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Office Hours (*on Zoom: Mon 10-12, Tues 2:30-3:30
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HIS 315: The Cold War **Final Paper Assignment**

Overview

This paper is the culminating assignment of this class and an opportunity for you to research, analyze, and make a historical argument about a significant moment in Cold War history. The topic of your paper is up to you, but you must develop it in consultation with me. The purpose of this requirement is to get you started in a viable direction, so you will not hit major roadblocks further on. We will be working on this project for the rest of the semester, so be sure to choose a topic that will hold your interest. I encourage you to be bold, be creative, and have fun!

Requirements

- **Length:** Your paper must be **3500 words long**, *not including* your bibliography. I will allow a maximum of 200 words deviation.
- **Formatting:** Put your **name** and a **title** on the first page. **Number** your pages. You must use **12-point font**, **double spacing** and **1-inch margins**
- **Citations and Bibliography:** In the body of your paper, you must use **footnotes**. You must also attach a **Bibliography** as a separate page at the end of your text. Both your bibliography and your footnotes should be formatted using the *Chicago Manual of Style* (available online through the Library's website).
If you do not have the complete bibliographic information for a source, you can find it on **WorldCat**, which is also available on the Library website.
- **Sources:** You must use a **minimum of seven sources**, including at least two **primary sources** and at least five sources located through your own research (i.e., not something we read together in class.)

Instructions

As part of your research process, you **must meet with a librarian**. You should do this before you submit your rough draft. If possible, meet with our subject area specialist, **Kelly Helm** (khelm@washjeff.edu). If Kelly is not available, you may meet with another librarian. They will help you begin your search for primary and secondary sources.

Keep in mind that the Librarians are busy bees! Don't wait until the last minute to make your appointment. Here is how to do it:

- Email asklib@washjeff.edu and specify three days of the week and times when you can meet. Be prepared for your meeting to last up to an hour.
- An available Librarian will contact you to set up an appointment. They will be familiar with the assignment and our LibGuide.
- Whatever stage of the process you are at, bring what you have done so far with you.

This assignment is scaffolded into four steps:

1) Research Question. This is a simple, low-stakes way to begin your work. Write down your *research question* (the question you plan to answer through research) and explain in a few sentences why you think this question is worthy of scholarly exploration.

Due Sunday, March 21 at 10pm

2) Paper Proposal. This document includes:

- A statement of your research question
- A draft of your thesis statement (your answer to your research question)
- A 2-3 paragraph abstract that presents your topic, explains the stakes of your argument (answers the “so what?” question), and gives an overview of your sources
- An annotated bibliography. This should include at least seven sources. You may use sources we have read together, but you must also include at least five external sources. Both **primary** and **secondary** sources should be included on this list. Give full bibliographic information for each source and write 3-5 sentences explaining what information the source contains and how it will help you make your argument.

Due Sunday, April 4 at 10pm. I will meet with each of you individually during the week of April 5 to go over your proposal with you.

3) Partial Rough Draft and Peer Critique. The rough draft should consist of three pages from the **body** of your paper. Do not include your introduction. Our goal is to practice working with sources to build an argument. We will **workshop** our rough drafts in class on **Monday, April 19.** To make that possible, you must email your draft to me and everyone in your group.

Partial Rough Draft Due: Sunday, April 18 at 5:00pm.

Please note! This is also the deadline for your Librarian Meeting!

You must read everyone else’s drafts before we meet on Monday. You will not be able to give your colleagues useful advice if you have not read their work carefully. I will hand out further instructions before our peer critique day.

After the workshop, you will revise your draft based on your colleagues’ critiques.

Revised Rough Draft: Due Sunday, April 25 at 10pm.

4) Final Draft. This is the last step! Your completed paper should incorporate all previous revisions and contain all required elements.

Due Wednesday, May 13 at 10pm

Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day. I will not accept late papers after May 19. (May 16 for seniors!) If you would like to include any media (beyond links you may provide in your bibliography), you can email it to me separately.

*****In case you missed it before, here is my policy on **plagiarism**: Don’t do it! Plagiarism is a very serious offence, which can destroy your academic career and professional prospects. If you plagiarize, **you will automatically fail my class.** I am all-seeing and all-knowing, and I *will*

catch you. Please, save us both a lot of time and worry: don't even try it. If at any time you have questions about how to avoid plagiarism, feel free to ask me.

I will do my best to be available to meet with you as often as you like. I will read partial drafts up until May 11.

Good luck!!!! Please let me know if you have any questions!