

# IR 212: Historical Approaches to International Relations

University of Southern California  
Fall 2018

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Course meetings: TuTh 12:30 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.  
Location: WPH B27  
Course website: [blackboard.usc.edu](http://blackboard.usc.edu)  
Office hours: Th 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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## Description

This course is an introduction to 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 and depression. It explores the rise of fascism and the sources of World War II. It discusses how the United States and Europe constructed the post-war order. It examines the politics of the Cold War and the atomic age. It reviews the fall of the Berlin Wall and what followed: the unique moment known as the “end of history” characterized by rising living standards and the spread of democracy across the globe. The final part of the course reviews the evidence for the return of history: the “clash of civilizations” thesis, the War on Terror, the politics of autocracy in China and Russia, and institutional decay and anti-globalist backlash in the United States and Europe. The course concludes with a discussion of the far right in comparative perspective and the role of propaganda in contemporary world politics.

This course has two goals: to introduce students to the substantive history of the modern international system and to qualitative research methods in political science. Accordingly, 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 concepts from 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. Several of the primary source readings are readily available online and do not appear in the readings folder.

Table 1: Components of the Final Course Grade

Assignment	Date	Percentage of Final Grade
Essay 1	September 15	10
Midterm	October 11	25
Essay 2	November 17	20
Final exam	TBA b/w Dec 5-12	25
Section participation	NA	15
Crisis simulation	November 27	5

Students will complete two essays. In each, they will develop an argument based on a careful analysis of historical case material. 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.

The midterm and final exam will be similar to the essays in substance and spirit but will take place in class. The final exam will take place sometime between December 5 and December 12; the precise date will be announced by the university later in the semester at the link below.<sup>1</sup> Students are also required to attend weekly sections, where they will discuss the course material in a thoughtful manner. Engaged participation in an international crisis simulation at the end of the semester is the final components of the course grade.

For each assignment, no extensions or makeups will be permitted except with a doctor's note or a university letter documenting a conflict due to an athletic competition.

### Technology Policy

Research that shows that students take better notes by hand<sup>2</sup> and that they learn less, both individually and collectively, when laptops are in the classroom.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct.<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup>You may find the times for all your final exams here: <https://classes.usc.edu/term-20183/>

<sup>2</sup><http://pss.sagepub.com/content/25/6/1159>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360131512002254?np=y>

<sup>4</sup><https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions>

<sup>5</sup><http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity<sup>6</sup> or to the Department of Public Safety.<sup>7</sup> 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 Men<sup>8</sup> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage<sup>9</sup> 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,<sup>10</sup> which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs<sup>11</sup> provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information<sup>12</sup> 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 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.

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

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<sup>6</sup><http://equity.usc.edu>

<sup>7</sup><http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety>

<sup>8</sup><http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/>

<sup>9</sup><http://sarc.usc.edu>

<sup>10</sup><http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>

<sup>11</sup>[http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home\\_index.html](http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html)

<sup>12</sup><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 Spense (2001). *The Search for Modern China*. New York: WW Norton.

## **Part I: Theoretical and Historical Foundations**

### **8/21: Introduction**

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

### **8/23: Thinking and Writing Historically**

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.

### **8/28 - 8/30: No Lecture (APSA)**

William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White (1999). *The Elements of Style*. Read in its entirety.

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

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

This week, there will be no lectures due to the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. Sections this week will practice the craft of historical essay writing. You will apply the methodological approach of Gavin, King et al., and Strunk and White to a close analysis of Washington and Adams. As a group, you will outline an essay on the following prompt:

*What are Washington and Adams' key foreign policy prescriptions for the United States? In your view, to what extent should American foreign policy makers heed these documents in 2018?*

### **9/4: Principles and Tensions in American Foreign Policy**

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

[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.](#)

### **9/6: World War I and 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, “Make the World Safe for Democracy”

Woodrow Wilson speech in favor of the League of Nations.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge: Case against the League of Nations.

### **9/11: The Rise of Fascism**

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

Adolf Hitler, “First Anti-Semitic Writings” (1919) and “On Propaganda” (1923).

## **Part II: The Global Liberal Order**

### **9/13: World War II and Bretton Woods**

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.”

Joseph M. Grieco and G. John Ikenberry (2002). *State Power and World Markets*. W.W. Norton, 220-246.

[Marshall Plan Speech, 1947](#)

### **9/18: The Cold War**

John Lewis Gaddis (2005). *The Cold War: A New History*. Chapter 1: “The Return of Fear.”

X [George Kennan] (1946), “The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” *Foreign Affairs*.

NSC 68 (1950), 4-24, 60-65.

### **9/20: 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/>

### **9/25: The Fall of the Berlin Wall**

Watch: Reagan “Tear Down This Wall” Speech at the Brandenburg Gate (1987).

<https://chnm.gmu.edu/1989/items/show/568>.

Mary Sarotte (2009). *1989: The Struggle to Create Post-Cold War Europe*. Chapter 1.

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.”

## **9/27: The End of History**

Francis Fukuyama (1989). “The End of History?” *The National Interest* 16: 3-18.

Francis Fukuyama (1992). *The End of History and the Last Man*. Part V.

## **10/2: 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 2.

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

## **10/4: The Conditional Rise of Africa (Brett Carter)**

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson (2002). “Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution.” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 117(4): 1231-1294.

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson (2001). “The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation.” *American Economic Review* 91(5): 1369-1401.

## **10/9: Review Session**

This lecture will take the form of a Q&A session in preparation for the first exam. The exam will cover the material through “The Conditional Rise of Africa.”

## **10/11: Exam**

## **10/16: Career Day**

Johannes Haushofer. “CV of Failures.”

## **Part III: Challenges to the Global Liberal Order**

### **11/18: The Clash of Civilizations and the Politics of Autocracy**

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

Branko Milanovic (1999). “On the Threshold of the Third Globalization: Why Liberal Capitalism might Fail?” Unpublished paper.

Xenophon (474 BC). “Hiero.” <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1175/1175-h/1175-h.htm>

### **10/23: Rise of China I: Economic Boom**

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

## **10/25: Rise of China II: Political Crackdown**

Robin Munro (2009). “Remembering Tiananmen Square.” *The Nation*.

Eva Dou, Jeremy Page, and Josh Chin (2018). “China’s Uighur Camps Swell as Beijing Widens the Dragnet.” *Wall Street Journal*, August 17.

Leta Hong Fincher (2018). *Leftover Women: The Resurgence of Gender Inequality in China*. Chapters TBD.

## **10/30: Rise of China III: The International Order Adjusts to a New Power**

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).

## **11/1: Wars in the Middle East**

Brent Scowcroft and George H.W. Bush. *A World Transformed*. Chapter TBD.

National Security Archive (2010). *The Iraq War – Part I: The U.S. Prepares for Conflict, 2001*. <http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB326/index.htm>

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

National Security Archive (2010). *The Iraq War – Part III: Shaping the Debate*. <http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB330/index.htm>

## **11/6: Russia: Domestic Affairs and Foreign Policy**

Bill Browder (2015). *Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man’s Fight for Justice*. Simon & Schuster. Chapters TBA.

Michael McFaul (2018). *From Cold War to Hot Peace: An American Ambassador in Putin’s Russia*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Chapters TBA.

## **11/8: The European Union: Integration and Tensions**

John McCormick (2011). *Understanding the European Union*. Chapter 3.

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

## **11/13: 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.

**11/15: No class (international crisis simulation work session)**

**11/20: Propaganda and Information Politics**

Erin Baggott Carter and Brett L. Carter (2017). *Fighting for Citizens' Minds: Propaganda in the Information Age*. Chapter 1.

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.

Peruse [www.rt.com](http://www.rt.com) and [usa.chinadaily.com.cn](http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn).

**11/22: Thanksgiving Break**

**11/27: International Crisis Simulation**

**11/29: Conclusion**