

Spring 2023

Course Syllabus

HIS208-01 “The Cold War in Fact and Film”

T-TR 11:00--12:15 MHRA 2209

Mark Moser, Senior Lecturer Department of History

Office: MHRA 2104 email: mamoser@uncg.edu

Office Hours Spring 2023: T 1:00-3:00 R 1:00-3:00 (and by appointment)

Overview: As the title indicates, this course will be an overview of the main events of the Cold War, which we will view from three perspectives: scholarly secondary sources, primary source documents, and feature films which dealt either directly or indirectly with Cold War related themes.

Required Readings:

Fink, Carole K. *Cold War: An International History*. Second Edition. (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2017).

*Additional readings in the form of primary and secondary source material may be assigned and made available to you throughout the semester. Links will be provided for all films.

Procedures/Assignments:

As indicated, in the grading section of the syllabus, a significant portion of your grade will be based on class participation. Because of this it will be essential for you to keep up with your readings. It will also be necessary for you to take the time and effort to watch all of the Cold War themed films that are assigned for this course--in their entirety. Although we will make an effort to watch portions of each film in class, time will not permit us to view every scene of every film in the classroom. The films for this class are as important as the required reading—please do not overlook this fact. Also, I urge you to resist the temptation to seek an understanding of these films by consulting the reviews written by film critics. I do not care what film critics thought about any of these films---they are not enrolled in this class, but you are.

Attendance:

Punctuality and regular attendance are necessary in order for you to do your best in any college class because you are still responsible for all material covered in class whether or not you are there. As indicated below, a portion of your grade for this course will be based on attendance and class participation. During each class session there will be numerous opportunities for students to offer comments, ask questions, and participate in class discussions. If you are not here, you cannot participate. **Students accumulating more than 4 absences will have their final grade reduced by one letter. Students accumulating excessive absences will be dropped from the class. Any student who wishes to receive a grade of “W” must drop the class on or before Friday, March 3. Habitual tardiness, either alone or in combination with absences, will also adversely affect your final grade.** It is your responsibility to keep up with your absences. It is also your responsibility to see me after class if you come in after attendance has been taken, as failure to do so will result in your being marked absent for that class session. *(A minimum of 2 requested absences for religious observances not counted as part of the above).*

This class meets two times per week and I expect you to come to class on time and to remain in class for the entire session unless you have a genuine emergency during class, (illness, etc.) or unless you speak to me prior to class and advise me that you need to leave early. All requests to take a missed exam will be considered on an individual basis. Any student who misses an exam **must contact me ASAP** to inquire about the possibility of taking a makeup. Makeup exams, if permitted, will have to be taken at a time when I am available. .

Warning: Technology is a wonderful thing. Having said that, you should be aware that I consider using a laptop/tablet, etc. in my class a privilege—not a right—and privileges can be taken away. Therefore, I respectfully ask that you use them only for taking notes. I will warn a student once for such an infraction—a second offense will result in the loss of stated privilege. Numerous violations of this request will result in the banning of laptops/tablets, etc. from class altogether. Similar discretion/judgment should be applied to *any* electronic device (**especially phones!**) that can be a distraction to you, your classmates, or instructor. If you are so important, in a truly global sense, that you cannot go 75 consecutive minutes without checking your social media accounts or email then you are clearly far too important to be wasting your valuable time and celebrity status here at UNCG. **I do not want to see you looking at your phones at any time while you are in class.**

Learning Goals for this Course:

Historical Comprehension: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in understanding and synthesizing the basic framework of Cold War history. This will be done primarily through the midterm and final exam essays.

Historical Analysis: Students will also demonstrate the ability to use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary sources, secondary sources, and films related to major events and turning points of the Cold War. This will be done primarily through the midterm and final exam essays.

Historical Interpretation: Finally, students who successfully complete this course will be able to identify clear distinctions between fact-based information and film treatments of Cold War-era issues and events. Students will be able to use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the Cold War by developing and presenting original arguments in a variety of written formats—primarily the weekly discussion postings

Evaluation and Grading:

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|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Participation/Discussion Postings | 50% |
| Midterm Exam | 25% |
| Final Exam | 25% |
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| Course Total | 100% |

Course Outline: Weekly readings/assignments

Week One—(January 10, 12) Course introduction and explanation of assignments, etc
Reading: Fink Introduction and Prelude: “Soviet Russia and the West, 1917-1941”

Week Two—(January 17, 19)
Reading: Fink Chapter 3 “Cold War, 1945-1952”

Week Three—(January 24, 26)
Reading: Fink Chapter 4 “The Widening Conflict, 1953-1963”
Film: *The Red Menace (1949)*

Week Four—(January 31, February 2)
Reading: Fink Chapter 5 “The Sixties”
Film: *Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1978)*

Week Five—(February 7, 9)

Reading: Fink Chapter 6 “Détente, 1969-1975”

Film: *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962)

Week Six—(February 14, 16)

Reading: Fink Chapter 7 “Détente Collapses, 1975-1980”

Film: *High Noon* (1952)

Week Seven—(February 21, 23)

Reading: Fink Chapter 8 “The Second Cold War, 1981-1985”

Film: *On the Beach* (1958)

Week Eight—(February 28, March 2)

Tuesday, February 28---Review for Midterm Exam

Thursday, March 2---Midterm Exam (You will need a small format bluebook)

SPRING BREAK—*No Class Tuesday March 7 or Thursday March 9

Week Nine—(March 14, 16)

Reading: Fink Chapter 9 “The End of the Cold War, 1985-1991”

Film: *Thirteen Days* (2000)

Week Ten—(March 21, 23)

Reading: Will be made available on Canvas

Film: *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold* (1965)

Week Eleven—(March 28, 30)

Reading: Will be made available on Canvas

Film: *Bridge of Spies* (2015)

Week Twelve—(April 4, 6)

Reading: Will be made available on Canvas

Film: *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964)

Week Thirteen—(April 11, 13)

Reading: Will be made available on Canvas

Film: *Fail-Safe* (1964)

Week Fourteen—(April 18, 20)

Film: TBA

Week Fifteen—(April 25) Last Day of Class

FINAL EXAM-----Tuesday, April 25. (The Final Exam will be cumulative and you will need to bring a small-format bluebook)

Academic Integrity Policy:

*On all work submitted for this class you are expected to abide by the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy, which may be viewed at <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity>. Please review this important document with an attention to detail, and feel free to ask questions if there is any part of the policy which you do not understand. **This course will be conducted with a zero tolerance policy regarding plagiarism.***

UNCG seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) in 215 Elliott University Center, 334-5440, oars.uncg.edu.

As we return for spring 2023, please uphold UNCG's culture of care to limit the spread of covid-19 and other airborne illnesses. These actions include, but are not limited to:

- *Engaging in proper hand-washing hygiene*
- *Self-monitoring for symptoms of covid-19*
- *Staying home when ill*
- *Complying with directions from health care providers or public health officials to isolate if ill*
- *Completing a [self-report](#) when experiencing covid-19 symptoms or testing positive for covid-19*
- *Following the CDC's [exposure guidelines](#) when exposed to someone who has tested positive for covid-19*
- *Staying informed about the University's policies and announcements via the [covid-19](#) website*