

Course Syllabus
HIS 593:01W
European Diplomatic History: The Cold War in Germany
3 Credit Hours, Spring 2008
Spring 2008 ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING

Contact Information

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Contact

Contact will be solely through the internet and via e-mail. I check my e-mail several times a day and on the weekend. For students who did not use their student e-mail account in the Fall, blackboard can only use your student account and the university exchange server (my e-mail system) went down for days at a time in Fall of 2007. Keep this in mind when contacting me. I do not believe that I am receiving all my e-mails. If you send me a message and you don't hear back from me within a couple of days, send the e-mail again – it may not have reached me.

Blackboard and Computer Support

The telephone number for the **Help Desk** is **(936)294-1950**. Sam Houston State University's Help Desk is open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Central Standard Time, Monday through Friday. Jacob Spradlin is in charge of the Blackboard system. His number is 936-294-3929. I would recommend that you call him if you have a serious problem with the system. I have found in the past few years of teaching this online course that when you have problems with Blackboard, I usually am experiencing the same problems and it is because Blackboard is down for updating. These problems are normally sorted out within a few hours, certainly within 24 hours, but in Fall of 2007 did go on for longer periods.

Getting Started -- First Steps for this Class

1. Please ALWAYS use the same e-mail address throughout the duration of this course in order to avoid confusion. Students must use their student accounts to participate in the course via blackboard. If a student is using an account other than the university student account, you need to make sure that I have that address.

2. Please see the calendar at Blackboard to get an overview of all class deadlines.
3. This is an intensive course schedule and it will require a great deal of commitment and self-discipline, but will be rewarding.

Course Objectives & Goal

This course covers selected topics in the history of European international politics from the 18th through the 20th century. Alternate emphasis will be placed on Eastern and Western Europe as well as on different eras of diplomacy, at the discretion of the instructor. This course will focus on Germany during the Cold War. Credit 3.

- In this course students will discuss, write and analyze why Germany was divided during the Cold War after World War II, why the two German experience in the post war period was so divergent in the two German states, and why the Berlin Wall fell and the two states were united, one of the key events that mark the end of the Cold War..
- There are no prerequisites required for this course.
- Students will gain a factual knowledge of Cold War history in the twentieth century including important terms, dates, historical figures, and historical maps. .
- Students will learn how to find and use available resources for learning material not covered in readings and discussions.
- Students will develop a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values.
- Students will develop reading and writing skills to help them not only in their daily lives and academic careers but also in their future professions.

Course Texts

(all these texts are available either through Amazon or can be obtained through inter-library loan through the library)

1. Leffler, Melvyn P., *For the Soul of Mankind: The United States, The Soviet Union, and the Cold War* (Hill and Wang, 2007)
2. Sarotte, M.E., *Dealing with the Devil: East Germany, Détente, and Ostpolitik, 1969-1973* (The New Cold War History) (The University of North Carolina Press, 2000)

3. Schissler, Hanna (editor), *The Miracle Years* (Princeton University Press, 2001)
4. Smyser, W.R., *From Yalta to Berlin: The Cold War Struggle Over Germany* (St. Martins Press, 2000)

Assigned Chapters

Gaddis, John Lewis, *We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History* (Oxford Univ Press, 1998) Chapter 2, pages 26 to 53, Cold War Empires: Europe and Chapter 5, pages 113 to 152, The German Question **[Please note The library does not have this text, so you will have to check it out from a local library or buy it. It is an excellent book and you may want to read the entire text anyway.]**

Gleason, Abbott, *Totalitarianism: The Inner History of the Cold War* (Oxford University Press, 1995) Chapter 8, pages 143-166, The Cold War in Postwar Europe: France, Italy, and Germany **[This is on electronic reserve with the library which you can access online. Please go to the Newton Gresham Library and follow the directions to electronic reserves. The Password is airlift. If you have problems, Alicia Nevins is in charge of reserves and her number is 294-1628.]**

Recommended Reading

Walter LaFeber's *America Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-2006*

Important Dates from Academic calendar

- January 16** WEDNESDAY. Daytime on-campus classes begin. [Late Registration](#). Process class schedule changes. Refer to the [Schedule of Classes](#) for details and deadlines.
- January 21** MONDAY. University Holiday - Martin Luther King Day.
- January 24** THURSDAY. Last day to [register](#) and to process schedule changes. Thursday Night (ThN) classes begin (on-campus and off-campus).

February 1	FRIDAY. Twelfth Class Day. Last day to drop without a "Q" and receive 100% refund. Degree Applications to be filed in Registrar's Office by students graduating May 2008.
March 7	Degree applications to be filed in Registrar's Office by students graduating in August 2008.
March 10,11, 12, 13, 14	MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. Spring recess for students and faculty.
March 21	FRIDAY. Good Friday. Holiday for Students and Faculty.
April 14	MONDAY. Deadline for submission of theses and dissertations.
May 8	THURSDAY. Last Class Day. Last day to resign. Last day to drop a course without the grade of F.
May 9	FRIDAY. Final Exam Study Day.
May 19	MONDAY. 9:00 a.m. Deadline for filing grades with the Registrar's Office. Spring Semester ends.

Discussions of Books and Book Reviews

<i>We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History</i> , Chapters 2 and 5 <i>Totalitarianism: The Inner History of the Cold War</i> , Chapter 8	Online discussion of the chapters starts on January 16 and will finish January 30. These chapters are for background no grade.	No B
<i>From Yalta to Berlin: The Cold War Struggle Over Germany</i> , Introduction to Chapter 10 (page1 to page 192)	Online discussion from January 30 to February 6	
<i>From Yalta to Berlin: The Cold War Struggle Over Germany</i> , Chapter 11 to Chapter 20 (page 193 to page 418)	Online discussion from February 6 to February 13	Book Monc
<i>The Miracle Years</i> , Introduction and Parts 1 and 2 (page 3 to page 232)	Online discussion from February 20 to February 27	
<i>The Miracle Years</i> , Parts 3 and 4 (starting on page 233)	Online discussion from February 27 to March 5	
<i>The Miracle Years</i> , Part 3 and 4 (ending on page408)	Online discussion from March 5 to March 19 (this period encompasses Spring Break)	
<i>The Miracle Years</i> , Part 5 and Epilogue (page 409 to page 468)	Online discussion from March 19 to March 26	Book Monc
<i>Dealing with the Devil: East Germany, Détente, and Ostpolitik, 1969-1973</i>	Online discussion from April 2 to April 16	Book Monc
<i>For the Soul of Mankind: The United States, The Soviet Union, and the Cold War</i>	Online discussion from April 23 to May 7	Book Monc

Online Discussions (40%)

You will have a series of discussion questions students are required to answer for each assigned text. The questions will be posted at 11:00 AM on the first day of the discussion period and you will be allowed to post comments until 5:00 PM on the last day of the discussion period. Please use the following guidelines when submitting your answers via [Blackboard](#) to the entire class.

1. You **MUST** include your full name and e-mail address at the **BEGINNING** of your comments.
2. Do not send partial answers to discussion questions. Each student's first response to Dr. Steele's topic question should be at least 700 words in length. Students are expected to comment on their peers' work and must make at least 2 follow up comments to receive full credit for the assignment. Ten points will be deducted (one letter grade) for failure to register the correct number of responses.
3. **Post your comments to the entire group on [Blackboard](#). Click on "Communication" and then "Discussion Board". You should feel free to comment on each other's responses to questions. Remember, all discussions are to be respectful, professional and courteous.**
4. **I strongly urge students to include direct quotes in their comments, but the use of a parenthetical reference is sufficient such as, (Smyser, p. 75).**
5. **Grading will be based on the quality of the student's comments, how well the assigned question is addressed, accuracy and the correct number of responses. I will not count off for spelling and grammar unless an egregious number of mistakes continue to appear over the course of the semester.**
6. **It will not be possible to make up this assignment if comments are not registered by the closing date and time.**

Book Reviews (60%)

Please post your book reviews to [Blackboard](#) and e-mail to Dr. Steele at his_tls@shsu.edu. Each book review book is worth 15% of the student's final grade. Each book review should be between 800 and 850 words, no more and no less.

1. You **MUST** include your full name and e-mail address at the **BEGINNING** of your comments.
2. Remember, a book review is not simply an overview of a book. It is an analysis. You should give a very, very brief introduction to the author's thesis. You should discuss how the author sets about proving his or her thesis. You should discuss how well the author proves his thesis and the quality the argument as well as its sources and documentation. You may note how readable the text may be as well as the overall quality (ie, are there numerous typos although I would not expect that to be a problem with these texts) including presentation and look.
3. You should consult Jules Benjamins' [A STUDENTS ONLINE GUIDE TO HISTORY](#) chapter that discusses writing book reviews at:
http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/history/benjamin/con_index.htm

Grading

Book Discussions 40%
Book Reviews: 60%
Final Grade: 100%

The semester will come to a close sooner than we think. Therefore, students must keep up with assignments and due dates. All assignments must be turned in by the posted due date and time.

Please notify me immediately if you have experienced some sort of trauma such as illness or car accident that will prevent your from finishing the course work within the semester. With the permission of the department chair, terms for an IP (extension for one semester which will turn to an F at the end of the following semester if the course work is not completed) may worked out and new due dates set. Otherwise, the student will receive the grade as it stands at the end of the semester even if all course work has not been submitted.

Please allow at least one week before you contact me regarding grades for each assignment.

All assignments will be awarded a letter grade based on the quality of the student's work. Factors that are included in the grade are: punctuality, grammar, spelling, accuracy and interpretation. This letter grade translates into a number grade which will appear online at the Gradebook on Blackboard.

Grade Scale

Letter Grade and Percentages

A+, 100	C+, 79
A, 95	C, 75
A-, 90	C-, 70
B+, 89	D+, 69
B, 85	D, 65
B-, 80	D-, 60

An F is 59 and BELOW

Requirements for all Written Assignments

This includes all assignments submitted directly to Dr. Steele at his_tls@shsu.edu and/or posted on blackboard under discussion board

Written assignments should be typed, double-spaced, Arial font, one inch margins, and in 12 pitch with page numbers. Each paragraph should begin with an indentation (tab) of five spaces. Written assignments must be submitted in Microsoft Word (the university now uses the 2007 version which is not compatible with old versions – let me know if you do not have the 2007 version so I can make sure that you will be able to open my comments. I have no problem opening up old versions of Word). Proper attribution for sources is required.

Assignments will be marked down by up to twenty percent for egregious typos and grammatical errors. If the same typos and grammatical errors continue to appear in various lessons, the lessons will be returned by Dr. Steele for corrections before a grade will be issued.

Students **MUST** activate their university e-mail account to use in conjunction with Blackboard. If you do not wish to use [SamMail](#), you can have it forwarded to an email address you do use. To do this, follow the steps in the [E-Mail Forwarding](#) menu on [SamInfo](#).

Hints on Grammar:

A sentence is supposed to convey a complete thought in a rational and organized way. A number of sentences grouped together should contribute to a basic idea or theme that is the foundation of a paragraph.

<http://www.bartleby.com/141/>

<http://webster.commnet.edu/grammar/>

Writing Center

Students are strongly recommended to take their written assignments to the Writing Center in Wilson 114 to be previewed before submission. Online students may submit their assignments for review online. You will need to complete the assignment in advance of the due date in order to give the Writing Center time to review your assignment.

telephone number is 294-3680,

e-mail: wctr@shsu.edu

web address: <http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr/>

Course Policies

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Please see the following web address at the Student Guidelines at <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

For additional information on what constitutes plagiarism, please see Jules Benjamin's (*A Student's Guide to History*) [discussion of plagiarism](#).

ADA Accommodations

Student requests for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act must be initiated by the student. A student seeking accommodations should contact the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. Any student who may require an accommodation under the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the instructor on this matter as soon as possible.

Copyright Statement

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