Culture was a key instrument of Cold War policies and ideologies in the United States, Europe and the Soviet Union. From the atomic bomb to espionage, the Cold War fueled the imagination of writers and filmmakers. In this seminar, students examine how the Cold War was waged on the cultural front, and how cultural developments from 1945 to 1989 were shaped by the dynamics of the East-West contest. The seminar also examines how intellectuals, artists and the public in each camp responded to American mass culture. Examples from literature, music, film, the visual arts and sport are used to illuminate the complex and contradictory ways in which international politics interacted with the production of both popular and high-brow culture.

10 January 2011
Culture and International History

17 January 2011
An Ideological Contest: Culture Instrumentalized
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Further readings


