



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
TRENT UNIVERSITY

History 4604Y: The Soviet Union and the Cold War

20010-11 FW

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The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union marked the conclusion of the Cold War, a deep and dangerous half-century-old global conflict between the Soviet Union and West. The end of the Cold War also opened up the possibility, for the first time, to examine many of the previously secret documents relating to the policies of the Soviet Union and to explore the logic and motivations behind the Soviet Union's policies at crucial points of the Cold War. What were Soviet intentions and capabilities at the end of World War II? To what degree were Soviet leaders responding to Western aggression, as some historians had previously argued? What role did ideology play in Soviet decisions? How did domestic politics influence foreign policy? Geopolitical calculations and security concerns? Personality? How can we explain the intensity, scope and the duration of the Cold War?

This course will concentrate on the most volatile era of the Cold War from the Soviet perspective—the period between 1945 and 1964. Specifically, we will focus on three themes: the origins of the Cold War, the globalization of the War, and the increasingly complex relations with Communist allies and satellite states. Along the way, we will consider the nature of historical explanation by looking at the

scholarship that has emerged since 1989. We will think about how this new research has affected earlier assumptions about Soviet conduct and the dynamics of the Cold War.

Course Requirements and Grading

HIST 4604 is an intensive reading, writing, and discussion seminar. The focus of the course is on interpretation and historiography. We will be reading approximately 125-150 pages per week. Full and regular preparation and participation are mandatory. (Unexcused absences will result in deductions from the participation mark.) There are no lectures in the course and participation constitutes 25% of the final mark.

- **Journals.** Writing requirements for History 4604 include seven journal assignments (5-6 pp. each, four in the first term). Instead of three journal assignments in the second term, students have the option of writing a historiographic essay or a research paper (15 pp.) on a topic of their choice.
- **Book Presentation and Summary.** Once during the year, each student in HIST 4604 will give a ten minute presentation on a book chosen from a list provided by the instructor. As part of the assignment, you are required to submit a written 4 page summary of your analysis of the book on the day of the presentation.
- **Leading Discussion.** Once during the year, each student will also lead the seminar discussion. You will prepare a set of questions on the assigned reading for that week and guide the discussion during the seminar.
- **Take-Home Exam.** HIST 4604 includes a final take-home exam at the end of the course. The exam will consist of one question, which will be based on the required readings in the course. The aim of the exam is to encourage you to reflect on the historiography on the Cold War in a systematic fashion.

Grading in History 4604 will be divided as follows:

Seminar Participation	25	% (includes leading discussion)
Book Presentation	5	%
Journals/Essay	50	%
Final Exam	20	%

WebCT and The Green Initiative

Making and recycling paper are energy intensive processes. In an effort to conserve energy, I will be using as little paper as possible in HIST 4604 and will be relying on myLearningSystem(WebCT) instead. All assignments will be posted on the WebCT site (<http://www.trentu.ca/admin/it/webct/welcome.shtml>). I also *strongly encourage* you to submit your written work to me by email rather than in hard copy form. You can send your assignments to me as an attachment (to oandriewsky@trentu.ca or through the WebCT mail function). Your assignment will then be graded and returned to you by email. If you have difficulty submitting your assignment in this form, please let me know and we will find a solution or work out an alternative arrangement.

Access to Instruction

It is Trent University's intent to create an inclusive learning environment. If a student has a disability and/or health consideration and feels that he/she may need accommodations to succeed in this course, the student should contact the Disability Services Office (BL Suite 109, 748-1281, disabilityservices@trentu.ca) as soon as possible. Complete text can be found under Access to Instruction in the Academic Calendar.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism and cheating, is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from a 0 grade on an assignment to expulsion from the University. Definitions, penalties, and procedures for dealing with plagiarism and cheating are set out in Trent University's *Academic Integrity Policy*. All History 4604 students have a responsibility to educate themselves – unfamiliarity with the policy is not an excuse. You are strongly encouraged to visit Trent's Academic Integrity website to learn more: www.trentu.ca/academicintegrity. **Please note: Students are required to keep all notes for their essays and may be required to hand them in. Failure to do so can result in an F on the essay.**

Textbooks

The following textbooks can be purchased in the bookstore:

- Vladislav M. Zubok, *A Failed Empire: The Soviet Union in the Cold War from Stalin to Gorbachev*
- Geoffrey Roberts, *Stalin's Wars: From World War to Cold War, 1939-1953*
- Norman M. Naimark, *The Russians in Germany*
- David Holloway, *Stalin and the Bomb*
- Michael Dobbs, *One Minute to Midnight: Kennedy, Khrushchev, and Castro on the Brink of Nuclear War*

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

- Sept. 16** **Introductory Meeting: Studying the Cold War**
- Sept. 30** **Stalin and the Origins of the Cold War**
Reading: Geoffrey Roberts, *Stalin's Wars: From World War to Cold War, 1939-1953*, chap. 1, 2, 6-10, 12; Vladislav M. Zubok, *A Failed Empire*, chap. 1 & 2
- Oct. 14** **The Division of Germany**
Reading: Zubok, chap. 3; Norman M. Naimark, *The Russians in Germany*, chap. 1-4; 7-8
- Oct. 28** **Reading Week**
- Nov. 4** **Espionage**
Reading: Katherine A. S. Sibley, *Red Spies in America: Stolen Secrets and the Dawn of the Cold War*
- Nov. 24** **The Bomb**
Reading: David Holloway, *Stalin and the Bomb*
- Dec. 9** **"Hot" War in the Far East**
Reading: John Lewis Gaddis, "Cold War Empires: Asia," *We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History*, (WebCT) Shen Zihua, "Sino-Soviet Relations and the Origins of the Korean War: Stalin's Strategic Goals in the Far East," *Journal of Cold War Studies* - Volume 2, Number 2, Spring 2000, pp. 44-68 (WebCT)
- Jan. 13** **After Stalin: Khrushchev as Cold Warrior**
Reading: Vladislav Zubok and Constantine Pleshakov, *Inside the Kremlin's Cold War*, chap. 5 -7 (WebCT)
- Jan. 27** **1956**
Reading: Charles Gati, *Failed Illusions: Moscow, Washington, Budapest, and the 1956 Hungarian Revolt*

Feb. 10 The Race for Space

Reading: Matthew Brzezinski, *Red Moon Rising: Sputnik and the Hidden Rivalries that Ignited the Space Age*

Feb. 24 READING WEEK

March 3 The Cuban Missile Crisis

Reading: Michael Dobbs, *One Minute to Midnight: Kennedy, Khrushchev, and Castro on the Brink of Nuclear War*

March 17 The Taming of the Cold War

Reading: Zubok, chap. 7; Raymond L. Garthoff, *Détente and Confrontation* chap. 1 & 2 (WebCT)

March 31 The Cold War in Retrospect

Reading: Vojtech Mastny, "Conclusion: The Soviet Threat in Retrospect," *Cold War and Soviet Insecurity* (WebCT); Robert Jervis, "Was the Cold War a Security Dilemma?" *Journal of Cold War Studies*, Volume 3, Issue 1 (WebCT)