



Course information 2020-21

IR1034 World history since 1945

General information

COURSE LEVEL: 4

CREDIT: 30

NOTIONAL STUDY TIME: 300 hours

Summary

This course is a study of human beings in time centred on the Cold War years. It encompasses different human societies and the conflicts between and within them, all of which remain controversial. Given the global scope, it is often impossible to identify self-contained bodies of knowledge in a small number of key works or texts. This course is constructed around a number of themes and topics which limit the extent of the courses' coverage and make them more manageable for students even if acquiring more in-depth knowledge is an important aspect of historical learning.

Conditions

None

Aims and objectives

The purpose of this course is to;

- develop the ability to think logically and critically
- develop knowledge of political and social systems and of the various cultural influences on policy-makers in different parts of the Cold War world.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course and having completed the essential reading and activities students should be able to:

- analyse the nature and significance of the Cold War international system
- explain how the Cold War originated and how and why it ended
- describe how Cold War international crises were perceived and responded to, particularly by the USA, in various parts of the world.
- relate local and regional aspects of particular conflicts to the broader international aspects of the Cold War which influenced them
- analyse what influenced states and their rulers as they sought to expand their power and influence and deal with threats to their interests.
- become aware of the elements of the Cold War international system that were connected to the post-Cold War era.

Please consult the current EMFSS Programme Regulations for further information on the availability of a course, where it can be placed on your programme's structure, and other important details.

Essential reading

Essential reading is categorised by time period and topic; students should refer to the reading list or subject guide for full details of useful and desirable texts once they have made their choice of topics

Assessment

This course is assessed by a three-hour unseen written examination.

Syllabus

The syllabus focuses on four main themes:

1. The breakdown of the Grand Alliance and the origins of the Cold War.
2. The nature of the Cold War conflict and its covert operations and propaganda.
3. The impact of the Cold War in different regions of the world.
4. The end of the Cold War world and the emergence of new forces in the post-Cold War world.

Students should concentrate on the nature, origins or end of the Cold War and at least one region to understand the nature of the Cold War system.

Origins

The breakdown of the Grand Alliance

The German Question and the Marshall Plan

Rollback and 'containment'.

Nature

Covert operations and propaganda

Nuclear weapons

Sino-Soviet split

Détente.

Regions

Europe

Latin America

Asia

Africa

The Middle East.

End

The end of Communism and the collapse of the Soviet Union

The post-Cold War world.

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