HIS 3717G: The Global Cold War

Department of History
The University of Western Ontario
Winter Term, 2017
Tuesdays 11:30 – 1:30

Instructor: Geoffrey Stewart
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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:**

Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our
Times* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Chen Jian, *Mao's China and the Cold War* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina
Press, 2001)

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.

**Course Requirements:**

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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
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<td>Research Paper Outline</td>
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<td>Research Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take Home Exam</td>
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**Participation**

Each week 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 7.

*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.

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 January 31; 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 28.

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 on March 28 of class and will be due in class April 4. 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

January 10: *Introduction to the Course*

January 17: *Ideological Origins*


January 24: *Strategic Origins*


January 31: The Cold War in Europe


Essay Outlines Due

February 7: The Cold War in Asia


Book Reviews Due

February 14: The Korean War


Chen Jian, Chapter 4: “China’s Strategies to End the Korean War, 1950-1951” in Mao’s China and the Cold War, 85-117
February 21: *Reading Week* – NO CLASS

February 28: *Decolonization*


March 7: *Cuba*

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


March 14: *Vietnam*

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


March 21: The End of the Cold War


March 28: The Culture of the Cold War


Film: *Dr. Strangelove*

*Research Papers Due*

*Take-Home Exam Assigned*

April 4 - *Take-Home Exams Due*