

Subject: History of International Relations from 1945

Core sheet

Subject code: 7NK40NCK91B

Subject name: History of International Relations from 1945 Subject name

Credit value: 6

Course leader: Professor Dr. BÉKÉS Csaba János

Department of subject: Institute of Global Studies

English Version Subject datasheet

Language of datasheet: English

Language of subject: English

Purpose of subject: Students will acquire a wide knowledge of the most significant developments of Post-World War II international relations.

Sustainability: The students will also learn about the transformation of international relations in the post-Cold War era and thus will become aware of the new challenges like climate change and global warming.

Tasks of the student to be solved individually: None

Connection: This course is the direct continuation of International Relations, 1815–1945. It is also closely connected to the course: International organizations.

Number of lessons: 4/week

Ad Frequency: Fall semester

Pre-study obligations: None

Method of evaluation: Assessment and grading are based on a written exam which will comprise two essays: a long essay (1.5–2 pages, 60 points) and a short essay (0.5 page, 20 points).

Type: Lecture

Time: Wednesdays from 11:40 to 15:10

Learning results

Professional Competences – Knowledge:

The course will give an exciting opportunity to the students to study the history of international relations in the Cold War period on the basis of recently declassified archival documents with the help of one of the most experienced researchers in the field. During the course we will examine the origins and the unfolding of the Cold War. The détente process emerging in the middle of the nineteen-fifties will be presented by a new approach as well as the analysis of the different types of international crises during the Cold War will show that some of the most spectacular crises of the era were in reality not genuine East–West conflicts. Due attention will be paid to NATO and the Warsaw Pact as institutions of foreign policy coordination, as well as to the German question and European security. The last classes will be devoted to the analysis of the transformation of East–West relations in the Gorbachev era and to the end of the Cold War. The course will be based predominantly on the findings of the "new Cold War history" with a special focus on the policy of the Eastern Bloc. Besides studying readings from the most up to date literature on the topic, during the course students will have access to published and unpublished archival documents from both sides of the Cold War divide. Most of the declassified Soviet Bloc documents are available in English translation on the web sites of the

National Security Archive: <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/>,

the Woodrow Wilson Center Cold War International History Project:

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=topics.home&topic_id=1409

and the Parallel History Project on Cooperative Security (PHP) (formerly: Parallel History Project on NATO and the Warsaw Pact): <http://www.php.isn.ethz.ch/>

while many other such documents are in the possession of the Cold War History Research Center in Budapest: www.coldwar.hu.

Course description:

Week 1 The origins of the Cold War, 1939–1947

Week 2 The peace settlement following World War 2 and the impact of the Marshall Plan on the division of Europe

Week 3 The era of the classical Cold War, 1947–1953

Week 4 Fundamental change in East–West relations: the first détente period, 1953–1956

Week 5 Pseudo Cold War crises: 1956: Poland, Hungary, Suez

Week 6 Real Cold War crises: The Berlin Crisis and the Cuban missile crisis

Week 7 NATO and the Warsaw Pact as institutions of foreign policy coordination

Week 8 The Vietnam War: the Moscow–Beijing–Hanoi triangle, 1964–1975

Week 9 The question of European security and the Helsinki process, 1965–1980

Week 10 Détente on standby: Afghanistan, Poland and the Euro-missile crisis, 1979–1984

Week 11 Gorbachev and the transformation of East–West relations, 1985–1989

Week 12 The dissolution of the Soviet Bloc and the end of the Cold War, 1988–1991

Week 13 The transformation of international relations in the post-Cold War era.

Professional Competences – ability: The students' analytical skills will be considerably improved.

Professional Competences – attitude: The students will acquire broad knowledge about cutting edge recent research on Cold War era international relations and thus will become open to new interpretations during their future carrier. Their critical thinking will also be considerably enhanced.

Professional Competences – autonomy and responsibility: The students have to prepare individually for the written final exam what will need a high level of autonomy and responsibility.

Learning activity

Subject: History of International Relations from 1945

Activity: The students have to prepare individually for the written final exam by using their lecture notes as well as by reading the mandatory literature.

Workload: Normal

Special

Program branch: IR

Knowledge: History of international relations, 1945–.

Ability: The students' analytical skills will be considerably improved.

Attitude: The students will acquire broad knowledge about cutting edge recent research on Cold War era international relations and thus will become open to new interpretations during their future career. Their critical thinking will also be considerably enhanced.

Autonomy and responsibility: The students have to prepare individually for the written final exam what will need a high level of autonomy and responsibility.

Evaluation

Score: 80

Learning activity: The students have to prepare individually for the written final exam by using their lecture notes as well as by reading the mandatory literature.

Assessment and grading are based on a written exam which will comprise two essays: a long essay (1.5–2 pages, 60 points) and a short essay (0.5 page, 20 points).

Grading:

70–80=5 60–69 =4 50–59 =3 40–49 =2 0–39 =1

Corvinus students spending their Erasmus semester abroad in the Fall semester will have a chance to write the written exam after the end of the exam period. Nevertheless, they are encouraged to get the lecture notes from members of the group as the mandatory literature will not be sufficient for a good grade.

Mandatory and recommended literatures

Mandatory literature:

■ Lundestad, Geir: *East, west, north, south: Major developments in international relations since 1945*. Sage Publications, London, 2005.

(An electronic copy will be available for the students.)

Recommended literature:

Melvyn Leffler–Odd Arne Westad (Eds.) *The Cambridge History of the Cold War. Vols. 1-3*. Cambridge University Press. 2010.

■• Vol. 1. Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17,

■• Vol. 2. Chapters 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 17, 18, 23

■• Vol. 3. Chapters 4, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Find in the Central Library Access in the library <http://huntaka.uni-corvinus.hu/record/-/record/BCEKK738802>

Vol. 1. Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17,

Find in the Central Library Access in the library <http://huntaka.uni-corvinus.hu/record/-/record/BCEKK738803>

Vol. 2. Chapters 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 17, 18, 23

Find in the Central Library Vol. 3. Chapters 4, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Find in the Central Library Access in the library <http://huntaka.uni-corvinus.hu/record/-/record/BCEKK738809>

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Csaba Békés: *Hungary's Cold War. International Relations from the End of World War II to the Fall of the Soviet Union*. Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, The New Cold War History Series, 2022. <https://uncpress.org/book/9781469667485/hungarys-cold-war/>

About the instructor:

Csaba BÉKÉS, Ph.D., Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He is Professor of History at Corvinus University of Budapest and a recurring visiting professor at Columbia University in New York. He is founding director of the Cold War History Research Center (www.coldwar.hu) and Research Professor at the Institute of Political Studies, both in Budapest. His main field of research is Cold War history, the history of East–West relations, Hungarian foreign policy after World War II and the role of the East Central European states in the Cold War. He has widely published on these topics in Hungarian, English and German, he is also a contributor of the three volume *The Cambridge History of the Cold War* (2010). He is a member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Cold War Studies* and *Cold War History* (until 2020). His numerous books include *The 1956 Hungarian Revolution and World Politics* (1996); *The 1956 Hungarian Revolution. A history in documents*. (Co-ed.) (2002); *Hungary and the Warsaw Pact, 1954–1989. Documents on the Impact of a Small State within the Eastern Bloc* (2003); *From Europe to Europe. Hungary in the Crossfire of Conflicts, 1945–1990*, (2004) (in Hungarian); *Evolution and Revolution. Hungary and International Politics in 1956* (Ed.) (2007) (in Hungarian), *Soviet Occupation of Romania, Hungary and Austria, 1944/45-1948/49*. (Co-ed.) (2015). *Détente and emancipation. Hungary, the Soviet Bloc and international politics, 1944–1991* (in Hungarian), (2019). *Hungary's Cold War. International Relations from the End of World War II to the Fall of the Soviet Union*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. New Cold War History series, 2022. In 2022 he received the Academic Prize for the best monograph in social sciences from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

A full list of his publications is available here:

<https://m2.mtmt.hu/gui2/?type=authors&mode=browse&sel=10018311>