

Cold War in Asia – History 4890 (DHA) Summer Semester (8 Weeks) 2009
Dr. Denise Conover – 321J Main
435-797-0870; denise.conover@usu.edu
Office hrs. Mon-Thur., 10-11 am

Course Description: This course focuses on several Asian countries which played a prominent role in the Cold War confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union, and their chief allies, Japan and China (People’s Republic of China or PRC). The countries upon which we will mainly focus are Korea (divided into North and South) and Vietnam (divided into North and South from 1954-1975); Cold War effects on Taiwan and Cambodia will merit our attention. China and Japan will also receive consideration within the context of the Cold War. The Cold War superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, will be viewed from the perspective of their Cold War interactions with allies (Japan, China) and “hot war” conflicts in Korea and Vietnam. The emphasis will be, through the readings, lecture material, visuals, on the Asians – rather than on the military struggles of the Americans and their allies or the Soviet Union.

Course Objectives:

1. To enhance the students’ awareness of the key components of the post-WWII period—decolonization in Asia; conventional/nuclear arms race; “hot wars” by Cold War proxies (Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan); Soviet-American superpower ambitions, fears, insecurities, pride
2. To promote the students’ understanding of the “appeal” of the communist model to some ex-colonial Asian powers and the “appeal” of the capitalist model to others (and the changes which occurred in post-Mao China; post-Soviet North Korea)
3. To hone the reading/writing/researching skills of the student

Textbooks:

David Halberstam, *The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War* (2007)
Gary R. Hess, *Vietnam and the United States: Origins and Legacy of War* (1998)
Richard Peters and Kiaobing Li, *Voices from the Korean War: Personal Stories of American, Korean, and Chinese Soldiers* (2005)
Truong Nhu Tang, et al. *A Viet Cong Memoir: An Inside Account of the Vietnam War and its Aftermath* (1986)

There are numerous books available in the Reserve Collections (Media Collections Dept. in USU library) under “Conover” for additional readings I also have a number of articles which you can access online through Course Reserve.

Tentative Schedule (8-Week session, 5 days a week; one hr. per day)

Week 1: June 8-12: Korea and Vietnam (1945-55): read Hess, chapters 1-3 for Vietnam; Peters, chp. 1; A Vietcong Memoir, chapters 1-3; course reserve readings (see below)

Week 2: June 15-19: China and Japan (1945-50); Halberstam, chapters 12-17

Week 3: June 22-26: Korean War and effects (on China, Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, Japan, US-Soviet relations): Peters, chps. 2-6, 21, 23, 27, [epilogue or pages (259)-264]; Halberstam, chapters 18-47, 53

Week 4: June 29, June 30, July 1-3: Vietnam (1954-68): in *A Vietcong Memoir*: read chapters 4-13; Hess, chapters 4-5

Week 5: July 6-10: Vietnam War under Nixon; read in *Vietcong Memoir*, chapters 14-18; Hess, chapters 6

Week 6: July 13-17: Cambodia: read Hess, chapter 7; Vietnam, 1973-1975 and reunited Vietnam: read *Vietcong Memoir*, chapters 19-24; Epilogue; Hess, chapter 6; for China 1969-1979 (class handouts will be provided)

Week 7: July 20-23; July 24=Pioneer Day holiday: Korean Experience 1953-1991 (collapse of Soviet Union) with a focus on North Korea

Week 8: July 27-31: Soviet-Afghan War, 1979-88 (if time permits): US avenges Vietnam War (or so it seemed until 9/11 2001); Beyond to the Cold War to New Conflicts (North Korea especially)

From Course Reserve, please read the following articles

Week 1-“Week One: Class Notes” and “Background to the Cold War in Asia” And “Korea” and “The Cold War in Indochina 1947-49”

Week 2: “Remake Japan” and “US-Japanese Perceptions”

Week 3 & 4: “China and Vietnam” and “Indonesia and Vietnam 1963-65” and “NLF and Vietnam”

Week 5: “US Memory of Vietnam”

Week 6-8: More articles may be added

Requirements:

- 1. You must be a student who is interested, attentive, responsible, self-motivated, well-mannered (i.e., no talking, sleeping, working on homework from another class, texting, using computer—EXCEPT for academic purposes only—and any other ill-mannered behavior that I haven’t listed)**
- 2. 5-6 page, typed *essay* on why Vietnam was able to reunite (in 1975) and Korea is still divided (long after the “Cold War” ended in 1991) Due July 23 (before holiday, July 24).**

- 3. 5-6 page, typed *research paper* (at least 5 primary sources and 5 secondary sources) on the changes which occurred in the People's Republic of China between 1969-1979, which made the PRC "tilt" toward the US, away from its Cold War ally, the Soviet Union, and why the US dropped (or diluted) its hostility toward "Communist" China during the same period. (100 pts.) Due the last class, July 31)**
- 4. Unspecified number of in-class responses (could be a brief, two-paragraph response to assigned reading or a video clip seen in class, etc.); total points could exceed 100 points (hence, class attendance is strongly advised)**