



## THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

HIS 303

3 credits (45 contact hours)

### **FRANCE AND EUROPE IN THE COLD WAR: ECONOMY, CULTURE, SOCIETY AND POLITICS (1945-1989)**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*European history from the post-war period to the fall of the Berlin Wall, through the prism of the Cold War.*

The course will focus on France, the UK, Germany and Eastern Europe. Four particular themes will be explored:

1. European politics: East/West defiance. Communism and Capitalism in Europe.
2. Cultural history: East/West arts, literature, architecture and alternative cultures.
3. Social developments: Paternalistic society of the 1950s, May 1968, social and sexual revolution, and emergence of the consumer society in the West. Official and counter-culture/resistance in the East.
4. Economics: The socialist economy in the East and “Les Trente Glorieuses” (the 30 years of post-war boom) in the West up to the oil crisis (1970s).

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of the course is to acquire general knowledge of European history between 1945 and 1989, in its cultural, social, economic and political aspects. The history of Europe between 1945 and 1989 can be understood through the prism of Cold War history: Western Europe on one side, Eastern Europe and Soviet influence on the other side.

The second objective is to contribute to a better understanding and analysis of Europe, in its contemporary complexity and diversity.

#### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will

- Explain the causes, major developments and consequences of the Cold War, from a European perspective.

- Link social, economic, cultural and political developments in both Western and Eastern Europe through the particular prism of the Cold War
- Recognise both the extent and the limits of the impact of the Cold War on European history up to the fall of the Berlin Wall
- Develop a personal, subtle analysis of European history in order to better understand Europe today.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES**

A comparative approach will be favoured. A study of the international context and main phases of the Cold War will precede a closer focus on selected Western and Eastern European key issues.

In addition to the common curriculum, students will be encouraged to choose, deepen and share their own personal “take” on the Cold War/European history. This means that each student, according to his/her personal interest, will focus on a particular country, a particular decade, a particular dimension (social, economic, cultural or political) and/or a particular issue.

The class will include:

- a) Lectures
- b) Presentations, discussions
- c) Written archives
- d) Movies and movie extracts, documentaries

### **Primary textbook**

J. Robert Wegs and Robert Ladrech, *Europe since 1945: A concise history* (5th ed, Palgrave Macmillan 2007)

Various documents provided by the professor

### **EVALUATION AND GRADING:**

- A mid-semester exam (text analysis and acquired knowledge) 20% of the final mark
- A 30/35 mn presentation in class (chosen in agreement with the professor) 30% of the final mark
- Final exam (essay and acquired knowledge) 20% of the final mark
- 4 Quizzes (MCQ, Short answer question, slide ID, definitions...) 20 % of the final mark
- Active and regular participation in class 10% of the final mark

### **ATTENDANCE**

One of the primary requirements this semester is that you attend class. This is not a lecture class, and its success depends very much on your coming to class on time, prepared for the lesson, and ready to participate in discussion and activities. Attendance will be part of your final grade.

Unexcused absences have a negative impact on your final grade. Each unexcused absence above two will lower the final grade by a half-letter grade. IAU excused absences: absences linked to IAU excursions; sickness (a medical certificate is required); emergencies.

## **CALENDAR**

Class 1 Presentation of the course.

Class 2 Introductory Lecture – 1945-89: Main Stages, Main Events, Main Characters

### **TOPIC 1: MAIN PHASES OF THE COLD WAR –**

#### **CONFRONTATION OF THE TWO BLOCKS AND EUROPEAN DECLINE**

Class 3 Origins of the Cold War (Russian revolution - European politics in the 30's)

Class 4 Outbreak of the Cold War (Eastern Europe (1944-1949)

Class 5 Outbreak of the Cold War (The Berlin Blockade (1948)

Class 6 **QUIZ 1** then Height of the Cold War (Budapest (1956)

Class 7 Height of the Cold War (the Berlin Wall (1961)

Class 8 Later Cold War (“Détente” in the 1970s)

Class 9 The End of the Cold War (Gorbachev's Reforms)

Class 10 **QUIZ 2** then The End of the Cold War (Eastern Europe)

Class 12 The End of the Cold War (Legacy of the Cold War)

Class 13 **MID-TERM EXAM**

### **TOPIC 2: SPECIAL FOCUS ON WESTERN EUROPE (PRESENTATIONS)**

Class 14 The French Society in the 1950s

Class 15 The Birth of Europe (The ECSC / EU in the Cold War context)

Class 16 Cold War and Decolonisation (Algerian War / Suez Crisis)

Class 17 European Counter-culture in the 1960s

Class 18 1968 in Paris (Significance and outcomes)

Class 19 Les “Années de Plomb” (The 1973 oil crisis)

Class 20        **QUIZ 3**

**TOPIC 3: SPECIAL FOCUS ON EASTERN EUROPE (PRESENTATIONS)**

Class 21        East Germany under Communism

Class 22        Poland under Communism

Class 23        Czechoslovakia under Communism

Class 24        Tito and Socialism in Yugoslavia

Class 25        The Legacy of the Cold War and the Yugoslav wars (1991 – 2001)

Class 26        Romania: The Third Communism

Class 25        **QUIZ 4**

Class 26        **FINAL Exams**