

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Course Code / Title** : HA3037 Cold War Ideas

**Pre-requisites** : HA1002

**No. of AUs.** : 3

**Contact Hours** : 39

### **Course Aims**

This course invites you to explore how key political ideas—such as liberty, democracy, revolution, and sovereignty—were reimagined during the Cold War, a period of global ideological struggle that profoundly shaped the modern world. You will trace how these ideas developed in mainstream Anglo-American thought, were challenged by movements of civil disobedience and militant resistance in the United States, and were redefined by thinkers and revolutionaries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America amid decolonization and superpower rivalry. The course is designed for students interested in political theory, intellectual history, international relations, or postcolonial studies, especially those curious about how ideas evolve through conflict and cross-cultural exchange. By taking this course, you will not only deepen your understanding of 20th-century political thought, but also gain conceptual tools to analyze today’s world—where the language of a “new Cold War” is re-emerging as a powerful reference in debates about global order, democracy, and resistance. Whether you plan to pursue further studies in political science or work in fields such as diplomacy, journalism, education, or public service, this course will sharpen your critical thinking and enrich your global political literacy.

### **Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)**

Upon the successful completion of this course, you would be able to:

- 1) Identify and explain key political concepts—such as liberty, totalitarianism, democracy, sovereignty, and revolution—as they were shaped during the Cold War.
- 2) Compare and contrast political theories from Anglo-American liberalism and anti-colonial movements in the Global South.
- 3) Interpret primary political texts in relation to their Cold War historical and ideological contexts.
- 4) Evaluate the political significance of nonviolent and militant resistance in Cold War thought, with reference to figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and Frantz Fanon.
- 5) Apply Cold War-era political frameworks to contemporary global debates that invoke the idea of a “new Cold War.”

## Course Content

1. Introduction
2. Totalitarianism
3. Economy
4. Democracy
5. Liberty, Individualism, and the Self
6. Science
7. Security and Counterinsurgency
8. Civil Disobedience
9. Violent Struggles
10. Gender and Feminism
11. Self-Determination
12. Postrevolutionary Problems
13. The “New Cold War”

## Course Assessment

Class Participation	: 15%
Reading Response	: 15%
Short Essay	: 30%
Final Essay	: 40%
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<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>