



STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2023-2024

COURSE TITLE

History of the Cold War

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR

MILES Simon

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

NIZOWICZ Nicolas

COURSE TYPE

Core Course

MAJOR(S)

EPAP, EUW, EUN, EHC

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVES

We live in a world shaped by the Cold War. As the relationship between the United States and both the People's Republic of China and the Russian federation is dubbed a "New Cold War," policy-makers need to understand the connotations of that term, and the extent to which the European political transformations of 1989–1991 did and did not remake international politics.

In order to navigate today's era of renewed great-power competition, an understanding of the history of the Cold War is essential. Not only does the US-Soviet rivalry have much to teach us about how to manage such tensions in a nuclear-armed world, but that history is still alive today in the minds of critical policy-makers, not least of which Vladimir Putin.

This course is a survey of the Cold War with a focus on Europe. It will equip students with a detailed understanding of international diplomatic, economic, intelligence, military, and political history between 1945 and 1991; and it will engage in a sustained dialogue between this complicated past and our challenging present.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Account for the development and evolution of the superpower rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States between 1945 and 1991
2. Understand the role of smaller, non-superpower states in Cold War history, whether allies (such as members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Warsaw Pact) or non-aligned states
3. Conceptualize the interaction between various tools of state power in historical context, including diplomatic, intelligence, military (including nuclear), and economic assets, and how they come together to form a grand strategy
4. Draw links between historical case studies (drawn from the Cold War era) and contemporary policy challenges, applying history
5. Use historical primary sources to shed new light on today's issues

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

This course is designed assuming only basic knowledge of international history between 1945 and 1991. Students would do well to read one or more overviews of Cold War history before (and/or during) the course:

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of American National Security Policy during the Cold War*, 2nd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2005).

Jonathan Haslam, *Russia's Cold War: From the October Revolution to the Fall of the Wall* (Yale University Press, 2012).

Tony Judt, *Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945* (Penguin, 2005).

Melvyn P. Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind: The United States, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War* (Hill and Wang, 2008).

Melvyn P. Leffler and Odd Arne Westad, eds., *The Cambridge History of the Cold War*, 3 vols. (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

Odd Arne Westad, *The Cold War: A World History* (Basic Books, 2017).

Vladislav M. Zubok, *A Failed Empire: The Soviet Union in the Cold War from Stalin to Gorbachev* (University of North Carolina Press, 2009).

TEACHING METHOD(S)

The course will comprise 10 class sessions of 2 hours each, spread over 10 days during 2 consecutive weeks. Each session will center on a lecture, but will also include interactive discussion portion, sometimes as a whole class and sometimes divided into smaller groups.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The final mark for the course will be based on

- Written analysis of a provided primary-source documents drawn from the course's assigned readings (between 1200 and 1500 words) - 30% of the final mark for the course.
- Written, digital, in-class examination with essay questions constituting 70% of the final mark for the course. It will be open-book (with the use of Safe Exam Browser) and with a limited amount of materials authorized uploaded on the platform.

COURSE CONTENTS

1. Planning for a Post-War World
2. The Iron Curtain Descends
3. The Nuclear Age and Globalization of the Cold War
4. The Years of Living Dangerously
5. Decolonization and Intervention
6. Imposing Order in the Eastern Bloc
7. Détente and Arms Control
8. Afghanistan and Détente's Discontents
9. Mikhail Gorbachev's "New Thinking"
10. The Fall of the Berlin Wall and the Soviet Union's Collapse

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Each session's readings will be made up of primary sources, which will be made available to students beforehand. There is no textbook required for this course.