

# ***THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STUDIES***

***CAMBRIDGE***

## **WESTERN EUROPE AND THE USA SINCE 1918**

### **Course Description**

This course will explore the nature of Atlanticism and ask whether it was a response to a unique set of economic, political and security circumstances which are now in the process of decline. The course will examine European and American approaches to collective security and international organization; the breakdown of the international economy between the wars, Europe, the USA and the drift to war, collapse of the European balance of power and the onset of the Cold War. The Atlanticist order including Bretton Woods, Marshall Plan and the Atlantic Treaty will be considered as well as US attitudes toward decolonization and US and European Integration. Lastly, consideration will be given to the emergence, since the 1960's, of tensions the breakdown of the postwar economic order, US unilateralism, European autonomy and the post 9.11 world and its implications.

### **Lecture List**

- Week 1.        General Introduction to the Course  
Lectures will cover the ground chronologically raising key issues
- Week 2.        The Versailles settlement and the creation of the League of Nations
- Week 3.        The Inter – War Years: European security, the international financial system and the role of the US
- Week 4.        The Origins of World War II: Atlantic versus Pacific and appeasement
- Week 5.        The Onset of the Cold War: historiography
- Week 6.        The Atlanticist Order: the Marshall Plan and the origins of NATO
- Week 7.        The Evolution of NATO in the 1950's
- Week 8.        European Integration, decolonisation and the globalisation of the Cold War in the 1950's & 1960's.
- Week 9.        The Troubled Alliance: the 1960's & 1970's
- Week 10.       The Decline of Atlanticism? : the post 9.11 era.
- Week 11.       Concluding overview

## Reading List

Bobbitt, Philip	The Shield of Achilles
Catherwood, Christopher	Why the Nations Rage
DePorte, A.	Europe Between the Superpowers
Dimbleby, D. & Reynolds, D.	An Ocean Apart
Gaddis, John Lewis	We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History
Gosser, A.	The Western Alliance
Joll, James	Europe since 1870
Laqueur, Walter	Europe since Hitler
McCauley, Martin	The Origins of the Cold War
Milward, Alan S.	The European Rescue of the Nation State
Milward, Alan S.	The Reconstruction of Western Europe
Palmer, J.	Europe without America
Roberts, J.M.	Europe 1880 – 1945
Williams, G.L.	The Permanent Alliance: The European – American Partnership 1945 – 1984
Yergin, Daniel	Shattered Peace

## Method of Assessment

- a) Read around the subject
- b) Attend all classes
- c) Contribute to discussions
- d) Ask questions
- e) Write two essays of 2,500 words  
The first to be submitted at the end of week 6  
The second to be submitted at the end of week 12

Note: If enrolment for this particular course is too low for it to be held as a two hour seminar with two required essays per semester it may be possible to run it as a one hour supervision with three essays per semester.