



HIST 265: A Changing World: The Cold War

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: **Dr. Sharon Kowalsky**

Office Location: Ferguson SS 111B

Office Hours: TBD.

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 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

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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 (available through the bookstore):

- Judge and Langdon, *A Hard and Bitter Peace: A Global History of the Cold War*, third edition (Rowman & Littlefield, 2018) ISBN 9781538106501
- Graham Greene, *Our Man in Havana* (any edition)
- Eugene Burdick and Harvey Wheeler, *Fail-Safe* (any edition)

Additional materials will be provided through D2L without additional cost.

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

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 and I encourage you to explore outside of class and bring your discoveries in to class so we can discuss them. 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 ClioVis (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

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making connections between the past and the present, to understand how we got to where we are now, and maybe where we can go in the future. I look forward to taking this journey with you.

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

Engagement (20%): Engagement with the course material is an essential component of this course. It is important that you are engaged with the material consistently over the course of the semester. You do this first and foremost by reading the assignments before class, attending class meetings, and submitting assignments on time. 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.

ClioVis Timeline and Presentation (30%): Students will work in small groups (size depending on overall class size) to create a ClioVis Timeline for each unit. More details will be covered in class and on D2L, and some class time will be devoted to this project.

Primary Source Analyses (30%; 10% each): Students will be responsible for completing one Primary Source Analysis for each Unit. 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 (5%): Students will complete a Syllabus/Student Responsibility Quiz (SRQ) (this will be used to assess SLO #4). There will be regular, unannounced short quizzes pegged to the lecture/reading material, as well as map quizzes. Quizzes cannot be made up but some number will be dropped, equivalent to 10% or more, depending on the number given over the course of the semester.

Exam (15%): Students will complete one Final Exam during the Final Exam period in Exam Week, in the classroom. Questions will be determined by the class in advance and students will be able to bring one page of handwritten notes with them to the exam. More details will be discussed in class in advance of the exam.

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

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

Engagement	20%
ClioVis	30%
Primary Source/Film Analyses	30%
Quizzes	5%
Exams	15%
TOTAL	100%

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 are provided through D2L.

August 20: Introductions

Unit 1: Origins of the Cold War

Readings for Unit: *Hard and Bitter Peace (HBP)*, Part I; Graham Greene, *Our Man in Havana*; Documents TBD

August 25

Read: *HBP*, 3-18

August 27

Read: *HBP*, 19-41

September 1: No class (I have jury duty)

Read: *HBP*, 42-56

September 3

Read: *HBP*, 57-76

September 8

Read: *HBP*, 77-93

September 10

Read: *HBP*, 94-120

September 15: Film in class TBD

September 17: Film in class TBD

September 22: ClioVis Presentation I

September 24: No class

Unit 2: The Global Confrontation

Readings for Unit: *HBP*, Part II; Burdick, *Fail-Safe*; Documents TBD

September 29

Read: *HBP*, 121-139

October 1

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Read: *HBP*, 140-161

October 6

Read: *HBP*, 162-186

October 8: Fall Break, No Class

October 13

Read: *HBP*, 187-211

October 15

Read: *HBP*, 212-236

October 20

Read: *HBP*, 237-259

October 22

Read: *HBP*, 260-282

October 27: Film in Class TBD

October 29: ClioVis Presentation 2

Unit 3: The Search for a Solution

Readings for Unit: *HBP*, Part III; other readings and documents TBD

November 3: Election Day

Read: *HBP*, 283-298

November 5

Read: *HBP*, 299-318

November 10

Read: *HBP*, 319-337

November 12: No class

Read: *HBP*, 338-356

November 17

Read: *HBP*, 357-378

November 19

Read: *HBP*, 379-393

November 24

November 26: No class, Thanksgiving Break

December 1: Film in class TBD

December 3: ClioVis Presentation 3

Final Exam: December 10, 8-10am

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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>

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

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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>

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

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

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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>