

# HSTM 31212/31712

## The Nuclear Age

### Global Nuclear Threats from Hiroshima to Today



- How have nuclear weapons shaped the world we live in?
- Was the world closer to nuclear war in 1962 or 1983?
- What is “nuclear winter”?
- How have films such as *Dr Strangelove* and *Threads* captured the fear of nuclear weapons?
- Is nuclear terrorism still a threat?
- Will Trump’s withdrawal from the INF treaty instigate a new nuclear arms race?

#### Level 3, Semester 2

**Time:** Wednesday 11am-1pm  
(venue tbc)

**Pre-requisites: None!** No background knowledge is required to take this module.

#### For more information contact:

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<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2020/00255/ba-history/course-details/HSTM31212#course-unit-details>

# Content

This multi-media exploration of nuclear history comprises 12 sessions of 2-hour class activities of varied format including lectures, film screenings, debates on topical issues, study of audio and visual materials, and group-work on coursework assignments. We cover a wide range of topics and approaches to better understand the nuclear age, including the reasons for the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of WW2, the policies and strategies of nuclear deterrence during the Cold War, and the shaping of nuclear states and proliferation. We also look into nuclear culture, anti-nuclear protest, nuclear accidents and the environmental impact of atomic weapons and industry. Through this examination we also seek to better understand current global nuclear threats including nuclear terrorism, new “rogue” nuclear states and the current risks of a new nuclear arms race.



## Assessment: 100% coursework (no exam!)

### HSTM31212 (10 credits)

- Review of John Hersey's *Hiroshima* (25% of final mark/800 words)
- Primary source mini-research project (25% of final mark/800 words)
- Essay (50% of final mark/2000 words)

### HSTM31712 (20 credits)

- Review of John Hersey's *Hiroshima* (12½% of final mark/800 words)
- Primary source mini-research project (12½% of final mark/800 words)
- Essay (25% of final mark/2000 words)
- Project on a topic of your choice (50% of final mark/3000 words)



## Indicative Reading

- Gerard de Groot, *The Bomb: A Life*. Pimlico, 2005.
- J.M. Siracuse, *Nuclear Weapons. A Very Short Introduction*. OUP, 2008.
- John Hersey, *Hiroshima* (many editions and publishers).