

HSTM 31212/31712

The Nuclear Age

Global Nuclear Threats from Hiroshima to Today



Level 3, Semester 2

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

Pre-requisites: None required
to take this module!

Want to know more? I'll be
available via Zoom on **12/6/23**
at 1pm

**The Doomsday Clock is 90 seconds to
midnight! Time to find out:**

How have nuclear weapons shaped the
world we live in?

How have films such as *Dr Strangelove* and
Threads captured the fear of nuclear
weapons?

Was the world closer to nuclear war in
1962 or 1983?

What is “nuclear winter”?

Is nuclear terrorism still a threat?

Could the war in Ukraine lead to a dangerous
escalation?

For more information contact:

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[Zoom: https://zoom.us/my/simodidouk](https://zoom.us/my/simodidouk)

[https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2023/00255/ba-history/course-
details/HSTM31712#course-unit-details](https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2023/00255/ba-history/course-details/HSTM31712#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 explore nuclear culture, anti-nuclear protest, nuclear accidents and the environmental impacts of atomic weapons and industry. Through this examination we also seek to better understand current global nuclear threats including the emergence of new “rogue” nuclear states and the current risks of a new international crisis in connection with the war in Ukraine.



Assessment: 100% coursework (no exam!)

HSTM31212 (10 credits – choose two assignments out of three)

Review of Hersey's *Hiroshima* (50% of final mark/2000 words)

Primary source mini-research project (50% of final mark/2000 words)

Essay (50% of final mark/2000 words)

HSTM31712 (20 credits – same as HSTM31212 + independent project)

Review of Hersey's *Hiroshima* (25% of final mark/2000 words)

Primary source mini-research project (25% of final mark/2000 words)

Essay (25% of final mark/2000 words)

Independent project on a topic of your choice (50% of final mark/3500 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).