

**Montgomery College
Department of Humanities
Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus**

The United States Since 1945

TEMPLATE

Course Description:

Nineteen forty-five was a watershed year for the U.S. and the world. The end of WWII, the Cold War, nuclear arms race, globalization, and a host of other factors led to the U.S. becoming a global empire. This course seeks to examine United States foreign and domestic policy through this crucial time, analyzing various events and presidential decisions to determine how these years shaped current U.S. policy and standing in the world.

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Evaluate the strategies and tactics and the strengths and weaknesses of major movements and their leaders in the fights for civil and political equality in the generation after World War II.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of America's containment doctrine in a wide array of global settings.
- Trace the events of America's growing involvement in the Middle East after 1945 and evaluate which were successful and which were not.

Reading List

Required

John Hersey, *Hiroshima*

Mark Lawrence, *The Vietnam War: A Concise International History*

Mark Danner, *The Massacre at El Mozote*

Recommended

Robert Frakes, *Writing for College History*

Course Requirements:

Participation	(15%)
Response Papers	(10%)
Midterm Exam	(25%)
Final Exam	(25%)
Paper	(25%)

Participation: Attendance and class participation is a vital part of your grade. This means coming to class having completed reading assignments and prepared to actively discuss. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If a student is not present when attendance is taken it will be recorded as an absence. Students are also responsible to find out about any changes in scheduling or assignments announced in classes they missed. If a student misses more than three classes their grade will be reduced by a full letter. Further absences may prevent a passing grade in the course.

** Texting is not permitted in class. If you text in class you will be asked to leave and will receive an absence for that class. Repeated texting in class will result in a deduction of class participation credit and will be reflected in your final grade.

Response Papers: You will be required to complete a 2-page essay on the readings (dates indicated below). ****No late papers will be accepted**

Exams: Exams will be comprised of a selection of essay questions based on lectures, class discussions, readings, and films. ****There are no make-up exams**

Research Paper: You will be required to complete one paper (5 pages) based on the topic of your choosing with the approval of the professor. More specific guidelines and instructions will be provided as the term progresses. ****No late papers will be accepted**

Important Student Information Link

*In addition to course requirements and objectives that are in this syllabus, Montgomery College has information on its web site (see link below) to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you read and understand this information. The **link below provides** information and other resources to areas that pertain to the following: student behavior (student code of conduct), student e-mail, the tobacco free policy, withdraw and refund dates, disability support services, veteran services, how to access information on delayed openings and closings, how to register for the Montgomery College alert System, and finally, how closings and delays can impact your classes. If you have any questions please bring them to your professor. As rules and regulations change they will be updated and you will be able to access them through the link. If any student would like a written copy of these policies and procedures, the professor would be happy to provide them. By registering for this class and staying in this class, you are indicating that you acknowledge and accept these policies.*

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcsyllabus/>

Course Outline:

Week 1

Course Introduction: Why Study History?

Jan. 24: Overview of WWII (*Hiroshima*)

Week 2

The Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (*Hiroshima*)

Week 3

The Truman Doctrine and the Start of the Cold War

The Rise of McCarthyism (**Response Paper #1 on *Hiroshima***)

Week 4

Research Paper Review

JFK and the Start of the 1960s (*The Vietnam War*, Introduction and Ch. 1)

Week 5

The Cuban Missile Crisis (**Paper Topics Due**) (*The Vietnam War*, Chapter 2-3)

Week 6

The Vietnam War (*The Vietnam War*, Chapter 4-5)

Week 7

The Vietnam War (*The Vietnam War*, Chapters 6-7)

MIDTERM EXAM

Week 8

Week 9

The Antiwar Movement and Rise of the New Left (*The Vietnam War*, Chapter 8)

Week 10

From Watergate to Argo: America and the 1970s (**Response Paper #2 on *The Vietnam War due***) (*The Massacre at El Mozote*, Chapters 1-4)

Week 11

The Reagan Revolution (*The Massacre at El Mozote*, Chapters 5-9)

Week 12

The End of the Cold War and Election of Bill Clinton (**Response Paper #3 on *The Massacre at El Mozote* due**)

Week 13

The Bush Years (**Research Papers due**)

Week 14

Analyzing the Obama Presidency

Week 15

The End of End of Democracy? The Election of Donald Trump

Week 16

FINAL EXAM