This is a tentative syllabus; a final version will be passed out at the first class meeting.

History 4990-2  
Senior Seminar  
Spring 2019  
Dr. Lehning  
319 CTIHB

This seminar will focus on research practices of the discipline of history. The topic of the seminar is the Cold War, the international conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union between the end of World War II and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, as well as its domestic consequences for the competitors and the rest of the world. Our goals in the course are to familiarize you and give you experience with practices of historical research: formulating questions about the past, developing a workable research project, identifying primary and secondary sources on that project, and writing and presenting orally the results of that research.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Learn intellectual and practical skills in written and oral communication, critical thinking, inquiry and analysis;
2. Learn to formulate historical questions, write a well-organized historical argument, and support an interpretation with information from primary and secondary sources.

Course Requirements:

The following book is required; copies should be available in the University Bookstore:

John Lewis Gaddis, The Cold War

All written material that you turn in should conform to the humanities scholarly style as described in Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations. Use the footnote/endnote style. A quick reference guide is at:


Because of the availability online of the reference guide, I have not ordered this through the bookstore, but you can easily purchase one on Amazon. The current edition of this is the ninth edition, but there are few changes between editions and if you wish to purchase a copy either the 7th, 8th, or 9th editions should be ok.

Grading:

Your final grade will be calculated on the following basis:
Class participation: 20%
Summaries of readings: 5 @ 2 points = 10%
Tentative paper topic due February 12: 5%
Working bibliography due February 19: 10%
Written prospectus due February 26: 10%
Written progress report due March 19: 5%
Class presentation: 10%
Final paper: 30%

The principal project for each student in the seminar is a substantial (25-30 page double-spaced, 12 point type) research paper on a specific topic on the Cold War. This paper must be (1) based on a significant number of primary sources, and (2) reflect substantial familiarity and interaction with the secondary scholarship on the topic.

Because this project, from its initial formulation to the final, polished version, is a substantial undertaking, I have spelled out deadlines in the course of the semester that you must meet in the weekly schedule below. The final versions of your paper is due in CTIHB 310 by 5 PM on Thursday, April 25, 2019. Late papers will be reduced in grade by one full grade (i.e., A to B) for each 24 hour period they are late.

The finished paper is the principle product of this class and is therefore heavily weighted in the calculation of your final grade. If you have concerns during the semester about how you are doing in the class, I urge you to consult with me. If you wish me to read a draft of your final paper, I will do so with adequate notice.

The Paper

The primary sources for your papers must be a number of works or artifacts contemporaneous to the event(s) you are examining. You should discuss specific topics and primary sources with me as soon as possible in the semester. As we will see, the Cold War was not only a diplomatic event, but rather had implications for many aspects of post-war societies, such as discourses about gender, the organization of universities, technological developments, etc. It also influenced many countries other than the US and USSR, and thus could include topics such as decolonization or economic growth, or parts of the world such as Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Africa. International organizations such as the United Nations also could be the focus of a paper. I would encourage you to think broadly about a topic, and to consult with me about the feasibility of writing your paper on one of these themes.

There is often a problem with accessibility of primary sources, both because of their availability and because of the language in which they are written. For diplomatic aspects of the Cold War, you may wish to begin your search for a topic by consulting the following digital archive:

The Woodrow Wilson Center Digital Cold War Archive:
http://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/cold-war-international-history-project
This archive is organized by a number of themes, and often translates documents that are originally in a foreign language. You may wish to consider doing a paper on one of those themes.

The Wilson Center Archive may be supplemented by the documents available in the digital National Security Archive. The Marriott Library subscribes to this, and you can access it through the Research Databases link on the ML website.

If you have an interest in the Revolutions of 1989 in eastern Europe, you may wish to consult the George Mason University website on The Making of 1989:

http://chnm.gmu.edu/1989/primarysources

For other topics, please consult with me EARLY about possible primary sources. These might include periodicals, newspapers, or online document collections from countries other than the United States, etc.

Course Schedule:

January 8: Introduction to course:
  Requirements
  Primary sources
  Writing summaries
  Scholarly style: footnoting and bibliographic citations

January 15: How do states act?: Liberalism and realism
  Submit: 250 word summary of the Mearsheimer reading

January 22: The History of the Cold War I
  Read: Gaddis, Prologue, Chapters I, II and III
  Submit: 250 word summary of the Gaddis reading
  Doing bibliography

January 29: The History of the Cold War II
  Read: Gaddis, Chapters IV, V, VI and VII
  Submit: 250 word summary of the Gaddis reading
  Formulating a research topic

February 5: Broader aspects of the Cold War I
  Submit: 250 word summary of the Roberts reading
  Using evidence, making historical arguments, and telling stories
February 12: Broader aspects of the Cold War II
   Read: Mary L. Dudziak, “Josephine Baker, Racial Protest and the Cold War,”
   *Journal of American History* 81, 2 (1994), 543-570. (Available online through J-Stor)
   *Journal of Women’s History* 8, 3 (1996), 66-98. (Available online through J-Stor.)
   Submit: 250 word summary of the Dudziak reading.
   Submit: tentative paper topic (100 words)

February 19: Individual scheduled meetings to discuss paper topic
   Submit: working bibliography of secondary sources on your topic

February 26: Prospectus presentations to class
   Submit: written prospectus (300 words)
   Discussion: secondary sources

March 5: no class; optional individual consultation

March 12: Fall Break – no class

March 19: brief progress reports to class
   Submit: written progress report (300 words)

March 26: no class; optional individual consultation

April 2: no class; optional individual consultation

April 9, 16: class presentations

**Final papers due Thursday, April 25, 2019, by 5PM in my mailbox in CTIH 310!**

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. Please contact the instructor of this course at the beginning of the semester to discuss any accommodations for this course.