-285 (P)

Gaddis Smith, MORALITY, REASON AND POWER, 95-99, 133-156 (M)

Spiegel, THE OTHER ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, 340-373 (P)

Pollack, THE PERSIAN PUZZLE, 114-153 (P)


Jeane Kirkpatrick, “Dictatorships and Double Standards,” COMMENTARY, November 1979, 34-37, 44-45 (M)


TEN: Wednesday, November 14
From Carter to Reagan

Pollack, THE PERSIAN PUZZLE, 153-180

Coll, GHOST WARS, 38-52 (M)

Smith, MORALITY, REASON AND POWER, 208-240 (M)

Brzezinski, POWER AND PRINCIPLE, 340-353

Garthoff, DÉTENTE AND CONFRONTATION, 1036-1042, 1099-1121 (M)


Stanley Hoffmann, “The Unhappy Choice,” THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS, November 20, 1980 (M)

Don Oberdorfer, THE TURN, 15-77 (M)

Raymond L. Garthoff, THE GREAT TRANSITION, 542-553, 629-637 (M)


Spiegel, THE OTHER ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, 395-429 (P)

THANKSGIVING BREAK
ELEVEN: Wednesday, November 28
Reagan and World Politics

Oberdorfer, THE TURN, 79-209 (M)


Peter Rodman, MORE PRECIOUS THAN PEACE, THE COLD WAR AND THE STRUGGLE FOR THE THIRD WORLD, 240-271 (M)

Joan Didion, “‘Something Horrible’ in El Salvador,” THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS, July 17, 1994 (M)

Robert S. Leiken and Barry Rubin, eds., THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CRISIS READER, 567-576 (M)

Cynthia J. Arnson, CROSSROADS: CONGRESS, THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION, AND CENTRAL AMERICA, 201-220 (M)

Pollack, THE PERSIAN PUZZLE, 198-216 (P)

Stanley Hoffman, “Reagan’s Underworld,” THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS, May 7, 1987 (M)

Franklin Foer, “Founding Fakers” THE NEW REPUBLIC, August 18 and 25, 2003, 17-21 (M)
TWELVE: Wednesday, December 5
From Reagan to Bush

Oberdorfer, THE TURN, 211-326 (M)

Robert W. Tucker, “Reagan’s Foreign Policy,” FOREIGN AFFAIRS, 1988/1989, 1-17, 23 (M)


THIRTEEN: Wednesday, December 12
Bush, Baker and the Cold War Endgame

Oberdorfer, THE TURN, 361-386 (M)


Hitchings, AMERICAN DIPLOMACY AT THE END OF THE COLD WAR, 90-109, 112-128 (M)


Robert Zoellick, “Two Plus Four, The Lessons of German Unification,” THE NATIONAL INTEREST, Fall 2000, 17-28 (M)


Hitchings, AMERICAN DIPLOMACY AND THE END OF THE COLD WAR, 131-133 (M)


Vladislav M. Zubok, “Gorbachev and the End of the Cold War: Perspectives on History and Personality,” COLD WAR HISTORY, January 2002, 61, 80-93 (M)