COURSE DETAIL

THE COLD WAR
Country Germany
Host Institution Free University of Berlin
Program(s) Berlin Summer
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Political Science History
UCEAP Course Number 104
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title THE COLD WAR
UCEAP Transcript Title THE COLD WAR
UCEAP Quarter Units 5.00
UCEAP Semester Units 3.30

Course Description

Over the course of the Cold War, the city of Berlin was frequently at the center of global tensions and a potential front line should the superpower rivalry descend into actual war. This course utilizes the city of Berlin as a laboratory in which to examine the origins, nature, and conclusion of the Cold War that defined international relations between 1945 and 1991. The Allied occupation of the city following the Nazi defeat is analyzed, along with the Berlin blockade and airlift that helped solidify the divisions between East and West. Next, the course examines the workers' uprising of 1953 that provoked a Soviet military response. The following sessions deal with the emigration crisis of the late 1950s that led the Soviets to first threaten a military takeover of the city and eventually to construct the Berlin Wall. Finally, the fall of the wall and the subsequent reunification of Berlin and Germany is analyzed. Field trips to important Cold War sites permit students to gain a deeper appreciation of how the Cold War changed Berlin, and how events in Berlin influenced the wider international struggle. In order to place the interests and goals of the superpowers in context, students also discuss the ways in which the Cold War rivalry affected Europe as a whole, as well as Asia and Latin America. Attention is given to the role of international organizations such as the United Nations in world affairs, and the changes brought about by the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In this way, the roots of contemporary crises are examined. Students gain an understanding of the recent past, which helps equip them to evaluate the current and emerging international order.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
3.17

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Host Institution Course Details

https://www.fubis.org/2_prog/term_3/syllabi/2026-TEIGROB_Cold_War_b-track_term-...

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty
FUBiS

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed
2026-2027

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