

Modern History III, the Age of Cold War

Code: 100347
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500501 History	OB	3	2

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: Yes

Prerequisites

Knowledge of international modern history prior to 1945 and basic reading proficiency in English are absolutely necessary for the class.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The goals to be achieved are the following: knowing and understanding the events of the so-called Cold War, in order to be able to extract the keys to explain its aftermaths. In fact, this subject is linked to current history. Thus, it seeks to get students used to argue professionally, as historians, and break the separation between their every-day and historiographic perception.

At the end of the course, students should have sufficient knowledge of the causes that led to the Cold War and the specificity of this phenomenon, as well as its phases, periods and actors on global scale. The processes of decolonization also be part of the curriculum, although they would need a specific subject. Other issues addressed are: economic and social evolution in the Western world and the Eastern bloc, religious fundamentalism in the 1970s and 80s, economic and social transition in the USSR and the People's Republic of China, and armed conflicts during the Cold War.

Depending on the time available at the end of the course, the period of the so-called Post-Cold War after 1991 shall also be addressed.

Competences

- Critically assessing the fonts and theoretical models in order to analyse the different historical periods.
- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Mastering the basic diachronic and thematic concepts of the historical science.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

Learning Outcomes

1. Communicating in your mother tongue or other language both in oral and written form by using specific terminology and techniques of Historiography.
2. Developing the ability of historical analysis and synthesis.
3. Engaging in debates about historical facts respecting the other participants' opinions.
4. Identifying the main and secondary ideas and expressing them with linguistic correctness.
5. Identifying the social, economic and political structures of the contemporary world.
6. Organising and planning the search of historical information.
7. Recognising diversity and multiculturalism.
8. Recognising the historical processes that led to the contemporary society.
9. Relating elements and factors involved in the development of historical processes.
10. Solving problems autonomously.
11. Using the characteristic computing resources of the field of History.
12. Using the specific work methods of Contemporary History.
13. Working in teams respecting the other's points of view.

Content

1. Ideas for the start: power, institutions and international relations in the 20th century
2. The origins of the conflict: "The Second Thirty Years' War"
3. The post-war crisis and the beginning of the Cold War
5. The great rivals: USA and USSR in the 1950s and 60s
6. Post-war Europe: politics, economy and society
7. Decolonization and the "Third World"
8. 1968: the socio-cultural revolution and its consequences
9. The neoconservative turn and religious fundamentalism in the 1970s and 80s
10. Remodeling socialism: USSR and China in the 1970s and 80s
11. The neoliberal turn and "The End of History"
12. The return of history

Methodology

Attendance to the lectures.
Attendance to guided seminars and mentoring sessions.
Comprehensive text reading.
Writing papers and analytical comments.
Presentations and oral analysis.
Self-study.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	40	1.6	2, 5, 8, 7, 9, 12
Seminars and guided practical exercises	10	0.4	10, 2, 3, 7, 13, 11
Type: Supervised			

Mentoring sessions	10	0.4	13
Modelled learning exercises	5	0.2	2, 5, 8, 12
Type: Autonomous			
Reading texts. Writing papers. Commenting on texts. Preparation of oral presentations and seminars. Search for bibliographic information	30	1.2	10, 2, 11
Self-study	45	1.8	10, 2, 11

Assessment

In accordance with the Articles of the Degree, the subject will be evaluated considering the following points:

- Written tests (both partial and final),
- Works and comments on the analysis of texts and other documents (statistical tables, graphs, maps, images, etc.),
- Oral presentations in the seminars for discussion.

Thus, grades will be based on continuous evaluation, so that no extraordinary tests will be needed.

The following exams and assignments will be required:

- Two written tests (40%)
- An individual research paper (40%)
- An oral presentation (20%).

A final exam will be held, on the date set by the administration, in order to reassess students who failed in the tests carried out during the course. Therefore, students must have submitted all the assignments, and must have passed the stipulated minimum.

In any case, this exam is not meant to improve the grade already obtained during the continuous evaluation throughout the course.

Please note:

All students have the right to be reassessed.

Students will not be able to be reassessed on tests they have not taken previously.

Reassessments are not meant to improve grades. Once a subject has been passed, it can not be assessed again.

Any unexpected event that may affect any student in particular, with duly documented justification, will be resolved within the framework of generally established dates.

Students admitted to reassessment will get either "passed" or "failed" as a grade.

The student who has done less than 40% of the total workload will be considered as "not assessable".

Cheating means a zero in the qualification of any exercise.

Students will have the right to review the results of the tests taken. The teaching staff will establish timely the mechanisms to do so.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Papers and exercises	40	4	0.16	10, 1, 4, 6, 7, 13, 12
Practical exercises	20	2	0.08	1, 2, 6, 3, 12, 11
Written tests	40	4	0.16	2, 5, 4, 8, 9

Bibliography

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