

Course Syllabus

Department: Social Sciences

Date: 4/15/15

Course Prefix and Number: HIS 262

Course Name: *The Cold War: To the Brink of Armageddon*

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: ENG 101

An examination and analysis of the causes, conduct, and impact of the U.S.-Soviet struggle for global supremacy between 1945 and 1991, popularly termed the "Cold War." Particular emphasis will be focused on the "Forgotten War" in Korea (1950-53); the Cuban Missile Crisis (when the world tottered on the brink of nuclear holocaust), and the Vietnam War, the longest and most divisive conflict in American history.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

Demonstrate knowledge of the basic narrative of the military, political, economic, diplomatic, social, and technological history of the Cold War, and the decisive role this conflict played in shaping American, western and world history.

Demonstrate an understanding of the ideological, political, economic, military and strategic causes and consequences of the Cold War.

Demonstrate an understanding of the global scope and implications of the Cold War.

Demonstrate an understanding of the manifold ways rapidly-changing technologies conditioned wartime objectives and modes of conflict during the Cold War.

Demonstrate the ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze and evaluate college-level primary and secondary source readings in the field of Cold War history.

Identify, analyze and evaluate arguments made by some of the major authors in the field of Cold War history, and, in their own writing, demonstrate well-reasoned and evidence-supported arguments when interpreting historical subject matter.

Demonstrate the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, use and share information from a range of published/printed and electronic historical resources.

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:

For most degrees this course can be taken to fulfill a Social Science elective, a Liberal Arts elective or a General Elective requirement.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> writing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> computer literacy
<input type="checkbox"/> oral communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethics/values
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> reading	<input type="checkbox"/> citizenship
<input type="checkbox"/> mathematics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> global concerns
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> critical thinking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> information resources

III. Instructional Materials and Methods**Types of Course Materials:**

Textbook, published primary source reader (or electronic equivalent), assigned historical monograph(s), College learning management system, web-based historical material.

Methods of Instruction:

Lecture, reading and discussion

IV. Assessment Measures:

- Student knowledge of the basic narrative of the military, political, economic, diplomatic, social, and technological history of the Cold War, and the decisive role this conflict played in shaping American, western and world history, will be assessed using quizzes, written assignments and/or essay examinations. (Critical Thinking Competency)
- Student knowledge of the ideological, political, economic, military and strategic causes and consequences of the Cold War, and the influence of evolving technologies, will be assessed using quizzes, written

assignments and/or essay examinations. (Critical Thinking Competency)

- An assigned research paper will be employed to assess students' ability to identify, analyze and evaluate arguments made by some of the major authors in the field of Cold War history. In their paper, students will demonstrate well-reasoned and evidence-supported arguments when interpreting historical subject matter. (Writing and Critical Thinking Competencies)
- Quizzes and/or essay examinations will be employed to assess students' ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze and evaluate primary and secondary source readings in the field of Cold War history. (Reading Competency)
- Quizzes and/or essay examinations will be employed to assess students' understanding of the global scope and implications of the Cold War. (Global Concerns Competency)
- An assigned, computer-generated paper (critical book review or research paper) will be employed to assess students' ability to gather information from a range of published/printed and

electronic historical sources.
(Information Resources,
Computer Literacy and Writing
Competencies)

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

Modern Military History: Methods, Sources, Research, Analysis and Interpretation

Roots, Origins, and Causes of the Cold War (1917-1945)

“The Nuclear Card” ... a New Dimension to Total, Global, Industrial, and Technical Conflict

Overview of the Phases and Conflicting Perspectives of the Cold War (1945-1991)

The Potsdam Conference and the Dropping of the Atomic Bombs: Different Perspectives

The FDR /Stalin Years (1941-45)

The Truman/Stalin Years (1945-53)

Korea: “The Forgotten War” (1950-53 ... and Beyond)

Fears and Threats: The Second “Red Scare “and McCarthyism (1950-1957)

The Eisenhower/Khrushchev Years (1953-61)

The Kennedy/Khrushchev Years (1961-63)

“One Minute to Midnight”: The Cuban Missile Crisis: Kennedy, Khrushchev, and Castro (Oct. 1962)

The Brezhnev Doctrine: Czechoslovakia to Afghanistan, 1968-1979

Vietnam: “The Making of a Quagmire” (1945-63)

Vietnam: The LBJ Years (1963-69)

Vietnam: The Nixon Years (1969-74)

Vietnam: Lessons and Legacies (1975-Present)

The Cold War Thaws: Detente: The Nixon/Ford/Carter Years

"Tear Down That Wall:" Reagan, Gorbachev and the "End of the Cold War"

The Cold War in Historic Perspective from Participants and Scholars

"The Cold War is Over" or is it? A Perspective on Events and Continuing Problems in the U.S.-Soviet Relationship (1991-Present)