



中央民族大学
MINZU UNIVERSITY OF CHINA

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Minzu University of China
HIST260 International History 1945 to Recent
Summer 2020

Basic Information

Class hours: Monday through Thursday, 2 hours each day
Discussion: Friday, 1 hour (60 minutes)
Review Section: Saturday, 1 hour (60 minutes)
Office Hour: 2 hours (According to professors' teaching plan)
Field trip: According to professors' teaching plan
Credit: 4
Total contact hours: 60 (50 minutes each)
Instructor: John Grant Carr-Shanahan

Course Description

The four-credit Minzu University course, HIST 260: International History 1945 to Recent is an introduction to world history from the end of World War II to the present day. We will examine important topics such as the Cold War; the rise of China; the Korean War; conflicts and tensions in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East; the fall of the Soviet Union; the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany; globalization; terrorism; and the principal reasons and consequences of the current geopolitical tensions. There will be an emphasis on diplomatic history and on the impact of the proliferation of nuclear weapons since the mid- 1940s.

Format and learning objectives

This course is a mix of lectures and discussions. You will be graded based on your participation in discussions as well as exams. I expect active participation from you. Feel free to ask questions about the lectures and debate with each other. Do not sit in silence because it will bring your grade down. If you have issues about speaking in class, talk to me during office hours. The learning objectives are:

1. Historical Literacy Students will gain an understanding of the scope, breadth, and richness of historical studies.
2. Critical Thinking Students will learn to apply historical methods to critically evaluate the record of the past and how historians and others have interpreted it.
3. Research Skills Students will acquire basic historical research skills, including (as appropriate) the effective use of libraries, archives, and databases.
4. Communication Skills Students will learn to organize and express their thoughts clearly and coherently both in writing and orally.
5. Writing & Intellectual Students will demonstrate their mastery of the knowledge and skills involved in historical practice by conceptualizing and executing a significant piece of original research.

Readings

We will read the following text, so you need to purchase it. We will discuss the chapters in class on a weekly basis and you will be graded on participating in these discussions.



Odd Arne Westad, *The Cold War: A World History*

Requirements and Grading Exams

We will have a mid-term exam and a final exam for this course. Consult the class schedule for details below.

Papers

You will write two papers on the readings, which you will submit on the day of that reading's discussion.

Attendance

We will take attendance, so come to class. If you miss lectures, your grade will plummet. If you miss for reasons of illness, I will need documentation. I will make no exceptions.

Grading

Your final grade will be broken down as follows: 20% attendance, 20% participation in discussions, 20% two papers (10% each), 20% mid-term exam, and 20% final exam.

Course Outline

Week 1

Monday: Introduction to the Course and discussion of terms

Tuesday lecture 1: Competitive Symbiosis

Wednesday lecture 2: Antagonists to Allies I

Thursday lecture 3: Antagonists to Allies II

Friday Discussion: Odd Arne Westad, *The Cold War: A World History* (Introduction-chap. 2) and film *Spies* (1928)

Saturday: Review Session

Week 2

Monday lecture 4: Allies to Antagonists I

Tuesday lecture 5: Allies to Antagonists II

Wednesday lecture 6: The Asian Crucible and Globalization I

Thursday lecture 7: The Asian Crucible and Globalization II

Friday Discussion: Odd Arne Westad, *The Cold War: A World History* (Chap. 3-7) and *The Third Man* (1949)

Saturday: Review Session

Week 3

Monday lecture 8: Spies and Satellites I

Tuesday lecture 9: Spies and Satellites II

Wednesday lecture 10: Uneasy Coexistence I

Thursday lecture 11: Uneasy Coexistence II

Friday: MIDTERM DISCUSSION

Saturday: Review Session

Week 4

Monday: MIDTERM

Tuesday lecture 12: Entrenchment and Revolt I

Wednesday lecture 13: Entrenchment and Revolt II

Thursday lecture 14: Détente

Friday Discussion: Odd Arne Westad, *The Cold War: A World History* (Chap. 8-15) and *Three Days of the Condor* (1975)

Saturday: Review Session

Week 5

Monday lecture 15: Delusions and Idealism



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Tuesday lecture 16: Cold War's End

Wednesday lecture 17: The Post-Cold War World

Thursday: FINAL EXAM DISCUSSION

Friday lecture: FINAL EXAM

Saturday: Review Session