

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

Inst: R. Lipschutz Office: 260 Stevenson

Phone: 459-3275 e-mail:rlipsch@cats

Office hours: M 1:30-2:30; T 2-3, or by appointment

TA: Angela McCracken



NOTE CHANGED SCHEDULE!!

This document was last updated on April 30, 2002

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*



Syllabus [\(Click here for the link to course lectures\)](#)

Week #1 (3/27)

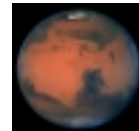
Film: *Red Nightmare*



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!*

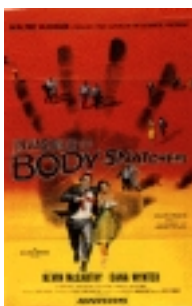
Read: *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*
Cold War Fantasies, ch. 3

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!

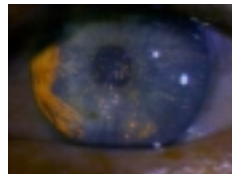
Read: *The Ugly American*

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