

## **Course Syllabus: History 3312: W01/MC1: American Foreign Policy and the Cold War**

**Spring 2025/Sul Ross State University/Dr. Mark Saad Saka**

### **Course Objectives:**

The objective of this course is to examine the history of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union/Communist China during the period of time 1917 (The Bolshevik Revolution) through 1991 (the formal collapse of the Soviet Union). The Cold War shaped much of the twentieth-century and its reverberations continues today with U.S.-Russian tensions; U.S.-Chinese tensions; U.S.-North Korean tensions; as well as fundamental questions as to America's continuing relationship with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), former Eastern-European-bloc nations, U.S.-Latin America; etc. The sheer potential of a global thermonuclear destruction of civilization and human societies in a potential nuclear conflict during the Cold War testifies to the importance of the Cold War in twentieth and twenty-first century history. The sheer human and economic costs of the Cold War has still yet to be calculated. It is for these and many more reasons that any student of modern American or world history must have a firm grasp as to the origins, development, course, and eventual decline and ending of the Cold War.

### **Required Readings**

The Cold War: A World History by Odd Anne Westad, Basic Books, ISBN # 978-1541674097

### **Course Requirements:**

There are a number of requirements for the successful completion of this course.

1. Obtain the required books.
2. You will have six exams worth 100 points each, 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=DF

**ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act): Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students who need accessibility services should contact Rebecca Wren at 432-837-8691; Ferguson Hall Room 112.**

### **Marketability Skills of a History Major**

**Marketable skills---Students can identify useful resources from a pool of data.  
Students can select and organize data in a relevant manner.  
Students can make written presentations to various audiences.**

**Marketable skills---Students can utilize data to persuade various audiences.  
Students can utilize data to generate and strengthen ideas.  
Students can decipher stances adopted by various individuals.**

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

**SLO 1—The history student will demonstrate historical research skills in a logically organized, written paper that is mechanically correct and supported by relevant documentation of historical content.**

**SLO 2—The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in historiography and how those topics are interpreted.**

**SLO 3—The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Non-American History.**

**Marketable Skills---Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner.**

**Students can discharge responsibilities in an adequate manner.**

**Students can manage the absorption of data.**