



Course information 2011–12

IR1034 World history since 1917

This course is a study of human beings in time. It encompasses all aspects of human society, institutions and organisations and the conflicts and disputes within and between them. Given this scope, one consequence is that it is often impossible and undesirable to identify self-contained bodies of knowledge in a small number of key works or textbooks. This course is constructed around a number of themes, which limits the extent of the course's coverage and makes it more manageable for the student.

Prerequisite

None apply.

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 world.

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 the texts needed once they have made their choice of topics.

Assessment

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

Learning outcomes

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

- ✓ analyse important aspects of the twentieth century international system, especially the nature and significance of the Cold War
- ✓ explain how international crises were perceived and responded to by the great powers
- ✓ relate local and regional aspects of particular conflicts to the broader international aspects of the Cold War which influenced them
- ✓ analyse what motivated states and their rulers as they sought to expand their power and influence and deal with threats to their interests in the twentieth century world.

Students should consult the *Programme Regulations for degrees and diplomas in Economics, Management, Finance and the Social Sciences* that are reviewed annually. The Prerequisites, Exclusions, and Syllabus are subject to confirmation in the *Regulations*. Notice is also given in the *Regulations* of any courses which are being phased out and students are advised to check course availability.

Syllabus

This is a description of the material to be examined, as published in the *Regulations*. On registration, students will receive a detailed subject guide which provides a framework for covering the topics in the syllabus and directions to the essential reading.

Students must focus on the following time periods

1. The Cold War conflict that dominated the world from 1945 until 1989.

and either

2. The crisis of the European dominated system that culminated in the Second World War.

or

3. The End of the Cold War period and the emergence of new forces including political Islam.

The three time periods above are divided into four broad themes. Whilst wide reading is necessary to study for this course, students should concentrate on at least two of the following themes for each of their chosen time periods:

1. The history of International Relations
2. Asia
3. Crises and revolutions
4. The Middle East