

HIST 6930:
Cold War Military History

Depending on class size, we'll either meet weekly for at least 1 hour (ideally at least 90 minutes, possibly on Teams if finding a time and room for campus meetings doesn't work) or, if there are fewer than 4 students, we'll determine the best format on a case-by-case basis (individual meetings or weekly review papers).

Students have two assessment options, but everyone will help lead two discussions:

- A. Historiography – 50% of the course grade on 2 essays (10-12 page mid-term and 12-15 page final; final grade will stand for all 50% of it is better than the mid-term) + 50% on participation (incl. leading two discussions)
- B. Prospectus – 50% on a thesis or dissertation prospectus draft that links this reading list to your research topic + 50% on participation. This is a more viable option for second-year students, though it might also make sense for a first-year MA student.

Week 1: The Operational Framework

Jonathan House, *A Military History of the Cold War, 1944-1962* (2012).

Week 2: The Strategy Framework

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy during the Cold War* (rev. ed., 2005).

Week 3: The Constitutional Framework

Douglas T. Stuart, *Creating the National Security State: a History of the Law that Transformed America* (2008).

Week 4: Institutional Change and War Planning (I)

Geoffrey Barlow, *From Hot War to Cold: The U.S. Navy and National Security Affairs, 1945-1955* (2009).

Week 5: Institutional Change and War Planning (II)

Edward Kaplan, *To Kill Nations: American Strategy in the Air-Atomic Age and the Rise of Mutual Assured Destruction* (2015).

Week 6: At War in Korea

Allan R. Millett, *The War for Korea, 1950-1951: They Came from the North* (2010).

Week 7: Institutional Change and War Planning (III)

Ingo Trauschweizer, *The Cold War U.S. Army: Building Deterrence for Limited War* (2008).

Week 8: Institutional Change and War Planning (IV)

Aaron O'Connell, *Underdogs: The Making of the Modern Marine Corps* (2014).

Week 9: Global Challenges

Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (2005).

Week 10: Waging War or Counterinsurgency (I)

Matthew Connelly, *A Diplomatic Revolution: Algeria's Fight for Independence and the Origins of the Post-Cold War Era* (2002).

Week 11: Waging War or Counterinsurgency (II)

Warren Wilkins, *Grab Their Belts to Fight Them: The Viet Cong's Big Unit War Against the U.S., 1965-1966* (2011) AND Andrew J. Birtle, "PROVN, Westmoreland, and the Historians: A Reappraisal," *Journal of Military History* (Oct. 2008).

Week 12: Waging War or Counterinsurgency (III)

Robert J. Thompson III, *Clear, Hold, and Destroy: Pacification in Phu Yen and the American War in Vietnam* (2021) AND Kevin M. Boylan, "The Red Queen's Race: Operation Washington Green and Pacification, 1969-70," *Journal of Military History* (Oct. 2009).

Week 13: Lessons of the Vietnam War?

David Fitzgerald, *Learning to Forget: U.S. Army Counterinsurgency Doctrine and Practice from Vietnam to Iraq* (2013) OR

Brian D. Laslie, *The Air Force Way of War: U.S. Tactics and Training after Vietnam* (2015)
Anyone who's not one of the "designated readers" gets to choose which book to read; we'll discuss them together

Week 14: Changing Nature of Warfare?

Jonathan House, *A Military History of the Cold War, 1962-1991* (2020).

Week 15: Changing Nature of Strategy?

Steven Metz, *Iraq and the Evolution of American Strategy* (2008).