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## **HIS 315 S21: The Cold War** **Midterm Project Assignment**

### **Overview**

The goal of this assignment is to explore a major issue of in Cold War history through research, analysis, and written argumentation, while also building your digital humanities skills. Your task is to work with a partner and create a webpage on a topic of your choice. Your page will take the form of an in-depth **news article** and provide both **context and argumentation**. You will give a **presentation** of your work in class, followed by a Q&A. This assignment has plenty of room built in for you to approach it in your own way. Please be creative and have fun!

This project requires you to do some research on your own. It is not a major research project, but you must locate primary and secondary sources related to your topic that will enable you to write and speak about it knowledgeably.

### **Instructions**

- 1. Choose a **topic** and a **partner**.** You may select one of the topics below, or you are also welcome to choose a topic of your own. If you choose your own topic, you must get my approval! You must let me know who you are working with and what you will be working on by **Monday, March 1**.
- 2. Connect with **Librarian Kelly Helm** (khelm@washjeff.edu) or another librarian.** Find at least **three sources**. This includes one **primary source** and two **secondary sources**. One of your sources may be assigned for this class, but the other two you must find on your own. Given the limitations imposed by the pandemic, you should prioritize **eBooks** and **journal articles**.
- 3. Create your **webpage**.** The text should be 1500 words long. You should explain your chosen topic thoroughly and clearly, place it in its historical context, and make an evidence-based **argument** about it. \*\*\*Remember, you are writing as if this event has just happened! How would journalists at the time have made sense of it? What excitement would it generate and what concerns would it raise? To illustrate your work, the webpage should include some form of **media**. You can embed an image, a sound file, a YouTube video, or all three! Finally, your webpage must have a **bibliography**, formatted using *The Chicago Manual of Style*.
- 4. Give a **10-minute presentation** of your work in class.** You are welcome to write out a script or improvise from notes—whatever is most comfortable for you. You have two options for how to approach this task: You may take on the role of TV journalists giving your report on the evening news, or you may give a more traditional presentation. Either way, be sure to explain your topic, place it in historical context, and give a clear account of your **argument**. You should incorporate your webpage, but don't read it directly. Your presentation will be followed by 5-minute **Q&A** with your colleagues.

### **Submission and Presentation**

This assignment is due at **10pm on Sunday, March 14.**

There are two parts to submission. First, you must **publish your webpage**. WordPress will time stamp it, so I will know you have done your work on time. Second, you must email me a **Word document** with the full text of your webpage. You should put your names and a title on it, but you do not need to include media. This enables me to give you written feedback on the essay portion of your work.

We will do **Midterm Presentations** in class during **Week 8 (March 15 and 17).**

\*Remember to check out the **Writing Resources** page on the course website. There, you will find the Writing Handout, Dr. G's Patented Guide to Good Paper Writing, and a pre-recorded Video Writing Lesson.

**Good luck!!!**

### **Presentation Topics** (Choose one of these or create your own)

- The Sixth International Festival of Youth and Students, Moscow, 1957 (Soviet internationalism)
- The Tenth International Festival of Youth and Students, East Berlin, 1973 (“Red Woodstock”)
- The Cuban Missile Crisis, and/or the Soviet romance with Cuba
- Nowa Huta, a Public housing project in Poland
- Charter 77 and the Czechoslovak human rights movement
- The “Miracle on Ice” (The 1980 Winter Olympics hockey final)  
\*You may riff on this topic and explore any aspect of Olympic competition
- Rock star tours of the Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc
- The *Dr. Zhivago* Affair (a Nobel prize-winning and scandal causing Soviet novel!)
- The films of Polish director Andrzej Wajda (I recommend *Ashes and Diamonds*)
- The Non-Aligned Movement
- Scientific exchanges between the United State and the Soviet Union

- The Interviſion Song Conteſt

- Willy Brandt's *Oſtpolitik*

- Cold War ſpy fantaſies

For this topic, you may focus on either of the following:

- *Seventeen Moments of Spring*, a 12-part Soviet ſpy thriller TV ſerial. (You can find it on YouTube with English subtitles here: [https://youtu.be/WZhgXs\\_iFRs](https://youtu.be/WZhgXs_iFRs))
- *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, a British ſpy thriller movie