

## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

**Academic School/Department:** Social Sciences and Humanities

**Programme:** International History  
International Relations  
Political Science

**FHEQ Level:** 3

**Course Title:** The Global Cold War

**Course Code:** HST 3205

**Student Engagement Hours:** 120

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning: 75

**Credits:** 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits

3 US credits

### **Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the major events and themes of the Cold War, demonstrating how it shaped the modern world system. In addition to providing students with a foundational understanding of the major themes and events of the Cold War, this course explores the interpretive controversies surrounding them. Students are encouraged to engage the changing historiography of the multifaceted, multi-polar Cold War from a variety of challenging perspectives, with particular emphasis given to its *global* context. Students will examine the period in the light of changing historiographical interpretations and with reference to its economic, cultural, ideological, military, political and social dimensions.

### **Prerequisites:**

None

**Aims and Objectives:**

- To develop an understanding of the changing historical interpretations of the Cold War
- To engage with the economic, cultural, ideological, military, political and social dimensions of the Cold War in an explicitly global context.
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields which require articulate, clear thinking individuals with a grasp of international history
- To foster the acquisition, development and consolidation of a variety of historical and transferable skills through the study of particular themes in international history
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of primary and secondary historical sources, and the development of both a succinct writing style and the ability to present complex arguments orally

**Programme Outcomes:**

International History: A3(i), B3(i), C3(i), D3(i)

International Relations: A3(i), B3(i), C3(i), D3(i)

Political Science: A3(i), B3(i), C3(i), D3(i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the archive maintained by Registry Services and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate basic historiographical skills
- Demonstrate a broad understanding of the main historiographical themes in Cold War Studies
- Demonstrate the ability to gather, organise and deploy abstract ideas and detailed information in order to formulate arguments cogently, and express them effectively in written and oral forms
- Demonstrate the ability to work in a group

**Indicative Content:**

- The key events and debates that have shaped the study of the Global Cold War;
- Changing nature of the historical debates about the period;
- The multilateral, multifaceted and multi-polar nature of the conflict;
- Become familiar with some of the main writers and thinkers in Cold War Studies: Mick Cox, Saki Dockrill, John Lewis Gaddis, Mark Kramer, Francis Conner Saunders, Odd A. Westad & Vladimir Zubok;
- Interaction of ideology and wider economic and political forces;
- Role played by culture and science.

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies>

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar classes. Lectures are primarily designed to give an overview of the issues and problems on a particular topic, and thereby provide guidance for seminar discussion. Seminars will be used for debates and group/sub-group discussion, and are intended to provide an interactive and participatory learning environment. Students are expected to do the set readings for each week, and to be prepared to contribute to class discussion and discussion sub-groups. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of learning. Where possible the course will make use of museums and collections within London. Whilst students will be given a list of seminar and essay questions the class encourages them to formulate their own questions and to pursue their own particular research interests. Students are expected to use the external trips as an opportunity to apply concepts and ideas developed in lectures, as well as to collect further information and impressions to provide a basis for subsequent class discussion.

**Indicative Texts:**

M. Kalinovsky and C. Daigle, (eds.) *Routledge Handbook of the Cold War*, Oxford, 2014.  
R. H. Immerman and P. Goedde (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Cold War*, Oxford, 2013.  
Melvyn P. Leffler, and Westad, Odd Arne (eds.), *The Cambridge History of the Cold War*, Vols. 3. Cambridge, CUP, 2010.  
Dockrill, S & G. Hughes, *Palgrave Advances in Cold War History*. London, Palgrave, 2006.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

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Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Various updates as part of UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	