UCL SUMMER SCHOOL

The Cold War and the Contemporary World Order: Lessons for Understanding the World Today

Key Information

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Module code</th>
<th>ISSU0120</th>
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<tr>
<td>Taught during</td>
<td>Session One: Monday 26 June - Friday 14 July 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mode of delivery</td>
<td>Face-to-face on campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module workload</td>
<td>45 contact hours plus approximately 100 study hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module leader</td>
<td>Dr George Bodie</td>
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<td>Department</td>
<td>UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>15 UCL credits, 7.5 ECTS, 4 US</td>
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<td>Level</td>
<td>Level 1, first year undergraduate</td>
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<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td>Standard entry requirements</td>
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<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Presentation (30%), Essay (70%)</td>
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Module Overview

Standing at the intersection of the disciplines of History and International Relations, this module will introduce students to two key strands of literature that have developed recently. The first is the latest wave of scholarship on the global Cold War, which has used the post-1990 growth in available archival material and the tools of global history to better understand the latter phases of the conflict and how it ended. The second strand is represented by recent attempts made by scholars to begin to explore and understand the immediate post-Cold War world of the 1990s. Bringing these strands together, this module will ask how the legacies of the Cold War are felt today in global politics, and how these legacies define contemporary relations between states. It will focus on the how the Cold War ended and some of its most important enduring effects, including conflict in Europe today and US-China relations.

Main topics to be covered:

**Week One: Why did the Cold War end?**

- The Cold War in the 1970s and 1980s, including the politics of detente
- Soviet stagnation and collapse
- Alternative and competing visions of the post-Cold War order

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.
• Exploring ideas of the 1990s as a “unipolar moment,” the first Gulf War, and the doctrine of liberal interventionism

Week Two: Not One Inch? The expansion of NATO in Eastern Europe

• How did the Eastern Bloc collapse?
• How and why did the Soviet Union collapse?
• What conditions and decisions led to the expansion of NATO into eastern Europe?
• The legacies of the Cold War and the war in Ukraine

Week Three: Divided Together: The Past and Present of US-China relations

• Exploring the Cold War history of US-China relations
• Korean War to Nixon’s “secret meeting” and beyond.
• US-Chinese interdependencies
• Are the US and China headed toward another Cold War?

Module Aims
This module aims to allow students to critically assess the contemporary global order in a historically literate way. Students will gain an understanding of the state-of-the-art literature on the end of the Cold War. They will explore its causes and effects. The course will also introduce students to some of the key concepts in the field of international relations, such as bi-, multi-, and uni-polarity, as well as the dominant schools of the discipline, such as realism and liberalism. They will apply this knowledge to real world events and processes, such as the current war in Ukraine and US-China relations. Through this, they will think through the relationship between our recent history and contemporary events.

Teaching Methods
This module will be structured around interactive lectures, seminars, and independent study. It will take place in person. Students will learn from lectures, assigned reading, and their own research. They will express and explore these learnings through open-ended, interactive seminars.

Students will be directed towards class materials, further support and discussion forums on Moodle. The tutor will provide feedback on written work and will be available via email.

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

• Analyse the key causes of the end of the Cold War
• Synthesize and appraise different historians arguments regarding the end of the Cold War
• Comprehend the key historical developments in global geopolitics since 1990
• Apply the knowledge gained to better understand contemporary events
• Critically assess different types of historical sources
• Demonstrate the ability to write a cogent, persuasive historical essay

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.
Key Texts


Module Leader

George’s research explores how ideas of socialist internationalism and solidarity are constructed and formed, and how these ideas have shaped action and behaviour at the level of everyday life.

His published work includes an article on trade union tourism between the GDR and Cuba in the Journal of Contemporary History which was awarded the British Association for Slavonic & East European Studies Postgraduate Prize for Best Scholarly Article by a Postgraduate Student; a forthcoming article in the Journal of Cold War Studies which focuses on the the experiences and ideological beliefs of African trade unionists who came to study in the GDR in the 1960s; and a book chapter examining depictions of Mozambique in GDR foreign news broadcasting during the early-to-mid 1970s.

George is currently working on a book which explores links between East Germany and the postcolonial world.