



## Department of History

HTST 383

# Military History: The Cold War Era & Beyond

Winter 2020

**Instructor:** Alexander Hill

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**Office Hours:** Tu 9:30-10:00; Thu 13:00-13:30

**Class Time:** TuTh 11:00-12:15

**Location:** KNB 126

**TA:** Gorata Sello

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course focuses on the military history of the Cold War, but also examines the causes, wider conduct and to a lesser extent ramifications of war from 1945 up to the end of the Cold War. In the aftermath of the Second World War the US had clearly usurped the European colonial powers as the dominant force in the Western world, having been the industrial powerhouse for the entire Allied war effort. US hegemony on the world stage was however to be challenged by both the USSR and later also the PRC.

**COURSE OUTCOMES:** At the end of the course, students should:

- \*Be able to identify key events, stages, individuals, groups and processes in the Cold War
- \*Have gained a broad understanding of cause and consequence, change and continuity and similarity and difference for varying events, periods and processes in the Cold War
- \*Be familiar with and critical towards a range of source materials used by historians in understanding the past and in particular the Cold War
- \*Have gained a critical appreciation for the manner in which elements of the Cold War have been presented in movies in different cultures at different times
- \*Be able to construct an historical argument critiquing a movie by analyzing and interpreting a variety of secondary sources
- \*Be able to present their historical argument in a systematic and coherent manner in written form

**REQUIRED TEXT:** The course textbook is:

Robert J. McMahon, *The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).

Students are advised to read the course text in full (it is short!) prior to the course or certainly by the end of the first week in order to gain a broad overview. Questions relating to material in the course text relating to lecture material may be asked in the multiple-choice quizzes, along with questions relating to the lecture material.

**EVALUATION:**

Evaluation for this course consists of two movie critiques and two multiple-choice quizzes. Students will be expected to watch, in their own time, two movies for review. These movies may be purchased or rented at the student's discretion. Extracts from the movies that are options for review will be shown in class order that students can make a more informed choice of which movies to rent/purchase prior to doing so. Many of the movies in List 1 are very readily available – some of those in List 2 in particular less so, and **so it is advised that students consider their movie option for the second critique early in the semester**. At the end of the course you may do a third critique (from List 3) if you are unhappy with one of your marks for the first two.

Movie critique 1	Due in class or in the red box outside the History Department office by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday 13 February (due to be handed back Tuesday 25 February)	A movie critique of no more than 1,250 words (the word limit excludes bibliographic references and the bibliography) in the style of an academic book review (i.e. it is a movie review being written for an academic journal) from list 1 below.	40% of final mark
Mid-term quiz	In class on Tuesday 25 February	30 multiple-choice questions on material covered from the beginning of the semester.	10% of final mark
Movie critique 2	Due in class or in the red box outside the History Department office by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday 19 March (to be returned by Tuesday 31 March)	A movie critique of no more than 1,250 words (the word limit excludes bibliographic references and the bibliography) in the style of an academic book review (i.e. it is a movie review being written for an academic journal) from list 2 below.	40% of final mark
Movie	Due in class or in	A movie critique of no	40% of final mark

critique 3 <b>(optional)</b>	the red box outside the History Department office by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday 14 April	more than 1,250 words (the word limit excludes bibliographic references and the bibliography) in the style of an academic book review (i.e. it is a movie review being written for an academic journal) from list 3 below.	(replaces lowest mark from Movie critique 1 or 2 if higher)
Final quiz	In class on Tuesday 14 April	30 multiple-choice questions on material covered since the mid-term quiz.	10% of final mark

**MOVIE CRITIQUES:**

<p><b>List 1:</b> Select one of the following -</p> <p><u>War in China and Korea</u></p> <p><b>Pork Chop Hill (1959)</b> <b>Assembly (2007)</b> <b>71 - Into the Fire (2010)</b> <b>The Frontline (2011)</b></p> <p><u>The Vietnam War</u></p> <p><b>Platoon (1986)</b> <b>Hamburger Hill (1987)</b> <b>Full Metal Jacket (1987)</b> <b>Casualties of War (1989)</b></p>	<p><b>List 2:</b> Select one of the following -</p> <p><u>Counterinsurgency in Latin America</u></p> <p><b>Under Fire (1983)</b> <b>Salvador (1986)</b></p> <p><u>Counterinsurgency in Africa and Central Asia</u></p> <p><b>Intimate Enemies (2007)</b> <b>9th Company (2005)</b> <b>Namibia: The Struggle for Liberation (2007)</b></p>
	<p><b>List 3:</b> Select one of the following -</p> <p><u>The Falklands War</u></p> <p><b>Tumbledown (1988)</b> <b>Blessed by Fire (2005)</b></p> <p><u>Arab-Israeli</u></p> <p><b>Cast a Giant Shadow (1966)</b> <b>Kedma (2002)</b></p>

**COMPLETING THE MOVIE CRITIQUES – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:**

**In order to score highly on your movie critique you must:**

**\*Have watched and engaged with the movie concerned.**

**\* Analyse the content of the movie in the light of the historical literature – how is the movie accurate in its portrayal of events in the light of the historical literature, and how is it not?**

**\*Support your argument with evidence/examples – both referencing the movie and the historical literature. For ANY major assertion relating to the accuracy of the movie portrayal of events you should provide at least one piece of evidence/illustrative material from the literature.**

**\*Acknowledge sources used in your footnotes, and all works in your footnotes should be in your bibliography.**

**\*Footnote and provide a bibliography in a format accepted in academic historical work (references should not be embedded in the text).**

**\*In addition to any reading provided, students are expected to have found and used AT LEAST FOUR academic article-length pieces of academic scholarship (here taken as having referenced sources) in EACH movie critique. A book chapter or essay may be considered as equivalent to an academic journal article. If more than one chapter or essay is being used from a single book then the book is to count as one source for the purposes of the requirement to find four article-length pieces of academic scholarship.**

**More than isolated spelling mistakes and errors in grammar, syntax and punctuation will be penalised.**

**General guidelines for writing in History are available at:**

**<http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/EssayHandbook1.pdf>**

The History Essay Handbook above provides information on how to reference your sources.

### **WRITING:**

All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

D2L: Throughout the course, important material such as lecture outlines and study guides will be regularly posted on D2L. Students are advised to check this regularly.

### **CLASS SCHEDULE:**

The lectures for this course will take a broadly chronological look at events between 1945 and the end of the Cold War, stopping to focus on particular themes such as the Cold War at sea or nuclear weapons.

**Week 1 – Tuesday 14 January: **Introduction**. Thursday 16 January: **Methodology****

The methodology lecture on the Monday/Wednesday of this week is EXTREMELY important for successful completion of the movie critiques for those who are new to History courses in

particular.

Please bring a printout of the course outline to the first class.

Week 2 – week of Tuesday 21 January: **The Rise of the Superpowers**

Week 3 – week of Tuesday 28 January: **The Korean War**

Week 4 – week of Tuesday 4 February: **The Cold War at the Movies I and Vietnam I**

Week 5 – week of Tuesday 11 February: **Vietnam II and Nuclear Weapons**

Week 6 – READING WEEK (17-21 February 2020)

Week 7 – Tuesday 25 February: Mid-Term Quiz (in-class). Thursday 27 February: **The Cold War at the Movies II**

Week 8 – week of Tuesday 3 March: **The Soviet Union in Afghanistan**

Week 9 – week of Tuesday 10 March: **Proxy Wars - The Cold War on the Periphery**

Week 10 – week of Tuesday 17 March: **The Arab-Israeli Wars**

Week 11 – week of Tuesday 24 March: **The Falklands War**

Week 12 – week of Tuesday 31 March: **The Cold War at Sea and The Cold War at the Movies III**

Week 13 – week of Tuesday 7 April: **The Collapse of the Soviet Union and end of the Cold War**

**Tuesday 14 April: FINAL QUIZ IN CLASS**

Please note that the above lecture outline is provisional and may be subject to modification.

### **CLASSROOM POLICIES:**

**In order to pass the course you must complete BOTH movie critiques 1 AND 2.**

A flat 5% of the mark will be deducted for exceeding the word limit on a critique by >50 words, and you will not gain credit for that material beyond the word limit.

A flat 10% will be deducted for every week or part thereof during which a movie critique is overdue without prior agreement with the lecturer or due cause (as documented according to university requirements).

Work submitted after Tuesday 14 April will not be accepted and a mark of 0 recorded for that

piece of work unless the necessary documentation explaining extenuating circumstances that is satisfactory to the university is provided. Failure to take a test/quiz will result in a score of 0 for the test without due documentation allowing a student to sit the test at a later date.

**DEPARTMENTAL GRADING SYSTEM:**

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses, except for HTST 200.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent performance
80-84	A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
77-79	B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
73-76	B	3.00	Good performance
70-72	B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
67-69	C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
60-62	C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
56-59	D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
50-55	D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
0-49	F	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

**Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

- For program advising in the Faculty of Arts, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca), or book an appointment with an ASC advisor at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate>.
- For further information on academic advising and degree planning for arts students, see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees, and assistance with MyUofC, contact Enrolment Services in MacKimmie Tower Room 116, call 403-210-ROCK (7625), or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.
- **Attention history majors:** History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.

- Registration Changes and Exemption Requests:  
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>

**Red Box Policy:**

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: 1) **course name and number**, 2) **instructor**, 3) **your name**, and 4) **your student number**. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. are date stamped the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. Please see [The History Student's Handbook](#).

Plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failing to cite sources properly
- Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers
- Submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources, even when reference properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence, and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*, [Section K](#).

**Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should contact, preferably in writing, the course instructor.

**Copyright:**

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. Therefore, instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

**Other Useful Information:**

- Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on:

- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

*Winter 2020*