HISTORY 1J: FIRST YEAR SEMINAR

A NEW HISTORY OF THE COLD WAR


Seminars provide an excellent opportunity to explore a subject in depth. The reading in this course may therefore be heavier than you expected. Be sure to explore the assigned readings and understand your assignment before you begin reading. Because we are looking at the debates on various topics you have two basic assignments: one, to read the primary documents and two, to read the historiographic essays. These essays provide an interpretive view of what happened. In each case you should be prepared to summarize the author’s argument and explain how it fits into your overall view of the cold war.

Seminar papers: In addition to the weekly reading you will be asked to read at least 6 other monographs and two articles for your seminar paper which is due in draft form during separate weeks of the semester. This paper should be 5-7 pages in length and should thoroughly explore the monographs and articles you have read as well as integrate this material into the common readings of the class. You will provide copies of your essay to members of the class in advance in the morning before 9 am on Thursday. A printed copy of the draft is due in my office at that time. You will revise your paper at the end of the semester. This second draft will include at least three new sources and further focus you paper. During the discussion of the first paper you will need to take notes to help you with your revisions. Also, you will be responsible for helping a colleague revise their paper. (60% = 30 % original draft, 5% for your revision suggestions and 25% for your revised paper) Finally, because this is a reading seminar, you are responsible for the common readings of the class; some of you will be
designated as discussion leaders for classes. (15%) If you fail to have done the reading you will lose credit, I will not know if you have done the reading or not if you do not participate in class discussions. You will also lose credit if your comments stray from the material under examination. If you do not keep up with the reading your performance in seminar may erode your graded paper work. (5%). It goes without saying that if you miss one session of the seminar, you have missed a weeks worth of work and your grade will deteriorate accordingly.

Bibliographies: Your papers should include an annotated bibliography. For reference you should see: Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations or the Chicago Manual of Style. Two rules apply to the idea of a bibliography: make it simple and be sure that references are easy to check by other scholars. After each entry summarize your source, explain who, what, when, where, how and why in concise sentences (not more than three). Describe any special circumstances surrounding your source and comment on its application (i.e., this is an excellent summary for theses writing). Your bibliography will be no more than one page per class. You should revise this bibliography and hand it in at the end of the semester so keep all your entries in one file. (20% part graded on weekly basis and part on final product). To obtain book reviews you should use the Journal of American History, Diplomatic History and Reviews in American History; use J-Stor through the library.

Readings:
The following texts are required reading for the course:

Thomas Borstelman: The Cold War and the Color Line.
Ellen Schrecker, Many Are the Crimes.
Paul Dickson, Sputnik: The Shock of the Century
J. Robert Moskin, Mr., and Truman’s War: The Final Victories of World War II
Jeffrey Kimball, Nixon’s Vietnam War
Victor Israelyan, Inside the Kremlin during the Yom Kippur War
Thomas Paterson, Major Problems in American Foreign Policy
Graham Greene, Our Man in Havana

Reading for September 7th

Thomas Paterson, Major Problems in American Foreign Policy Thomas G. Paterson, Major Problems, Volume II. Prepare by reading chapters 5 and chapter 14; pay attention to the distinctions between the interpretative essays and the documents. Prepare to discuss the basic documents generated by the war. Remember: who, what, when, where, how and why.

Calendar of Classes
Week 1  The Legacy of the Cold War  September 7th

The Shift From a War on Communism to a War on Terrorism: Discuss the 9/11 Report.

World War II and the Post-War Settlement: Discuss the basic documents generated by the war.


Read for Next Week:

J. Robert Moskin, *Mr., Truman's War: The Final Victories of World War II*  (pay big attention to the preface and introduction, prepare to discuss the author’s view of history and historians; also be prepared to discuss the issues of transitions as raised in this first session. Prepare to discuss your seminar session, using the bibliography in the readings and your schedule.

Week 2  The Transition from WWII to the Cold War  September 14th

“Only slowly did it dawn upon us that that the whole world structure and order that we had inherited from the nineteenth century was gone and that the struggle to replace it would be directed from two bitterly opposed and ideologically irreconcilable power centers.” Dean Acheson

Discussion: Moskin, papers schedule.

Reading: Paterson, *Major Problems, ch. 6 and 7*.

Assignment: Historiography: Study the readings in Paterson Chapter 1, Volume 2, *make sure you understand each interpretation offered*, then, go on the web site of President George Bush and Senator John Kerry to determine how their foreign policy views differ, then try your own hand at writing a two page analysis: explain how the candidates differ in their approach, subject matter and philosophy of foreign policy. Write the essay as a first draft, include in it your thoughts but do not overwhelm your essay with opinion, imagine you are a historian twenty-five years from now, writing for this text book, using the web sites as primary documents and your essay as one of them. Make the essay three pages single space, due next week.

Week 3  The Historiography of the Cold War  September 21


Week 4    Living in The Nuclear Age    September 28th

“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the seat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children...This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.” Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Discussion: Seminar Paper, Rose and Eisenhower


Week 5    Hunting For a Fifth Column    October 5

Reading: Ellen Schrecker *Many are the Crimes*


October 8-18th    Fall Break

Graham Greene, *Our Man in Havana*
Week 6  Civil Rights and the Cold War  October 19th

Reading:  Thomas Borstelmann, *The Cold War and The Color Line*
Paterson, *Major Problems, ch. 9*


Week 7  Sputnik, Science and the Baby Boom  October 26th

Reading:  Paul Dickson, *Sputnick: The Shock of the Century*


Week 8  Proxy Wars: Vietnam  November 2

Paterson, *Major Problems, ch. 11*

Week 9  
Détente and the Home front  
November 9

Reading: Jeffrey Kimball: *Nixon’s Vietnam War*  
Seminar Paper: Walter Isaacson, *Kissinger; A Biography*  
See Paterson for Bibliography

Week 10  
The Middle East and a New Crisis  
November 16th

Reading: Victor Israelyan, *Inside the Kremlin During the Yom Kippur War*  

Week 11.  
The End of the Cold War  
November 23

Reading: Lou Cannon, *President Reagan: The Role of a Lifetime*  
Seminar Paper: Michael J. Hogan, *The End of the Cold War: Its Meaning and Implications*  
See Paterson for more bibliography

Week 12  
Paper Revision Session  
November 30

Week 13  
Paper Revision Session  
December 7

Final Revised Papers and Bibliographies Due December 17th

Several Topics may be used if there are more students: The Cuban Missile Crisis, The Korean War, Covert Operations: Guatemala, Iran, Chile; Gulf War I.