

Northwestern University

School of Professional Studies

Political Science 240: Introduction to International Relations

Winter 2017

Venue: Wieboldt 710

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Office Hours: Thursday 2:30-4:30PM, and anytime by appointment

Course Overview

This 200-level Introduction to International Relations course covers key debates in the study and practice of international politics since the First World War. At its core, the study of international politics focuses on the interactions that take place among nation-states, that is, inter-state politics and economics, but also increasingly with the involvement of powerful non-state actors like international NGOs, terrorist organizations, multinational corporations, and inter-governmental agencies.

In a sense, international relations study is a little distinct from its counterpart political science field of comparative politics that deals with political processes and outcomes within nation-states. But intra-state affairs or domestic politics have implications for the way states and non-state actors engage with each other at the regional and international levels, something that makes international politics somewhat an extension of domestic politics. Thus, international relations and comparative politics have important overlaps as two of the most important areas of study within the discipline of political science.

The course will approach international relations from both a historical view and theoretical perspective. The first part of the course will take, as a key departure, the outbreak of the First World War and the series of developments through the Inter-War period up to the Second World War. The two World Wars were foundational to the evolution of the field of international relations as we know it today.

The second part will turn on major post-World War developments in international politics, from the formation of the UN and its functional agencies to the era of the Cold War bipolar politics, post-Cold War unipolar politics, the current preeminence of global terrorism, and the supposed decline of the US and the rise of China, among others. Theoretically, students will be introduced to the major theoretical frameworks in the

study of international relations: Liberalism/Neoliberalism, Realism/ Neoliberalism, Marxism, and Constructivism.

Course Requirements and Grading

Throughout the quarter, we shall read a combination of book chapters and journal articles along with some other shorter opinion pieces. Students will be expected to complete the week's assigned readings and be prepared to actively engage in class discussions. Class participation is a key aspect of the course and will make a big difference in the final course grade. It will count towards **twenty (20) percent** of the final grade.

In addition to class participation, there will be three other course assignments as listed below. Read them carefully and take note of the respective deadlines.

First, **two (2) response papers**, each a maximum of **three (3) pages** (double-spaced in Times New Roman), on the readings for any two weeks of your choice. Each response paper will take **ten (10) percent**. The response papers will not be summaries of the readings but incisive critiques that underscore both the value and strength of the arguments in the readings but also the shortcomings. I will provide a sign-up sheet for response papers during our first class meeting. Response papers will be due to me by email before class for the week that you have signed up, that's before Thursday 6pm of the respective week.

The second assignment will be an **in-class midterm on February 9, 2017**. I will provide details of the exam structure the week before. But the exam will last no more than one hour and fifteen minutes.

The third assignment will be a **take home exam**. I will handout an exam prompt in class on **Thursday March 9** and answers to the exam will be emailed to me by midnight on **Sunday March 12**. Answers to the final exam will not exceed **ten (10) pages**, double-spaced in Times New Roman or roughly a maximum of 2,500 words.

Summary of course requirements and grading:

Class participation: 20%

Two response papers: 20% (10% each)

In-class midterm: 20%

Final take home exam: 40%

Books: We shall read selected chapters from two main books:

1. Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes: A History of the World: A History of the World, 1914-1991* (New York: Vintage Books, 1994)
2. Tim Dunne *et al.*, eds., *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*, Fourth Edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016).

Students should purchase (or rent) these two. I will provide copies for the other assigned readings. Also, most of the articles, both from academic journals and newspapers, that I have assigned are easily accessible online.

The class will meet Wednesdays from **6:15-9:15 in Wiedboldt Hall, room 710** at Northwestern's downtown Chicago campus.

Topics and Readings

Week One, January 5, 2017: General introduction, clarification, and briefing

No assigned readings.

Week Two, January 12, 2017: Overview of the study of International Relations

What is at stake and what is the crux of the matter in the study of international politics? Why should we, in academia, care about the conduct and misconduct of inter-state politics and the activities of non-state actors?

Required Readings:

- Tim Dunne *et al*, *International Relations Theories*, "Introduction: Diversity and Disciplinarity in International Relations Theory," pp.1-13
- Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes*, "The Century: A Bird's Eye View," pp.1-17
- Stephen M. Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," *Foreign Policy*, No. 11 (Spring 1998)

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/1149275.pdf?acceptTC=true>

- David Cole, "Must Counterterrorism Cancel Democracy?" *New York Review of Books*, 2015

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2015/jan/08/mustcounterterrorism-cancel-democracy/>

Week Three, January 19, 2017: The First World War and the Liberal School

Why did the "long peace," basically the period from around end of German Unification in 1871, finally end with the outbreak of WWI in 1914? What was thought to be the solution that would prevent the repeat of the "war to end wars?"

Required Readings:

- Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes*, Chapter One: "The Age of Total War," read pages 21-36
- Immanuel Kant, "The Perpetual Peace," pp. 93-115, on Canvas
- Woodrow Wilson, "Address Before Congress Assembled in Joint Session, January 8, 1918"

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=65405>

- Tim Dunne *et al*, *International Relations Theories*, Chapter 5: “Liberalism” pp.68-85

Week Four, January 26, 2017: Interwar Crisis, “the War to End Injustice,” and the Realist School

Why did the peace settlement in 1919 stumble so quickly? What explains the rise of Hitler and Mussolini in the 1920/30s and how did their rise destabilize world order, leading to another global catastrophe? How did the collapse of the League of Nations and the outbreak of World War Two cause a dramatic rethinking of inter-state politics?

Required Readings:

- Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes*, Chapter Two: “The World Revolution,” pp.54-84 and Chapter Four: “The Fall of Liberalism,” pp.109-141
- Hans Morgenthau, *Power Among Nations*, chapter One “Political Power,” on Canvas
- Tim Dunne *et al*, *International Relations Theories*, Chapter Two “Classical Realism,” pp.34-50

Week Five, February 2, 2017: The Cold War and Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)

The end of the Second World War left in its wake a silent war between the US and the Soviet Union. This though was not a passive war; there was active fighting by the two superpowers through proxy wars in Central America, Asia, and Africa. But why was the US not able to use nuclear weapons against its adversaries including the Soviet Union even when the latter did not have capability to effectively retaliate? Did nuclear weapons protect the world from another global war?

Required Readings:

- Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes*, Chapter Eight: “Cold War,” pp.225-256
- Robert McNamara, “Mutual Deterrence,” on Canvas
- Nina Tannenwald, “Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Basis of Nuclear Non-Use” *International Organization*, Volume 53, No. 3 (Summer 1999)

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayFulltext?type=1&fid=172960&jid=INO&volumeId=53&issueId=03&aid=172959&bodyId=&membershipNumber=&societyETOCSession=>

Week Six, February 9: The American Age: Hegemony and the “new” Liberal Order

The rise of American economic and military capabilities after the Second World War placed the US at the helm of global politics for many decades. How did the US use its economic and military power to dominate the rest of the world? Did the US’s spread of democracy bring about global stability?

Required Readings

- Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes*, Chapter Nine “The Golden Years,” pp.257-286
- Tim Dunne *et al*, *International Relations Theories*, Chapter Five: “Neoliberalism”
- Robert Gilpin, *US Power and the Multinational Corporation*, Chapter Six, on Canvas

*** In-class midterm for the first half of the class meeting ***

Week Seven, February 16, 2017: International Relations in the Global Periphery I: Decolonization

The end of Second World War brought among other major developments the phenomenon of decolonization, from Asia to Africa. Why did mass decolonization happen after World War Two, or put another way, what was the impact of the World Wars on colonialism? What was the US’s strategic interest in pushing for decolonization?

Required Readings:

- Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes*, Chapter Twelve “The Third World”
- Dunne *et al*, *International Relations Theories*, Chapter Twelve “Postcolonialism,” pp.219-235
- Rudolf von Albertini, “The Impact of Two World Wars on the Decline of Colonialism,” *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol 4, No. 1 (January 1969)

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/259789.pdf>

Week Eight, February 23, 2017: International Relations in the Global Periphery II: Independence and Integration in Africa

The biggest addition to the global community of nation-states came in the post Second World War era, mostly in the 1960s. This was mainly in Africa. How did this reconfigure international politics? What has been the place of Africa in global politics and the nature of inter-continental African international relations? Why did independent African leaders inherit artificial colonial borders, which they never attempted to alter?

Required Readings:

- Frederick Cooper, “Possibility and Constraint: African Independence in Historical Perspective,” *The Journal of African History* Vol. 49, No. 2 (2008), pp. 167-196
- Christopher Clapham, *Africa and the International System: The Politics of State Survival*, chapter one “Fragile States and the International System” (to be posted on Canvas)
- Tandeka C. Nkiwane, “Africa and International Relations: Regional Lessons for a Global,” *International Political Science Review*, Vol. 22, No. 3 (Summer 2001)

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/1601487.pdf>

Week Nine, March 2, 2017: IR in the 21st Century: The End of History and the Clash of Civilizations?

The end of the Cold War attracted as all sorts of pronouncements, including Francis Fukuyama's "the end of history?" What is it that changed about world order with the end of the Cold War that heralded a new era? Is it true, as Samuel Huntington claimed in 1993, that the post-Cold War global relations would not be ideological but cultural?

Required Readings:

- Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History," *The National Interest* (Summer 1989)
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/24027184.pdf>
- Timothy Stanley and Alexander Lee, "It's Still Not the End of History," *The Atlantic* (Sept 1, 2014)
<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2014/09/its-still-not-the-end-of-history-francis-fukuyama/379394/>
- Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993)
http://www.hks.harvard.edu/fs/pnorris/Acrobat/Huntington_Clash.pdf
- Edward Said, "The Clash of Ignorance," *The Nation* (October 22, 2001)
<http://www.thenation.com/article/clash-ignorance/>

Week Ten, March 9: Reflections on the Future of World Order

Scholars of international politics announced the decline of the US in the early 1990s. The decline didn't happen. Is it happening now with the seemingly unstoppable rise of China and other emerging powers? What is the future of global order without American hegemony? And what is the future of multilateral institutions like the WTO?

Required Readings:

- G. John Ikenberry, "The Future of Liberal World Order: Internationalism After America" *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2011)
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2011-05-01/future-liberal-world-order>
- Michael Beckley, "China's Century? Why America's Edge Will Endure," *International Security* 36, 3 (Winter 2011/12)
http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/ISEC_a_00066
- Nitsan Chorev and Sarah Babb, "The Crisis of Neoliberalism and the Future of International Institutions: A Comparison of the IMF and the WTO," *Theory and Society*, Volume 38. Issue 5 (September 2009), pp 459-484
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11186-009-9093-5#page-1>