Kennesaw State University  
History 4499  
Senior Seminar  
The United States in World Affairs, 1914-1990  
T 2 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.  
SO 3032  
Spring 2015  

Dr. Jim Piecuch  
SO 4116  
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Office Hours: M/W 9:30-10:30 a.m., and by appointment  

**Course Description:** This course will cover the history of American diplomacy from 1914-1990. Topics will include American involvement in World Wars I and II, the origins and progress of the Cold War, and the U.S. interventions in Korea and Vietnam. Key elements that shaped American policy in this era including presidential leadership, political and ideological factors, economic interests, and external threats to American security will be emphasized. Students will read a variety of works on these subjects in preparation for researching and writing an article-length essay (the senior thesis). Students will also make a formal in-class presentation of their research findings at the end of the semester.  

**Course Goals:** The goal of this course is to develop and enhance students’ skills in the discipline of history as introduced in earlier courses. These skills include critical reading and analysis of historical sources, both primary and secondary; conducting research in a broad range of sources; interpretation of sources to draw conclusions and make a historical argument (thesis); demonstration of understanding and analysis of sources in oral form (class discussion) and written form (assigned papers). Upon successful completion of the seminar, the student should have acquired and utilized all the skills of a historian.  

**Expectations:** Success in this course requires regular attendance, prompt completion of all reading and written assignments, and active participation in discussions. Because of the importance of the material we cover, excessive absences will affect your grade. Each absence that is not made up will reduce your final average by three points. You can make up absences (no more than three) by submitting written makeup assignments. Any student with more than five absences will fail the course.  

**Required Texts:**  
Thomas Fleming, *The Illusion of Victory*  
Patrick Hearden, *Roosevelt Confronts Hitler*  
Walter Lafeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War* (10th edition)  
Ellen Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism* (2nd edition)
**Grading:** Your grade will be based upon the following factors:
- 7 Short Papers @ 5% each: 35%
- Discussion: 25%
- Research Presentation and Paper: 40%

**Schedule:** (Subject to Change)

Jan. 13: Introduction  
End of Add/Drop Period

Jan 20: Discussion, America and WWI  
Readings: Fleming, chapters 1-5

Jan. 27: Discussion, America and WWI  
Readings: Fleming, chapters 6-10

Feb. 3: Discussion, America and WWI  
Readings: Fleming, chapters 11-13

Feb. 10: Discussion, America and WWII  
Readings: Hearden, chapters 1-5

Feb. 17: Discussion, America and WWII  
Readings: Hearden, chapters 6-8

Feb. 24: Discussion, The Cold War  
Readings: Lafeber, chapters 1-5

Mar. 3: Discussion, The Cold War  
Readings: Lafeber, chapters 6-9  
Last day to withdraw from classes without academic penalty

Mar. 10: Discussion, The Cold War  
Readings: Lafeber, chapters 10-12

Mar. 17: Discussion, McCarthyism  
Readings: Schrecker, Introduction-chapter 16

Mar. 24: Discussion, McCarthyism  
Readings: Schrecker, documents 1-22

Mar. 31: Research Discussion  
Make a 5-minute presentation on your research topic, preliminary findings, and research plans.

Apr. 7: No Class – Spring Break
Apr. 14: Conferences

Apr. 21: Conferences

Apr. 28: Presentations

Papers Due Monday, May 4, by 5p.m.

Miscellaneous

**Academic Honesty:** Please read the section on this subject in your student handbook. I expect all work you turn in to be your own, prepared without outside assistance or collaboration. Plagiarism (presenting someone else’s work or ideas as your own) is easier to spot than you may realize. University rules require that I report suspected cases of plagiarism to the administration, and being found guilty of this offense can result in severe penalties. In addition, I will automatically fail you for the course. Cheating on exams in any form, including providing answers or information to other students, will also result in a failing grade.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible and provide the necessary documentation so that we can make arrangements to deal with this situation.

**Cell Phones and Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off before you enter the classroom. Any student whose phone sounds during class will be asked to leave the room immediately. Repeated violations may result in the offender being banned from the classroom.

**Assignments:** Writing assignments, lists of study terms, additional readings, etc., will be made available well in advance of the due date. We will discuss all assignments in class. Please see me if you have any problem with the assignments.

**Problems and Personal Matters:** If you have any difficulty with this course, such as understanding the readings or lectures, speaking in discussion, or personal issues that may affect how well you do in the course, please see me immediately. The sooner that I know about a problem, the faster we can solve it.