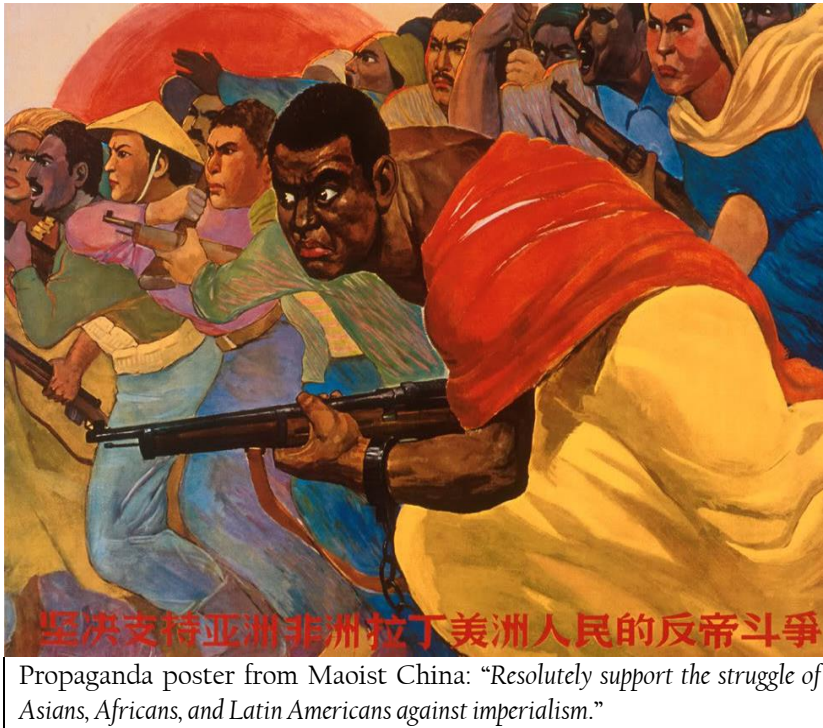


Intellectual History of the (Cultural) Cold War in the Third World

Professor: Adey Almohsen, PhD
Location: Joe Rosenfield Center 203
Meetings: Tuesdays 9:00–11:50 am
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00–5:20 pm (HSSC N3158)

**Seminar Description:**

Too often, the Cold War (1945–90) is perceived as a conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States with the nations of Latin America, Asia, and Africa serving as proxies to this ideological and diplomatic confrontation. In this seminar, we will take apart such a reductive narrative by means of a close examination of how the Cold War played out across the Third World's cultural and intellectual arenas. Rather than viewing Third World thinkers and activists as mere pawns in a global conflict, this seminar will

stress their agency, tactfulness, and intellectual diversity beyond the trite dichotomy of Soviet-style socialism versus American-led capitalism. To demonstrate these points, the seminar will rely on monographs, articles, literature, film, and a mix of primary sources. Given that this is a seminar taught over one semester and centered around the production of a major research paper, we will defer to a couple detailed examples on Cold War culture and intellectual history from four regions of the Third World: Latin America, West and East Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia. In the research paper, however, you can choose to work on intellectual issues and debates beyond these discussed in the seminar or from the various other countries and regions of the Third World.

Seminar Aims:

- ✓ Understanding the cultural and intellectual forces that shaped the history of the Third World during the Cold War.
- ✓ Connecting historical knowledge to present-day issues and contexts in a critical manner.
- ✓ Appreciating the nuances of historical events through primary sources.
- ✓ Demonstrating the importance of literary and interdisciplinary sources for historical study.
- ✓ Conducting sound historical analysis by deferring to a mix of primary and secondary sources.

Grade Breakdown:

<i>Attendance and participation</i>	15%
<i>Leading a seminar session</i>	10%
<i>Annotated bibliography and primary source report</i>	10%
<i>Main theses and structure outline</i>	10%
<i>In-class presentation of final paper</i>	10%
<i>Rough draft of final paper</i>	10%
<i>Final research paper (5,000–6,000 words)</i>	35%

Due Dates:

Sep. 23	Annotated bibliography and primary source report
Oct. 14	Main theses and structure outline
Nov. 8	In-class presentation of final paper (10 minutes)
Nov. 18	Rough draft of final paper
Dec. 16	Final research paper

Primary Source Anthologies and Websites:

- ✓ Hanhimäki and Westad, *The Cold War: A History in Documents and Eyewitness Accounts* (Oxford, 2004).
- ✓ Judge and Langdon, *The Cold War Through Documents: A Global History*, Third Edition (Lanham, 2017).
- ✓ [Cold War: Primary Sources Online](#), Newton Gresham Library, Sam Houston State University.
- ✓ [World War II and Aftermath](#), Center for Research Libraries.
Note: Includes CIA intelligence reports on different regions and countries of the Third World.
- ✓ [The Cold War](#), Avalon Project, Yale Law School, Yale University.
- ✓ [Bandung Conference as Global Event](#), Bishop’s University and McMaster University.
- ✓ [International History Declassified](#), Digital Archive, Woodrow Wilson International Center.
Note: Documents and sources cover topics such as: China’s role in the third world, the Algerian Liberation War, the Vietnam War, and Afro-Asian solidarity conferences.
- ✓ [Congress for Cultural Freedom](#) (CCF) magazines:
Note: Some magazines continued to publish after the outbreak of the CIA funding scandal. For the research paper, I recommend focusing on the years when the magazines were closely affiliated to the CCF (roughly 1967 or 1971). If need be, you can study issues published after the end of the affiliation with the CCF to see if any changes in content and form are worthy of investigation.
 - [Quest](#) (India)
 - [Mundo Nuevo](#) (Latin America)
 - [Transition](#) (Uganda)
 - [Encounter](#) (United Kingdom)
 - [Black Orpheus](#) (Nigeria)*Note: Though unavailable in PDF online, all issues of the magazine are housed in nearby research universities and could be borrowed using Grinnell’s ILL service.*

Class Decorum and Absences Policy:

Deadlines are *final*. Failure to submit an assignment on time equals failure in the assignment (i.e., a grade of zero). Missing 2 sessions (of the total 11) without a legitimate excuse will result in a zero grade for attendance. Missing 3 or more sessions will result in failing the course altogether. Accommodations will be made for students' needs (cultural, personal, or otherwise) and for dire or special circumstances upon contacting and informing the instructor. Recurring episodes of lateness or unexcused absence, however, will not be tolerated. Note that an excused absence is usually one that you have arranged with me well in advance, not *post facto*.

Communication:

You can always contact me by e-mail, and I will try to respond within a reasonable timeframe. That said, I do not necessarily read e-mails after 5 pm or on weekends unless the matter is of legitimate urgency.

Writing Assistance:

Instructors do not proofread papers, but they can teach you how to edit your work effectively. Grinnell College's [Writing, Reading, and Speaking Center](#) supports students working on papers, projects, and presentations, as well as job and internship applications. In one-on-one sessions, students work with professional instructors to interpret readings, talk through ideas, choose and analyze evidence, develop and organize arguments, craft introductions and conclusions, organize and revise whole drafts, plan presentations, and more.

Academic Difficulty and Advising:

College academics are demanding. Thus, it is normal to face some trouble from time to time. If you are experiencing difficulty—academic or personal—in this class or any class, I encourage you to get in touch with me or with your advisor. We can help you take advantage of the different support resources Grinnell has to resolve problems you may be experiencing during the semester.

Honor Policy:

Grinnell College's academic honesty policy is to be found in the [Student Handbook](#). It is expected that students are aware of the tasks and demands expressed in this policy and adhere to them.

Accommodations:

I strive to create an inclusive classroom. Thus, I invite students to approach me about their learning needs and I encourage students with disabilities to talk to me and disclose what accommodations would be necessary. Students with disabilities should likewise approach and discuss their needs with Grinnell College's [Accessibility and Disability Services](#).

Week I

Tuesday Aug. 23, 2022:

- No class meeting

Week II: What is the (Cultural) Cold War? What is the Third World?

Tuesday Aug. 30, 2022:

(66 pages)

- Eley, "What Is Cultural History?" *New German Critique* 65 (1995): 19–36.
- Dirlik, "Specters of the Third World: Global Modernity and the End of the Three Worlds," *Third World Quarterly* 25 (2004): 131–48.
- Orsini, Srivastava, and Zecchini, "Introduction," in *The Form of Ideology and the Ideology of Form: Cold War, Decolonization, and Third World Print Cultures*, eds. Orsini et al. (Cambridge, 2022): 1–30.

Weeks III and IV: Intellectual Loyalties and Conflicts in Latin America

Tuesday Sep. 6, 2022:

(115 pages)

- Iber, *Neither Peace nor Freedom: The Cultural Cold War in Latin America* (Cambridge, MA, 2015): 1–115.

Tuesday Sep. 13, 2022:

(131 pages)

- Iber: 116–246.

Week V: Final Paper Sources and Topic Workshop

Tuesday Sep. 20, 2022:

- [Film viewing] Gutierrez Alea, *Memories of Underdevelopment*, Cuba (1968).

Sep. 23, 5 pm: Annotated bibliography and primary source report due (10%)

Weeks VI and VII: Cold War Arts and Letters in West and East Africa

Tuesday Sep. 27, 2022:

(120 pages)

- Sartre, "Preface," in Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (New York, 1963): 7–35.
- Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*: 206–248.
- Adam, "Frantz Fanon as a Democratic Theorist," *African Affairs* 92 (1993): 499–518.
- Cabral, "National Liberation and Culture (1970)," *The Journal of Pan African Studies* 3 (2009): 1-8.
- el Nabolsy, "Amilcar Cabral's Modernist Philosophy of Culture and Cultural Liberation," *Journal of African Cultural Studies* 32 (2020): 231–50.

Tuesday Oct. 4, 2022:

(160 pages)

- Kalliney, "Modernism, African Literature, and the Cold War," *Modern Language Quarterly* 76 (2015): 333–68
- Popescu, *At Penpoint: African Literatures, Postcolonial Studies, and the Cold War* (Durham, 2020): 31–103.
- Okeke-Agulu, *Postcolonial Modernism: Art and Decolonization in Twentieth-Century Nigeria* (Durham, 2015): 131–81.

Week VIII: Final Paper Argumentation Workshop

Tuesday Oct. 11, 2022:

- [Film viewing] Boughedir, *Camera d'Afrique*, Tunisia (1983).

Oct. 14, 5 pm: Main theses and structure outline due (10%)

Week IX: Fall Break

Tuesday Oct. 18, 2022:

- No class meeting

Weeks X and XI: Middle East Existentialisms, Magazines, and the Cultural Cold War

Tuesday Oct. 25, 2022:

(171 pages)

- Di-Capua, *No Exit: Arab Existentialism, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Decolonization* (Chicago, 2018): 26–196.

Tuesday Nov. 1, 2022:

(130 pages)

- Maasri, "The Hot Third World in the Cultural Cold War: Modernism, Arabic Literary Journals, and US Counterinsurgency," in *Cosmopolitan Radicalism: The Visual Politics of Beirut's Global Sixties* (Cambridge, 2020): 63–100.
- Jebari, "Illegitimate Children: The Tunisian New Left and the Student Question 1963–75," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 54 (2022): 100–123.
- Azeb, "Crossing the Saharan Boundary: Lotus and the Legibility of Africanness," *Research in African Literatures* 50 (2019): 91–115.
- Fiedler, "Khamsin: A New Vision for the Middle East," in *Matzpen: A History of Israeli Dissidence* (Edinburgh, 2020): 281–324.

Week XII: Final Paper Presentations

Tuesday Nov. 8, 2022:

In-class presentation of final paper, 10 minutes (10%)

- [Film viewing] Godard, *La Chinoise*, France (1967).

Week XIII: Global East Asia or Global Maoism?

Tuesday Nov. 15, 2022:

(170 pages)

- Armstrong, "The Cultural Cold War in Korea 1945–50." *Journal of Asian Studies* 62 (2003): 71–99.
- Leung, "[The School That Built Asia](#)," *Palladium Magazine* (Aug. 2021).
- Leow, "A Missing Peace: The Asia-Pacific Peace Conference in Beijing, 1952, and the Emotional Making of Third World Internationalism," *Journal of World History* 30 (2019): 21–53.
- Leese, "A Single Spark: Origins and Spread of the Little Red Book in China," in *Mao's Little Red Book: A Global History*, ed. Cook (Cambridge, 2014): 23–42.
- Mullen, "By the Book: *Quotations from Chairman Mao* and the Making of Afro-Asian Radicalism 1966–75," ed. Cook (2014): 245–265.
- Slobodian, "Badge Books and Brand Books: The Mao Bible in East and West Germany," ed. Cook (2014): 206–224.
- Bourg, "Principally Contradiction: The Flourishing of French Maoism," ed. Cook (2014): 225–244.
- Johnston, "Revisiting the Cultural Cold War," *Social History* 35 (2010): 290–307.

Nov. 18, 5 pm: Rough draft of final paper due (10%)

Week XIV: Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday Nov. 22, 2022:

- No class meeting

Weeks XV and XVI: Final Paper Write-Up

Tuesday Nov. 29, 2022:

- No class meeting

Tuesday Dec. 6, 2022:

- No class meeting

Dec. 16, 5 pm: Final paper due (35%)