History of Science 3463: Cold War Science
First Day Handout

Complete and updated information on this course is available at:
http://faculty-staff.ou.edu/B/Peter.Barker-1/3463/

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Office hours: TBA or by appt.

Course Information version 1.0 (Jan 14, 2013)
Class meets: MW 1:30 - 2:45pm, Dale Hall 107.

Course Goals: Content: to present the history of offensive and defensive strategic weapons systems from
1945 to the present, examining the political and technological context in which they developed, and their
connections to nuclear power and space exploration. Skills: critical reading; writing that emphasizes the
reasoned defense of conclusions; gathering, evaluation and synthesis of information using print and
electronic sources.

Course work: Students are expected to attend lectures and participate in class discussion. Individuals or
groups will also be asked to gather information and report to the class, on an ad hoc basis. Outside class,
students are expected to read assigned texts, and write research essays. In addition to attending class
students should expect to spend a minimum of 6 hours per week on course work.

Student preparation: This is an advanced humanities course; students are expected to be able to write
essays, conduct independent research and read challenging books critically. In addition, the course
presupposes a basic level of general knowledge about recent history. To assess student preparation, a test of
'background knowledge' will be administered on January 14th. A graded test on class Organization and
Procedures will be given on January 23rd.

Students with disabilities: Students with any disability that may prevent them from fully demonstrating
their abilities and accomplishments in this course should contact the Instructor as quickly as possible, to
discuss any accommodations that may be needed.

Academic honesty: We assume you understand and adhere to the norms of academic honesty stated in the
Student Code. We also assume you are honest unless proven otherwise, so if you are not sure about
something ask us. We encourage you to work together (and with us) to prepare for class, exams and essays
- on the understanding that the final version is all your own work. 'Plagiarism' used to mean copying out
of a book. Electronic media like Encarta or Wikipedia on the WWW pose special problems. While we
courage you to use them as sources of ideas and information, no sentence that you submit as your own
work should be identical to any sentence in a book or electronic medium. If we judge that work you
submit fails to meet these standards, the following things will happen:
(1) On the first occasion, you will be asked to amend the work and resubmit it to receive a grade.
(2) On the second occasion you will receive a formal admonition, as explained in Rights and
Responsibilities under the Academic Misconduct Code, and a grade of zero for the work.
(3) On the third occasion, a complaint of academic misconduct will be filed, as explained in Rights and
Responsibilities under the Academic Misconduct Code.

Grades and exams: Grades will be computed as follows: O&P Test = 5%; Research Papers and Final Exam
= 25% each; participation = 20%. There is no curve. Late delivery of essays will not be permitted except
under circumstances of emergency or illness, verifiable to the satisfaction of the Instructor. Class
participation will make up the final 20% of the grade. Students who miss three classes will be penalized
one letter grade within this grade item. However, it is the policy of the University to excuse absences of
students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of
examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. If you wish to be
excused for religious observances, please contact the Instructor at least one week before you will be absent, in order to reschedule the corresponding work.
There will be a graded test covering course Organization and Policies on January 23.
Students will also complete two brief research papers, the first to be submitted no later than February 20, and a second no later than April 03. See separate instructions for Research Paper #1 and Research Paper #2.
The Final Examination will be an essay examination, held in the same room as the class 12:00-2:00pm on May 06. The Final Examination questions will be posted on the class web site one week prior to the exam. Students may consult books and notes during the exam, but transcription of complete answers is prohibited.

Texts:

Course calendar (version 1.0 - may be revised)
Readings form background to class material for the week they are listed and should be read before class. Additional short readings will be posted on D2L.

The Manhattan Project and the Origins of the Cold War
week 1 DeGroot ch.'s 1-2
week 2 DeGroot ch.'s 3-4; No class Jan 21; O&P test Jan 23
week 3 DeGroot ch.'s 5,6,7; Orwell (1945) "You and the Atomic Bomb" (available on D2L)
week 4 DeGroot ch.8, George Kennan's "Long Telegram" (1946)
week 5 DeGroot ch.'s 9,10

The Arms Race and the Space Race
week 6 DeGroot ch.'s 11,12; Research Essay #1 due Feb 20
week 7 DeGroot ch.'s 13,14
week 8 TBA
week 9 Hoffman pp. 27-163
Spring Break
week 11 Hoffman pp. 167-376

From the Cold War to the Long War
week 12 Rhodes pp. 3-80; Research Essay #2 due Apr 03
week 15 Rhodes pp. 253-303; National Intelligence Council "Global Trends 2025" (available on D2L)
week 16 Conclusions - Review of the Year 2010-2011
Final Exam: 12:00 - 2:00 pm Monday, May 06