

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Thirteen Days: the Cuba Missile Crisis in Retrospect
Status: Definitive
Code: **4008HIST** (117872)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2014

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Alex Miles	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ4
Credit Value: 24.00
Total Delivered Hours: 80.00
Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 160

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	30.000
Workshop	48.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Presentation	AS2	Poster project	50.0	
Exam	AS3	Exam	50.0	2.00

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 as a participant in group presentations/discussions to present clear responses to set problems and questions.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Poster Project	1	3
2 hour unseen	1	2

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

1. Weekly reading to prepare for seminars and lectures
2. Collating and interpreting source material
3. Preparing for and delivering group presentations
4. Attending and engaging with weekly lectures
5. Workshops on poster presentations and essay writing
6. Production of a poster - applying techniques learnt in class and drawing on the various skills of your group to bring an issue related to the crisis to life in a visual and academic manner.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Lawrence Freedman
Publishing Year	2000
Title	Kennedy's Wars
Subtitle	Berlin, Cuba, Laos & Vietnam
Edition	

Publisher	Oxford University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Earnest May (Ed)
Publishing Year	2002
Title	The Kennedy Tapes
Subtitle	Inside the White House During the Cuban Missile Crisis
Edition	
Publisher	W W Norton
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Robert Kennedy
Publishing Year	1999
Title	Thirteen Days
Subtitle	A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis
Edition	
Publisher	W W Norton
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Richard Lebow
Publishing Year	1994
Title	We All Lost the Cold War
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Princeton University
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Raymond Garthoff
Publishing Year	1989
Title	Reflections on the Cuban Missile Crisis
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	The Brookings Institution
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Alwksandr Fursenko & Timothy Naftali
Publishing Year	1999
Title	One hell of a Gamble
Subtitle	Khrushchev, Castro & Kennedy 1958 - 1964
Edition	
Publisher	W W Norton
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Scott, L.
Publishing Year	2008
Title	The Cuban Missile Crisis and the Threat of Nuclear War
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Continuum
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Stern, S.
Publishing Year	2005
Title	The Week the World stood still
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Stanford University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Dobbs, M.
Publishing Year	2009
Title	One Minute to Midnight
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Arrow
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Munton, D. & Welch, D.
Publishing Year	2011
Title	The Cuban Missile Crisis
Subtitle	A Concise History
Edition	
Publisher	Oxford University Press
ISBN	

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