Politics 80T: The Cold War and After in Film & Fiction
Spring Quarter 2002, Stevenson 175, M-W 5-6:45 PM; M 7-10 PM
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NOTE CHANGED SCHEDULE!!
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The web site for this course is: http://ic.ucsc.edu/~rlipsch/pol80T/syllabus.pdf

The objective of this topical course is to analyze the relationship between politics and popular culture, and the ways in which various U.S. foreign policy issues and some of the major issues in politics, such as power, justice, war, peace and identity have been addressed in the film and fiction of the Cold War and the 1990s.

What kinds of themes do authors, screen-writers, directors, and publishers try to sell in the "marketplace" of popular culture? Where do those themes come from? How do they reflect relations of power both inside and outside of a society? And what do those cultural products reveal about our society, its politics, and its place in the world in relation to other peoples and states? Trying to answer these, and other questions, can tell us a great deal about both domestic politics and the politics of foreign policy in what is imagined to be a threatening and sometimes chaotic world.
The books and films that are the focus of this course are all, in some way, about these questions and the ways in which they have been answered, sometimes in very indirect ways.

Course requirements: The class will meet for two lectures each week, as well as for film viewing on Monday nights. Films will also be on reserve at the McHenry media center. Although attendance will not be taken, you are expected to attend all lectures. Three short pop quizzes and two exams will be given during the quarter to ensure that you do the reading, view the films, and come to the lectures. Students will also be evaluated on the basis of two (4 pp.) written analyses of readings and lectures on the films and novels discussed. Further details will be provided in class.

Required texts: Required texts (books are available at Baytree; they can also be ordered through http://www.amazon.com, usually at a discount.
Ronnie Lipschutz, Cold War Fantasies (Rowman & Littlefield, 2001)
George Orwell, 1984
John Le Carré, The Spy Who Came in from the Cold
Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid's Tale
Robert Heinlein, Starship Troopers
William Lederer & Eugene Burdick, The Ugly American
Ray Bradbury, The Martian Chronicles.
Jack Finney, Invasion of the Body Snatchers
Daniel Ford, Incident at Muc Wa
Week #1 (3/27)
Film: Red Nightmare

Week #2 (4/1-3): Leviathan!
Read: The Handmaid’s Tale; Cold War Fantasies, ch. 1
Films (4/1): Red Planet Mars; The Handmaid’s Tale

Week #3 (4/8-10): Cold War!
Read: 1984; Cold War Fantasies, ch. 2
Films (4/8)
The Third Man 1984

Week #4 (4/15-17): Reds!
Read: Invasion of the Body Snatchers
Cold War Fantasies, ch. 3
Films (4/15)
The Manchurian Candidate
Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1955)
First paper due on 4/17

Week #5 (4/22-24): Spies!
Read: The Spy Who Came in From the Cold
Cold War Fantasies, ch. 4
Films: Kiss Me Deadly
The Spy Who Came in From the Cold
Week #6 (4/29-5/1): Nukes!
Book: The Martian Chronicles
Cold War Fantasies, ch. 5
Films (4/29)
Testament
Dr. Strangelove

Midterm exam on 5/6

Week #7 (5/6-8): Freedom!
Read: The Ugly American
Cold War Fantasies, ch. 6
Films: (5/13)
State of Siege
The Ugly American

Week #8 (5/13-15): Aliens!
Read: Starship Troopers
“Aliens, Alien Nations, and Alienation”
http://ic.ucsc.edu/~rlipsch/pol80T/Aliens.pdf
Films: (5/6)
Them!
Bladerunner

Week #9 (5/20-22): War!
Read: Incident at Muc Wa
Cold War Fantasies, ch. 7-8
Films: (5/20)
Red Dawn
Rambo II
Second paper due on 5/29

Week #10 (5/29): Money!
Monday, 5/27 is Memorial Day
Read: Cold War Fantasies, ch. 9-10
Films
No films on Monday this week, but please view:
Falling Down and Wall Street
Final exam is on Thursday, June 6th, at 7:30 PM