1. **Course description:**

A survey of major themes in world history since 1945, this course focuses on sociocultural and intellectual developments in addition to the traditional concerns with political and economic relations. Particular emphasis is given to great power relations, the role of the middle powers, and North-South relations as well as the interactions between Western and non-Western cultures in the context of increasing globalization.

This course examines major developments that mark the post-World War Two world, with a focus on political, economic, and social developments. Topics such as decolonization, North-South relations, the United Nations, the post-9/11 world will be discussed, with until c. 1990 the Cold War as a unifying theme.

An accompanying goal of this course is for students to become familiar with the important debates and varying interpretations of world events, such as the destruction of Hiroshima in 1945, the Cuban Missile Crisis, or the question of “Who won the Cold War.” This should
enhance the students' understanding of the ramifications and historical roots of current events and issues, and thus afford a better grounding in the age in which we live.

2. Learning Objectives:

* Gain a better understanding of major developments in the world since 1945
* Become more aware of history as a series of interpretations
* Develop the skill of source analysis
* Develop critical writing skills
* Appreciate the historical connections, commonalities and differences in a globalized world

Course requirements: Students are expected to come to class prepared, i.e. you must be able to discuss the assigned readings. Overall class participation plays a role in the determination of the final grade.

Most of the handouts for this course will be made available through D2L; it is the student’s responsibility to print and bring these materials to class, to keep up with the calendar and possible revisions of the syllabus posted on D2L.

The book by McWilliams & Piotrowski is our basic text (henceforth referred to as TEXT). Students are expected to keep up with daily international developments (the New York Times; Economist; PBS News Hour; etc.). The book by Gaddis is a recent interpretation of the Cold War.

There will be three major exams on the topics discussed in class. Additionally, there will be an in-class review on the book by Gaddis. Throughout the semester, regular quizzes will be given on the readings.

Absence from an exam will result in a zero grade. In case of a medical or other emergency, contact me before or on the day of the exam, and submit the proper documentation. Excuses after the exam day will not be accepted.

Arrive promptly; late arrivals will be counted as absent if over fifteen minutes late. If you have to leave class early, inform the instructor at the beginning of class. Use laptops only for class purposes. CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS. Don’t annoy the class and embarrass yourself! In case of an anticipated emergency, please set phone to vibrate and inform the instructor. N.B.: no electronics are permitted in the classroom during examinations.

Electronic Communications: The University provides all KSU students with an “official” email account with the address “students.kennesaw.edu.” As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.
Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

The participation grade is determined based on class attendance and participation. Two absences are permitted – after that, each unexcused absence will reduce the participation grade by 5/100 pts.

Grading is as follows:

- Exam 1 = 20%
- Exam 2 = 20%
- Final = 30%
- Quizzes = 10%
- Gaddis test = 15%
- Participation = 5%

Grading scale:

- A 91-100
- B 81-90
- C 71-80
- D 60-70
- F > 60

Incomplete grade for the course: this will be awarded only when the student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond his/her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course. Incomplete grades are only valid after submission of the Incomplete Grade form (signed by both the instructor and student) to the Department Chair’s office.

Academic integrity: Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5. C of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement. See also https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct.

Violation of these rules will result in an automatic F in the course.

Students with Disabilities: Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Office of Student Disability Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work
with the University’s Office of Student Disability Services rather than engaging in this
discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing
the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for
accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and
permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course
quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that
were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as
possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Student Disability
Services is located in the Carmichael Student Center in Suite 267. Please visit the Student
Disabilities Services website at www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/sds for more information, or
call the office at 470-578-6443.

3. **Course schedule**: readings and test/exam dates indicated in **bold**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| August 14  | Introduction: history and bias; different interpretations of recent history; World War II and the origins of the Cold War  
**TEXT: Introduction; chs. 1 & 2**                                                                 | August 16       |
|            | Origins Cold War cont’d: spheres of influence: wartime conferences and the falling apart of the Grand Alliance.  
**TEXT: Introduction; chs. 1 & 2**                                                                 |                 |
| August 21  | Importance and limitations of the United Nations; Cold War conflict in Asia, Europe  
**TEXT Chs. 3 & 4**                                                                                     | August 23       |
|            | Facing the abyss: the Cuban Missile Crisis and its aftermath  
**TEXT Ch. 4**                                                                                           |                 |
| August 28  | Decolonization Asia & Africa  
**TEXT chs. 5 –minus pp. 108-115- & ch. 6 -minus pp. 126-137 (South Africa – will be discussed with ch. 13, later)** | August 30       |
|            | Decolonization; Review  
**TEXT chs. 1-7**                                                                                         |                 |
| September 4| Labor Day: no class                                                                                       | September 6     |
|            | *TEST 1 (TEXT chapters 1-7)**                                                                            |                 |
| September 11| Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict  
**TEXT Ch. 8**                                                                                             | September 13    |
|            | Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict  
**TEXT Ch. 8** –cont’d                                                                                     |                 |
| September 18| COLD WAR 1953-1985: Developments in the Communist bloc  
**TEXT Ch. 9**; start of détente and a multi-polar world  
**TEXT Ch. 11**                                                                                          | September 20    |
|            | War in Indochina  
**TEXT Ch. 10, and pp. 108-115**                                                                 |                 |
| September 25| War in Indochina  
**TEXT Ch. 9, and pp. 108-115**-cont’d; Review                                                                 | September 27    |
|            | *TEST 2 (TEXT chs. 8-11)**                                                                                 |                 |
| October 2  | The Global South  
**TEXT ch. 12** Post-colonial, sub-Saharan Africa; apartheid in South Africa and its dismantling  
**TEXT Ch. 13**                                                                                          | October 4       |
|            | October 4: Midpoint (Last day to withdraw w/o academic penalty)  
Post-colonial, sub-Saharan Africa; apartheid in South Africa and its                                                                 |                 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>“Backyard”: South and Central America (TEXT ch. 14)</td>
<td>dismantling [TEXT Ch. 13 &amp; pp. 126-137] -cont’d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 11</td>
<td>“Backyard”: South and Central America (TEXT ch. 14) –cont’d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>Centrifugal forces in postcolonial India (TEXT ch. 16)</td>
<td>October 25 India continued (TEXT ch. 16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>How Communism, the Wall, and Gorbachev came down [TEXT Ch. 19]</td>
<td>November 1 Miracle Year: 1989 (cont’d) [TEXT Ch. 19]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>Discussion: <em>Gaddis, The Cold War.</em></td>
<td>November 8 *Test/review on Gaddis, The Cold War (in class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 13</td>
<td>Islamic fundamentalism on the rise: Iran, the Gulf Wars [TEXT Ch. 21]</td>
<td>November 15 Iran, the Gulf Wars (cont’d) [Ch. 21]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 27</td>
<td>The post-9/11 world [Ch. 22]</td>
<td>November 29 The Arab Spring/ The World Today (TEXT Ch. 23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Conclusions and review</td>
<td>December 6: <strong>10:30 AM-12:30 PM</strong> Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>