

IR 212: Historical Approaches to International Relations

University of Southern California
Fall 2017

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Course meetings: TuTh 11a-12:20p
Location: Taper Hall 301
Course website: blackboard.usc.edu
Office hours: Thursday 4p-5p

Version: August 22, 2017

Description

This course is an introduction to the history of the modern international system. It begins with the early principles of American foreign policy. It examines the origins of World War I and why the Wilsonian moment crumbled into isolationism, economic depression, and fascism. It then reviews the causes and conduct of World War II. Then, it discusses how the United States and Europe constructed the post-war order. It introduces the Cold War, the atomic age, and the rise of China. It describes the fall of the Berlin Wall and the unique moment known as the “end of history.” It then reviews what followed: the consolidation of the European Union, democracy promotion and the Third Wave, and the rising foreign policy salience of state failure and humanitarian crises. The course then reviews the evidence for the return of history: the “clash of civilizations” theory, political instability in the Middle East, and the War on Terror. It explores democratic backsliding and evidence for institutional decay in the United States and Europe. It concludes with a discussion of the far right in comparative perspective, propaganda and censorship, and the struggle to develop international responses to climate change.

This course has two goals: to introduce students to the substantive history of the modern international system and to the methodological practice of historical and qualitative research in political science. To that end, this course has a heavy reading and writing load. In particular, it asks students to engage with primary source materials. Weekly sections will be devoted to reviewing the concepts discussed in lectures and readings, and to discussing and practicing the craft of essay writing focused upon historical cases.

Requirements

Students are expected to have read all assigned materials prior to class. Weekly reading assignments will average roughly 150 pages and will be available via Blackboard unless required for purchase or on reserve at the library.

Table 1: Components of the Final Course Grade

Assignment	Date	Percentage of Final Grade
Essay 1	September 8	10
Exam 1	September 21	15
Essay 2	October 20	15
Essay 3	November 14	20
Exam 2 (final)	TBD	25
Section participation	NA	15

Consonant with its focus on historical and qualitative methods, this course seeks to impart good writing skills to students. To enable improvement in writing skills over the course of the semester, the course employs a series of short graded assignments. In each assignment, students will be asked to analyze one historical case in depth, or, in some cases, to compare two cases carefully. Essays will be five to six double-spaced pages long and must be uploaded to Blackboard by 11.59pm PST on the due date. For each day the essay is late, one letter grade will be deducted. Exams will be similar to the essays in substance and spirit, but will take place in class. No makeups will be permitted except with a doctor's note.

I reserve the right to issue pop quizzes if I deem appropriate. If issued, each pop quiz will comprise 5% of the final course grade (with the rest of the grades adjusted proportionally). No makeups on pop quizzes will be permitted without a doctor's note.

Technology Policy

Research that shows that students take better notes by hand¹ and that they learn less, both individually and collectively, when laptops are in the classroom.² Therefore please silence and put away your cell phones and laptops before class.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards.³ Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct.⁴ If you engage in plagiarism or any other form of academic misconduct, you will fail the course. If you aid someone else's misconduct, you will fail the course.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity⁵ or to the Department of

¹<http://pss.sagepub.com/content/25/6/1159>

²<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360131512002254?np=y>

³<https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions>

⁴<http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>

⁵<http://equity.usc.edu>

Public Safety.⁶ This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men⁷ provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage⁸ describes reporting options and other resources.

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute,⁹ which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs¹⁰ provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information¹¹ will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

Students requesting academic accommodations based on disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Monday-Friday, 8:30am–5:00pm. The office is in Student Union 301 and their phone number is 213.740.0776.

Required for Purchase

William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White (1999). *The Elements of Style*. Pearson Education. Any edition will do.

G. John Ikenberry. *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Recommended, but also on reserve at library: Francis Fukuyama, *The End of History*.

Recommended, but also on reserve at library: Samuel Huntington, *Clash of Civilizations*.

Recommended Reference Works

These books provide more background on the material covered in this course. They are very good.

Francis Fukuyama (2011). *The Origins of Political Order: From Prehuman Times to the French Revolution*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

Elhanan Helpman (2004). *The Mystery of Economic Growth*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

⁶<http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety>

⁷<http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/>

⁸<http://sarc.usc.edu>

⁹<http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>

¹⁰http://sait.usc.edu/academicssupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html

¹¹<http://emergency.usc.edu>

William A. Hitchcock (2003). *The Struggle for Europe: The Turbulent History of a Divided Continent, 1945 to the Present*. New York: Random House.

Jonathan Spence (2001). *The Search for Modern China*. New York: WW Norton.

8/22: Introduction and Course Overview

No readings are required for the first course meeting, which will provide an overview of the course and discuss administrative matters.

8/24: Foundations

Francis J. Gavin (2016). “Thinking Historically: A Guide for Strategy and Statecraft.” *War on the Rocks*, November 17.

Gary King, Robert Keohane, and Sidney Verba (1994). *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 1, selection from Chapter 2.

Charles Tilly (1992). *Coercion, Capital, and European States: AD 990-1992*. Blackwell. Chapter 2.

8/29: American Foreign Policy: Founding and 19th Century

Hans J. Morgenthau (1950). “The Mainsprings of American Foreign Policy: The National Interest vs. Moral Abstractions.” *American Political Science Review* 44(4): 833-854.

[Washington’s Farewell Address, 1796.](#)

[John Quincy Adam’s Speech: Warning Against the Search for ‘Monsters to Destroy’. 1821.](#)

[The Monroe Doctrine: President Monroe’s Annual Message to Congress, Dec. 2, 1823.](#)

[The Open Door Note Submitted by U.S. Secretary of State, John Hay, 1899.](#)

[Recommended, **not required**: *Federalist Papers*, 3-5.](#)

8/31: World War I

Michael Howard, *The First World War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007). Chapters TBD.

[Woodrow Wilson speech, “Make the World Safe for Democracy”](#)

9/5: The League of Nations

G. John Ikenberry. *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 5: “The Settlement of 1919.”

[Woodrow Wilson speech in favor of the League of Nations.](#)

[Senator Henry Cabot Lodge: Case against the League of Nations.](#)

9/7: The Great Depression and the Rise of Fascism

Eichengreen, *Golden Fetters: The Gold Standard and the Great Depression, 1919-1939*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapters TBD.

Berman, Sheri (1997). "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic," *World Politics* 49: 401-429.

[Adolf Hitler, "Mein Kampf". Selections TBA.](#)

9/12: World War II

William I. Hitchcock, *The Struggle for Europe: The Turbulent History of a Divided Continent 1945 to the Present* (New York: Random House, 2003). Chapters TBD.

[Account of the firebombing of Tokyo.](#)

9/14: Constructing the Liberal Order

G. John Ikenberry. *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 6: "The Settlement of 1945."

Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and J. Lawrence Broz (2010). *International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Power and Wealth*. Fifth edition. W.W. Norton. Chapter TBD.

[Marshall Plan Speech, 1947](#)

9/19: Review Session

This lecture will take the form of a review and Q&A session in preparation for the first exam.

9/21: Exam

9/26: The Cold War

Gaddis, John Lewis. *The Cold War*. Chapters TBD.

[George Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," in *American Diplomacy* \(1946\).](#)

[NSC 68 \(1950\).](#)

9/28: Nuclear Weapons

Scott Sagan, "Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb." *International Security*, Vol. 21, No. 3. (Winter, 1996-1997), pp. 54-86.

Edward Wilson, "Thank you Vasili Arkhipov, the man who stopped nuclear war." *The Guardian*.

[FRUS documents on Cuban Missile Crisis \(1962\).](#)

Peruse <http://www.nuclearsecrecy.com/nukemap/>

10/3: The Vietnam War

Yuen Foong Khong (1992). *Analogies at War: Korea, Munich, Dien Bien Phu, and the Vietnam Decisions of 1965*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters TBD.

[Michael Herr \(1991\). *Dispatches*. New York: Random House. Chapters TBD.](#)

10/5: The Fall of the Berlin Wall

G. John Ikenberry. *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 7: “After the Cold War.”

Mary Sarotte. “The Legacy of 1989 and 1990.” In *1989*, p 195-214.

[Watch: Reagan “Tear Down This Wall” Speech at the Brandenburg Gate \(1987\).
<https://chnm.gmu.edu/1989/items/show/568>.](#)

10/10: The End of History

Francis Fukuyama (1989). *The End of History*. Chapters TBD.

10/12: Relinquishing Sovereignty: European Union Integration and the First Gulf War

Andrew Moravcsik (1998). *The Choice for Europe: Social Purpose and State Power from Messina to Maastricht*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Chapters TBD.

The Economist (2016). “Two Out of Three Ain’t Bad: The Mundell-Fleming Trilemma.” August 27.

[Brent Scowcroft and George H.W. Bush. *A World Transformed*. Chapter TBD.](#)

10/17: The Third Wave of Democracy

Samuel Huntington (1991) “Democracy’s Third Wave.” *Journal of Democracy*.

Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson (2006). *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Ch 1-2.

[Reagan Speech at the National Endowment for Democracy.](#)

10/19: International Law and Humanitarian Intervention

Samantha Power (2013) [2002]. *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*. Basic Books. Chapter TBD.

Barry R. Posen and Andrew L. Ross (1996/7). “Competing Visions for U.S. Grand Strategy,” *International Security* 21: 3.

[Romeo Dallaire. *Shake Hands with the Devil*. Chapter TBD.](#)

10/24: Clash of Civilizations?

Samuel Huntington (1996). *The Clash of Civilizations*. Chapters TBA.

10/26: Rise of China I

Susan V. Lawrence and Michael F. Martin (2013). "Understanding China's Political System." Congressional Research Service Report, March.

Yasheng Huang (2012). "How Did China Take Off?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 26(4): 147-170.

10/31: TA Lecture

11/2: Rise of China II

Aaron L. Friedberg (2005). "The Future of U.S.-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?" *International Security* 30(2): 7-45.

Wang Jisi (2011). "China's Search for a Grand Strategy: A Rising Great Power finds its Way." *Foreign Affairs* 90(2).

11/7: (Conditional) Rise of Africa: Guest Lecture

Readings TBD.

11/9: Democratic Backsliding

Larry Diamond (2015). "Facing Up to the Democratic Recession." *Journal of Democracy* 26(1): 141-155.

Brett Carter (2016). "Why the Democratic Recession Will Be Brief: The View From Africa." *Journal of Democracy* 27(3), 36-50.

11/14: Terrorism and Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

Bob Woodward (2004). *Plan of Attack: The Definitive Account of the Decision to Invade Iraq*. Simon & Schuster. Chapters TBA.

Benjamin A. Valentino (2014). "Why We Kill: The Political Science of Political Violence Against Civilians." *Annual Review of Political Science* 17: 89-103.

National Security Archive (2010). *The Iraq War – Part II: Was There Even a Decision?*. <http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB328/index.htm>

11/16: TA Lecture

11/21: Globalization and the Rise of the Far Right

Anne Case and Angus Deaton (2017). “Mortality and Morbidity in the 21st Century.”

Daron Acemoglu and Pascual Restrepo (2017). “Robots and Jobs: Evidence from the US.” VOX EU.

Ronald F. Inglehart and Pippa Norris (2016). “Trump, Brexit, and the Rise of Populism: Economic Have-Nots and Cultural Backlash.” Harvard Kennedy School Faculty Research Working Paper RWP16-026, August.

11/28: Propaganda and Information Politics

Erin Baggott Carter and Brett L. Carter (2017). *Fighting for Citizens’ Minds: Propaganda in the Information Age*. Chapter TBD.

Gary King, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts (2013). “How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression.” *American Political Science Review* 2(107): 1-18.

11/30: Climate Change and Environmental Politics

Garrett Hardin (1968). “The Tragedy of the Commons.” *Science* 162(3859): 1243-48.

UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2015). “Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report Summary for Policymakers.”

Lawrence H. Summers (1991). “Let them Eat Pollution.” Internal Memo, Post-Script. *The Economist* (12 December): 1.

NASA “Vital Signs of the Planet.” Peruse data visualizations. <http://climate.nasa.gov>.