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Title: Thirteen Days: the Cuba Missile Crisis in Retrospect  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **3112FNDHIS** (126185)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021  
Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science  
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

| Team        | Leader |
|-------------|--------|
| Dan Feather | Y      |

**Academic Level:** FHEQ3      **Credit Value:** 20      **Total Delivered Hours:** 44  
**Total Learning Hours:** 200      **Private Study:** 156

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

| Component | Contact Hours |
|-----------|---------------|
| Lecture   | 11            |
| Workshop  | 33            |

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

| Category | Short Description | Description                       | Weighting (%) | Exam Duration |
|----------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Report   | AS1               | 1000 word Primary Source Analysis | 40            |               |
| Essay    | AS2               | 1500 word Essay                   | 60            |               |

### Aims

1. Broaden your understanding of the Cuba Missile Crisis and wider issues connected with the Cold War.
2. Provide you with the opportunity to engage with a variety of sources and historical tools to better understand the past.
3. Encourage you to develop a methodical, analytical and critical approach to the

*study of history.*

## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Display knowledge of the key events and historiographical debates surrounding the Cuba missile crisis and be able to apply this with clarity and coherence in assessment tasks.
- 2 Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the various type of source materials used by scholars of the crisis and be able to apply this knowledge to future study.
- 3 Work effectively and confidently to present clear responses to set problems and questions.

## **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

|                         |   |   |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Primary Source Analysis | 1 | 2 |
| Essay                   | 1 | 3 |

## **Outline Syllabus**

*We will look at some of the following issues: The Cold War Context of the crisis; the history of US-Cuban relations; Soviet motives for placing the missiles in Cuba; the US Response in the form of ExComm; JFK's decision making; the debate over whether to bomb or blockade Cuba; the historiography of the crisis; US-Cuban relations after the crisis; lessons from the 13 days.*

## **Learning Activities**

Weekly reading to prepare for workshops and lectures  
Collating and interpreting source material  
Attending and engaging with weekly lectures

## **Notes**

This course explores the historiography, controversies and legacy of one of the defining moments of the Cold War. By utilising a combination of historical tools the events of October 1962 will be placed in a domestic, regional and international context. The module will examine, in part, how perceptions and interpretations of the crisis have changed with the declassification of key documents and the opening up of archives in the Soviet Union and students will gain an appreciation of the fluidity of academic evaluations of the past.

Through lectures, student presentations and source analysis a detailed overview of the crisis will be developed alongside an understanding of key issues such as the

impact of domestic US politics on events, the role of JFK and Khrushchev in proceedings and the enduring symbolism of the crisis in US foreign policy discourse. By examining a wide range of relevant primary sources, secondary literature and cinematic material students will be able to reach informed conclusions on the 'lessons' of the crisis and the merits of various approaches to studying historical events