



HIST 265: A Changing World: The Cold War

COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER II 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: **Dr. Sharon Kowalsky**

Office Location: Ferguson SS 113 (I will be in irregularly this summer. If you want to meet with me in person, please email me in advance)

Office Hours: whenever and as often as you need me, by email or zoom, 8:00am-6:00pm. Try signing up through D2L: click on Zoom and then click the appointments tab to sign up for an appointment.

Office Phone: I don't answer my office phone, so please use email to reach me and set up an appointment

University Email Address: **Sharon.Kowalsky@etamu.edu**

Preferred Form of Communication: **email**

Communication Response Time: **24-48 hours (I will respond as quickly as I can, sometimes immediately, but it depends on what time you email me and where I am)**

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

HIST 265: Encounters between human populations who perceive the differences that separate them to be greater than the similarities that unite them have punctuated world history. Such encounters have frequently led to war, imperialism and colonization, and less frequently to cultural imitation and syncretism. The modern world is the product of these encounters as much as, if not more than, it is the product of the development of distinct regional cultures, such as Western Civilization. This course explores the nature of such encounters and the consequences they had for cultural and political developments. The course satisfies a Literature, Philosophy and Culture requirement for the core curriculum and may be repeated when topics change.

The Cold War had a profound influence on world history in the second half of the twentieth century. The ideological battle between the superpowers not only affected life in the United States and the Soviet Union, but touched people around the globe as each power sought to spread and secure its influence and its vision of the future. From competition in sports to the space and arms races to Third

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World revolutions, the Cold War affected all people and all aspects of life around the world. Although the Cold War has technically ended, its influence and the conditions it created persist, and many have speculated that we may have entered a new Cold War. This course will help students understand the origins, developments, and role of the Cold War in the twentieth-century experience, and give students the tools to assess its significance, meaning, and continuing impact of the Cold War.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Texts:

Two Required Texts will be purchased through Perusall (see instructions below)

- *Our Man in Havana*, \$19.99
- *Fail-Safe*, \$17.99

Additional materials will be provided through D2L or Perusall without additional cost. Apologies for the cost of these books; it is necessary to be able to engage with them the way we need to this term.

Student Learning Outcomes

As a Core Curriculum requirement, this class focuses on four common Student Learning Outcomes:

1. **Critical Thinking** - Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
2. **Oral/Visual Communication** - Students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. **Personal Responsibility** - Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
4. **Social Responsibility** - Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

Student Learning Outcomes will be assessed by the Student Responsibility Quiz and a Primary Source Analysis assignment.

This course is designed to develop skills of information literacy, writing communication, and critical thinking, and to introduce students to the skills and opportunities offered by the Adobe Creative Cloud suite of programs. It intends to provide students with the tools to assess critically a variety of types of information and to understand the historical context for understanding the contemporary world. Through guided exploration of various sources and historical research methods, students will deepen their writing communication and critical thinking skills. These skills form the foundation to be successful in any major.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods, Assessment, Assignments, Student Responsibilities, Expectations, and Tips for Success

This is a summer class and it's July, so let's have some fun this term by reading some novels and watching some films. We will also listen to recorded lectures, have some discussions, read some documents, and do some group work. I work hard to present to you the content of the class; I write everything myself and record my own lectures. I invest heavily in this class and in making it as good an

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experience for you as I can. I appreciate the same consideration. The thing that makes it a good experience for me is hearing your thoughts and understanding of the material. If you use an AI to generate your responses, you are not giving me your thoughts, and you are not respecting the effort that I have put in to designing this class for you. So, no generative AI, please.

We have three main objectives this term. First, we are going to learn some content. This content is not secret and not hard to find. If you want, you can watch YouTube videos that are similar to mine. However, I will give you my interpretation of the material and help you make sense of it. Second, we are going to develop some critical thinking and communication skills. We are using a variety of technologies and a variety of assignments to hone your critical reading and analysis skills. We will also work on different ways to communicate our ideas using tools like Perusall, ClíoVis (see below) and Adobe (also see below). Third, we are going to explore the continuing relevance of the ideas, issues, and events that occurred during the Cold War, so we are going to work on making connections between the past and the present, to understand how we go to where we are now, and maybe where we can go in the future. I look forward to taking this journey with you.

This class is offered entirely online in an asynchronous format. IT IS NOT SELF-PACED. Students are expected to complete work for the class on a daily basis, submit assignments on time by their due dates, and to be engaged in the class activities consistently throughout the term. Assessment of student performance will be based on engagement, completion of assignments, and understanding of the material. That said, the class has some flexibility. Unit work must be completed by the end of each unit. Each unit, except for the final one, opens at 12:01am on Mondays and lasts for one week, until 11:59pm Sundays, so students can complete work daily or finish everything by the time the unit closes on Sundays at 11:59pm. Course items must be completed in order, but students have considerable flexibility in determining when they complete their work.

Expectations and assignments for the course are broken down as follows:

Engagement (5%): Engagement with the course material is an essential component of this course. Since we will not be meeting together, it is important that you are engaged on a daily basis with the material. You do this by watching uploaded videos, reading assigned materials, and submitting assignments on time. Engagement will be measured in several ways: 1. By continued and sustained access and participation in the D2L course shell, reflecting student engagement with the materials; and 2. By timely submission of assignments. The Engagement grade can make the difference between two letter grades and will be used in particular to boost student grades from one letter grade to another.

ClíoVis Timeline and Presentation (20%): This term, students will work in small groups (size depending on overall class size) to create a ClíoVis Timeline, which will then be presented to the class at the end of the term. More details will be on D2L. Groups will be responsible for completing an average of two entries on their timeline each week, for a total of 10 entries. At the end of the term, groups will turn their ClíoVis timeline into a presentation with a voiceover that explains the concept for the timeline. Again, more details on D2L.

Perusall Annotations (10%): We will be reading two books (and some documents) through Perusall, a tool that allows us to engage in discussion through annotations and comments. This is a vehicle for us to have engaging conversations about the books and our reading of them even in the virtual environment. More details on this assignment are on D2L. To access Perusall, follow this link or type it into your browser: <https://app.perusall.com/join/KOWALSKY-KKRDR>. More instructions are on D2L.

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Primary Source and Film Analyses (20%; 5% each): Students will be responsible for completing one Primary Source/Film Analysis for each Unit (except Unit 5). This assignment asks students to analyze information, communicate clearly and effectively, and show awareness of social and civil issues or problems. Specific directions and guidance regarding the format and document selection can be found on the D2L site.

Quizzes (10%): Students will complete a Syllabus/Student Responsibility Quiz (SRQ) due on the first day of class (this will be counted as part of the Engagement grade and will be used to assess SLO #4). There will be short multiple choice and/or true/false quizzes pegged to the lecture/reading material to reinforce the material covered in each lecture. Only 10 of these will be counted toward the final grade. Quizzes are due by the end of the relevant unit and cannot be made up.

Exams (25%): Students will complete one Midterm (10%) and one Final Exam (15%). Students will have three hours to complete their exams and can only enter the exam once. Please ensure sufficient time to complete the exam once before entering the exam. **Students must do their own work on the exams. Students should use assigned course materials only for the exams.** Any use of unauthorized sources, including generative AI (such as ChatGPT or Claude, etc.), will result in an automatic **ZERO** for the exam. All answers must be in your own words. Sources should be cited and exact words from sources should be placed in quotation marks, following proper citation practices (please see the section on Academic Honesty below). Details about structure and format can be found on D2L.

GRADING

Grades for coursework will be determined based on the following rubric:

- A = Mastery of reading and class material; factual accuracy; thoughtful, historical argumentation demonstrating ability to synthesize and/or some originality of thought; technically clean
- B = Good to excellent command of most reading and class material; accuracy; good level of historical argumentation; reasonable thesis statement
- C = Good command of class material; accuracy; ability to articulate a historical point of view, even if it is not compelling or is poorly reasoned
- D = Poor command of required assignments; errors; ahistorical or narrow reasoning

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Engagement	5%
ClioVis	20%
Primary Source/Film Analyses	20%
Perusall Readings	15%
Quizzes	15%
Exams	25%
TOTAL	100%

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This schedule will guide you through the term, arranged generally by unit. More specifics on each assignment will be on D2L. All links and access is provided through D2L. Remember that it is recommended that assignments be completed on a daily basis, and all assignments should be submitted by the end of each unit, as indicated below.

Unit 1: July 6-12: Introduction: The Origins of the Cold War

Topics: What was the Cold War? Origins of the Cold War

READ ON PERUSALL: Documents

Film: *The Third Man* (1949), available on Kanopy

Watch Dr. K's Lectures

Complete Lecture Quizzes

Complete Film Analysis

Work on Clivis Project

Unit 2: July 13-19: Cold War World in Full Swing

Topics: Dividing the World: Eastern Europe to Prague

READ ON PERUSALL: Greene, *Our Man in Havana*; Documents

Film: *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962), Tubi: <https://tubitv.com/movies/664878/the-manchurian-candidate>; or Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/details/the-manchurian-candidate>

Watch Dr. K's Lectures

Complete Lecture Quizzes

Complete Film Analysis

Work on Clivis Project

Unit 3: July 20-26: Nuclear Tensions

Topics: The Arms Race

READ ON PERUSALL: *Fail-Safe* and Documents

Film: *Dr. Strangelove* (1964) on Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/details/dr-strangelove-or-how-i-learned-to-stop-worrying-and-love-the-bomb?>

Watch Dr. K's Lectures

Complete Lecture Quizzes

Complete Film Analysis

Work on Clivis Project

Unit 4: July 27-August 2: Global Cold War

Topics: The Global Cold War

READ ON PERUSALL: Documents

Film: *The Hunt for Red October* (1990), on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1ahG3ySyV8>

Watch Dr. K's Lectures

Complete Lecture Quizzes

Complete Film Analysis

Work on ClivisProject

Unit 5: August 3-6: Ending the Cold War?

ALL WORK FOR THE UNIT AND THE TERM MUST BE SUBMITTED BY AUGUST 6 AT 11:59PM

Topics: The Collapse of the Soviet Union and the End of the Cold War

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Film: *The Lives of Others* (2006); you will need to rent this, available from a variety of sources. It is worth it.

Watch Dr. K's Lectures

Complete Lecture Quizzes

Complete Final Exam

Submit Group ClioVis Presentation

All assignments must be submitted by August 6 to receive a grade for the assignments.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any and all reasons whatsoever. The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you out when necessary. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with the professor is through email. I am also available to meet by appointment over Zoom, which you can do through the Navigate app or through the link on D2L. Please talk to me about any concerns you might have and about any problems or issues that arise during the semester. I can be very understanding and flexible, but only if I know what is going on with you.

I commit to responding to any emails and questions within 24 hours (48 hours for Saturday and Sunday messages). I will not respond to emails after 10:00pm. In order to respond fully to you, please use proper email etiquette when communicating with me. Please address me as Dr. Kowalsky or Professor Kowalsky. Please clearly explain your issue or concern. Please conclude your email by including your full name and the course in which you are enrolled, including section number. Emails without clear identifying information (your email address is not identifying information) will be returned unanswered. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping me to best assist you.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Statement on Student Grievances

Students who have questions or concerns about the instructor's course policies or the conduct either of the instructor or a classmate should first consult with the instructor. In the event of a lack of resolution or satisfaction on the matter, the student may bring their concerns to the head of the History Department, Sharon Kowalsky (Sharon.Kowalsky@etamu.edu). If this does not result in a satisfactory conclusion to the matter, students may bring the issue to the attention of the Associate Dean of Students per procedures outlined on pp. 15-19 of the Student Guide Book.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

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<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

AI Use Policy

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there may be legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructor's guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from

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discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.etamu.edu/counsel



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>