HIS 3717G: The Global Cold War

Department of History
The University of Western Ontario
Winter Term, 2014

Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:30
Stevenson Hall 1119

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The Cold War was one of the defining elements of the international system in the latter half of the twentieth century. Through weekly readings and discussions this seminar examines the development of the Cold War from its ideological and political origins in the first half of the twentieth century, through its expansion into the developing world to its sudden, and arguably unexpected, end in the late 1980s, early 1990s. It will go beyond an examination of Great Power politics by examining its intersection with the phenomena of decolonization and postcolonialism to understand how and why the conflict evolved in the underdeveloped world and the impact this had on the trajectory of twentieth century international relations.

**Required Textbooks:**


**Course Requirements:**

Participation: 15%
Book Review: 15%
Reading Assignment: 15%
Research Paper Outline: 5%
Research Paper: 25%
Take Home Exam: 25%

**Participation**

Each week one or two students will lead the discussion on the readings for the week. Those students should come to class prepared to spend 5 to 10 minutes introducing the readings. The introduction should identify the authors of the readings and topics for discussion such as the arguments and the major themes that are addressed in the readings. To facilitate the discussion each presenter is encouraged to come with a list of initial questions or talking points. The introduction should **not** be a reiteration or summary of the readings. The assumption is that all students will have done the readings as the remaining students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings in a thoughtful and critical manner, relating each reading to some of the larger themes of the course.
**Book Review**

Students are to write a 5 or 6 page, double-spaced book review of Chen Jian’s *Mao’s China and the Cold War*. Book reviews are due in class* on **February 10**.

*Students will submit a hard-copy of their book review to the instructor in class and an electronic copy of their book review to turnitin.com (available through the course website).

**Late assignments will be penalized 5% the first day and 2% each subsequent day.**

**Late assignments handed in after the last day of class will not be accepted.**

You must complete this assignment to pass the course.

**Reading Assignment**

Students are expected to provide a brief (2 to 3 double-spaced page) précis of the readings that briefly summarizes their main points and argument, and, offers any critique the student may have. Students are required to hand in a minimum of 3 assignments. If students choose to complete more than 3 assignments only the best 3 grades will be recorded. **Assignments are only to be handed-in in class.**

**The Final Reading Assignment will be assigned on March 24 and is due on March 31. Late assignments will not be accepted.**

The required textbooks will be available at the University of Western Ontario Bookstore and the additional course readings will be available either in electronic form through the Weldon Library Website, on reserve at the Weldon Library, or through Owl.

**Research Paper and Outline**

Students will write a 12 to 15 page, double-spaced research paper on any aspect of the Cold War of their choosing.

Students are expected to pass in a brief outline on **April 7**; after this date students will not be able to change their essay topics. The **outline** should provide a preliminary bibliography as well as a brief description of the essay topic.

The paper **must** contain a minimum of twelve sources including at least two journal articles and one primary source. The research paper will be due in class* on **March 31**.

Students will submit a hard-copy of their paper to the instructor in class as well as electronically to turnitin.com* (available through the course website) **by the time that class has started.**
Late assignments will be penalized 5% the first day and 2% each subsequent day. Late assignments handed in after the last day of class will not be accepted. You must complete this assignment to pass the course.

Take-Home Exam

The Take-home exam will be assigned at the end of the twelfth week of class and will be due in class April 7. Students will submit a hard-copy of the exam to the instructor in class and an electronic copy of their exam to turnitin.com* (available through the course website).

*Assignment Submission to turnitin.com

“Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website.”

Statement on Plagiarism:

It shall be an offence for a student to commit plagiarism.

From the Academic Handbook:

Plagiarism: “The act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own.” Excerpted from Black’s Law Dictionary, West Group, 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170.

This includes submitting a paper you have written or intend to write for another class.
Seminar Schedule – Readings may be subject to change prior to January 2015

January 6: Introduction to the Course

January 13: Ideological Origins


January 20: Strategic Origins


January 27: *The Cold War in Europe*


February 3: *A Cold War World*


*Essay Outlines Due*

February 10: *The Culture of the Cold War*

Film: Students will watch *Dr. Strangelove* and read:


*Book Reviews Due*

February 17: *Reading Week – NO CLASS*
February 24: *The Cold War in Asia*


March 3: *The Korean War*

Clay Blair, “The Korean War: Background and Overview” in *Security in Korea: War, Stalemate, and Negotiation* ed. Phil Williams, Donald M. Goldstein, and Henry L. Andrews, Jr. 39-52 – Course Website


Chen Jian, Chapter 4: “China’s Strategies to End the Korean War, 1950-1951” in *Mao’s China and the Cold War*, 85-117

March 10: *Decolonization*


March 17: Cuba

Westad, Chapter 5: The Cuban and Vietnamese Challenges, *The Global Cold War*, 158-80


March 24: Vietnam

Westad, Chapter 5: The Cuban and Vietnamese Challenges, *The Global Cold War*, 180-206


March 31: The End of the Cold War


Research Papers Due

Take-Home Exam Assigned

April 7 - Take-Home Exams Due