

Course Syllabus: History 5304: W01: The Global Cold War

Dr. Mark Saad Saka: Sul Ross State University

Course Objective:

The Cold War 1945-1991 shaped the twentieth-century like few other major geo-political events (the First and the Second World Wars being the other two) and this course is designed to examine the history of the Cold War and the history of Communism in a global context. We will incorporate political history of Communism as an idea born in the ashes of the French Revolution and the early critics of the industrial revolution through its political triumph and establishment of a Bolshevik regime in Russia during the catastrophe of the First World War.

The Second World War would prove another pivotal event in the history of the Communism and the Cold War as both the United States and the Soviet Union emerged from the ashes and vacuum left by the collapse of the Third Reich. The Cold War as it originated in central Europe quickly expanded into the newly decolonizing “third world”. The triumph of the Communist revolutionary forces under Mao Ze Dong in China again proved a pivotal event in the history of the Cold War as the center of the global struggle now shifted to Asia.

The Cold War’s continuing expansion into the newly decolonized “third world” created some of the most explosive and violent conflicts of the Cold War including the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the “near miss” of global destruction accompanying the Cuban Missile Crisis, the catastrophe of the Cambodian “killing fields” as well as mass reactionary and fascistic repression in Latin America and the spread of Cold War conflict into the continent of Africa.

The final decades of the Cold War accompanied the decline of Communism as a viable ideology in much of the world, the slow economic death of the Soviet Union as well as the rejection of Marxist economics by a post-Mao China and the formal end of the Cold War as the Soviet Union’s empire collapsed in Eastern Europe and the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Course Required Readings:

The Red Flag: A History of Communism by David Priestland, Grover Press, ISBN # 978-0-8021-1924-7

The Cold War: A World History by Odd Arne Westad, Basic Books, ISBN # 978-0-465-05493-0

Course Requirements:

There are a number of requirements for this course.

1. Obtain the books
2. Send me an email and let me know that you have read the syllabus and understand the course requirements (1st class day or before)
3. Read the weekly assignments and write a five to six page review and turn the assignment in through blackboard on the assigned date
4. Research and write a fifteen to twenty page paper on a major turning point in the history of the Cold War. I need to approve of your topic. Explain the course of events in the pivotal turning point and why you consider it a turning point in the history of the Cold War.

5. The total number of points include 100 points for each weekly assignment for a possibly 1,100 points and the paper which is worth 900 points for a total of 2,000 points. 1800-2000=A; 1600-1799=B; 1400-1599=C; 1200-1399=D; 0-1199=F.

Course Outline:

Jan. 25-send me an email informing me that you have obtained the books and have read and understand the syllabus.

Feb. 01: Priestland; Prologue, chapters one and two; Westad chapter one

Feb. 08: Priestland chapters three and four

Feb. 15: Priestland chapter five Westad chapters two, three, and four

Feb. 22: Priestland chapter six; Westad chapters five and six

Mar. 01: Priestland chapters seven and eight; Westad chapters seven and eight

Mar. 08: Priestland chapters nine and ten; Westad nine and ten

Mar. 15: Priestland chapter eleven: Westad chapters eleven and twelve

Mar. 22: Westad chapters thirteen, fourteen, and fifteen

Mar. 29: Westad chapters sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen

Apr. 05: Priestland chapter twelve and conclusion: Westad chapters nineteen, twenty

Apr. 12: Westad chapters twenty-one and twenty- two

May 15-Papers due at 06:00 a.m.

Distance Education Statement

Distance Education Resources • Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Communicating with the Professor: • The best way to contact me is through email at Msaka@sulross.edu. I will try to respond as soon as possible. If you do not receive a reply within 24 hours, please resend your email or call my office at 432.837-8304.