

## **Foundations of the Contemporary International System, 1815 – 1920**

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Office Hours: TU 10.45 – 11.45  
Vigyázó Ferenc u. 2, Room 203

Winter Term, 2018  
TU/TH 9.00 – 10.40  
Room TBD

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

It would be, perhaps, an overstatement to claim that the discipline of International Relations is having an “historical moment.” But there can be little question that I.R scholars in recent years have increasingly turned to both existing and developing debates in the fields of history and historiography to gain new perspectives on the field and to engage the discipline in new and innovative ways. This course will do just that, examining the historical foundations of the contemporary international system to provide a new vantage point from which to evaluate present-day international relations. Specifically, the course will examine the roots of contemporary international politics in the “Global Transformation” of the nineteenth-century – to use the term of Buzan and Lawson – that witnessed nothing less than a fundamental shift in the nature of international politics and the international order. IR scholarship has long used certain dates to mark foundational moments in the development of international politics, be it 1492, 1648, 1919, 1945 or 1989. This class makes the argument that as important as the events tied to any of those dates may be for contemporary international relations, far more formative are global processes and transformation that developed globally over the course of the hundred years from roughly the end of the Napoleonic Wars to the end of World War I. The case could be made that the underlying structures, constructs, configurations, dynamics and discourses of the present day global order owe more to the transformations of the so-called “long” nineteenth-century than any other period in history. With this in mind, this course will examine the fundamental changes in politics, society, economics and culture that occurred in the century preceding the outbreak of World War I and examine their impact on the development of contemporary global politics and the international system.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- to develop a nuanced understanding of how historical and historiographical debates can and do shape our understanding of International Relations both as field of study and as a discipline.
- to be able to identify the processes that have led—and indeed still lead—to certain ways of thinking about power and politics.
- to gain new perspectives on many of the basic assumptions prevalent in the discipline of International Relations
- to apply this knowledge to the development of academic research projects.

## COURSE EVALUATION

Ten percent of your grade is based on class participation in class. For this reason, attendance is absolutely necessary: if you are not in class, you are not participating. If you are to miss a session, please contact me before class time. Of course, attendance is not the same as participation. Students are expected to contribute to class discussion in a constructive manner. Not only will this be beneficial to both your own and your colleagues' understanding of the material, it will also allow me to gauge how well you are comprehending and synthesizing the course material. To do this, it is imperative that you complete the assigned readings for each week *before* we meet.

During the course of the semester, each student will be required to lead class discussion once. This assignment should be seen primarily as an exercise to help you organize your thoughts about the readings. These presentations are not meant to serve as a summary of material, but rather as a platform for exploring that given week's material more deeply.

Additionally, students will be asked to submit two (2) 500 word critical response papers. One will deal with one or more readings from weeks 1-6. The other will deal with one or more readings from weeks 8-12. You will be required to submit your response paper **BEFORE** that reading is dealt with in class. You also cannot submit a paper for the session you lead class discussion. The procedure response papers will be discussed in class. Additionally, please refer to the online resource for what is expected from the response papers.

The final assignment will consist of two parts, a project proposal and annotated bibliography—each consisting 1,000 words—and a final research paper. The student will be expected to develop a project related to the topic of the course, namely the historical foundations of the contemporary international system. The paper should explore some element of present day international politics, relations or society, and explore the historical development of that issue from the nineteenth-century to the present day. The proposed research plan will include sections on the subject, aims, materials and methods of the project. In conjunction with the proposal, the student will submit an annotated bibliography supporting the research plan. The assignment should be seen as an exercise in strengthening the student's understanding of how an academic project is undertaken. Students will be expected to present their research topics to the class the week of February 20/22. The final paper will be due on Friday, April 6. Again, please refer to the online resource for what is expected from the project proposal and annotated bibliography.

For those interested, students may submit a podcast in lieu of the final paper. The podcast will be produced in conjunction with the School of Public Policy's Center for Media, Data and Society (CMDs)'s project "Academic Podcasting: Digital Scholarship, Communities of Knowledge Production and the Elusive Search for the Public." Further information, such as deadlines and requirements, will be provided in class and on Moodle.

## Breakdown of assessment:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Presentations	10%
Response Paper 1 (500 words)	15%
<u>To be submitted at the latest before class on Feb. 10.</u>	
Response Paper 2 (500 words)	15%
<u>To be submitted at the latest before class on Mar. 27.</u>	
Project Proposal and Annotated Bibliography	20%
(2x 1,000 words, Due Monday, February 26 @ 23.59)	
Final Paper	30%
(5,000 words, Due Friday, April 6 @ 23.59)	

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**CLASS POLICIES**

- Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will result, at a minimum, in the student failing the class. The case will then be referred to the Committee on Academic Dishonesty. It is the responsibility of the student to understand what constitutes plagiarism and academic dishonesty. For reference, please consult the following university documents: *Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism*, the *CEU Policy Document* and the *MA Handbook*.
- All assignments must be submitted electronically using **MS Word** to Moodle. The papers should be saved with the format “**Last Name First Name – Assignment Name.**” For example, if I were to submit response paper one, it would be “**Tokic Mate – RP 1.**” The due date of all assignments is indicated in the syllabus, and can be submitted until 23.59. For each 24 hour period past the deadline, the assignment will be docked 1/3 of a letter grade. Papers will not be accepted more than seven days after the due date. Please note, the Project Proposal and Annotated Bibliography should be submitted as one document.
- If you have an issue with a grade you’ve received, I am more than willing to take your concerns into consideration. I will not, however, hear any verbal requests for a grade change. Instead, I ask that you write me a short (250 word) explanation as to why you feel the grade I gave you was unsatisfactory. I will then return to the work with fresh eyes. Please note: this means the possibility exists that the grade can go down as well as up. Also, I will not consider a change of grade request more than ten (10) days after grades have been returned to you. This allows us both to address whatever issues you might have fresh.
- All content for the class will be made available on online. It goes without saying that you are responsible for all information contained in this syllabus, imparted in class and provided electronically.
- Finally, the classroom is an electronics free room. Use of mobile telephones, computers, tablets or other electronic instruments is prohibited. Please come to class with writing utensils to take notes: it has been demonstrated that one learns much more taking handwritten notes than by way of typing or recording!

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**WEEK 1: INTRODUCTIONS – HISTORY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Tuesday, January 9: No Assigned Readings

Thursday, January 11:

- Schroeder, Paul W. “History and International Relations Theory: Not Use of Abuse, but Fit or Misfit.” *International Security*, vol.22, no.1 (1997):64-74.
- Lawson, George. “The eternal divide? History and International Relations.” *European Journal of International Relations*, vol.18, no.2 (2012):203-226.

**WEEK 2: FRAMING THE PROBLEM – GLOBAL CHANGE AND THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY**

Tuesday, January 16:

- Buzan, Barry and George Lawson. “The Global Transformation: The Nineteenth Century and the Making of Modern International Relations.” *International Studies Quarterly*, vol.57, no.3 (September 2013):620-634.
- Conrad, Sebastian and Dominic Sachsenmaier. “Introduction: Competing Visions of World Order: Global Moments and Movements, 1880s-1930s.” In: Conrad, Sebastian and Dominic Sachsenmaier, eds. *Competing Visions of World Order: Global Moments and Movements, 1880s-1930s*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. p.1-25.

Thursday, January 18:

- Bartelson, Jens. “Short Circuits: Society and Tradition in International Relations Theory.” *Review of International Studies*, vol. 22, no. 4, (1996):339–360.
- Buzan, Barry, and Richard Little. “The Idea of ‘International System’: Theory Meets History.” *International Political Science Review/Revue Internationale De Science Politique*, vol.15, no.3 (1994):231-255.

**WEEK 3: PERIODIZATION AND THE DISCIPLINE**

Tuesday, January 23:

- Schroeder, Paul. “Historical Reality vs. Neo-Realist Theory.” *International Security*, vol.19, no.1 (1994):108-148.
- de Carvalho, Benjamin, Halvard Leira and John M. Hobson. “The Big Bangs of IR: The Myths That Your Teachers Still Tell You about 1648 and 1919.” *Millennium*, vol.39, no. 3 (2011):735-758.

Thursday, January 25:

- Osiander, Andreas. "Sovereignty, international relations, and the Westphalian myth." *International organization*, vol.55, no.2 (2001):251-287.
- Kayaoglu, Turan. "Westphalian Eurocentrism in International Relations Theory." *International Studies Review*, vol.12, no.2 (2010):193–217.

**WEEK 4: GLOBAL ALTERNATIVES TO THE EUROCENTRIC MODEL**Tuesday, January 30:

- Hobson, John M. "Reconstructing International Relations through World History: Oriental Globalization and the Global–Dialogic Conception of Inter-Civilizational Relations." *International Politics*, vol. 44, no. 4 (July 2007):414-430.
- Suzuki, Shogo. "Japan's socialization into Janus-faced European international society." *European Journal of International Relations*, vol.11, no.1 (2005):137-64.

Thursday, February 1:

- Ringmar, Erik. "Performing international systems: Two East-Asian alternatives to the Westphalian order." *International Organization*, vol.66, no.1 (2012):1-25
- Pella, John Anthony. "Expanding the Expansion of International Society: a new approach with empirical illustrations from West African and European interaction, 1400-1883." *Journal of International Relations & Development*, vol.17, no.1 (January 2014):89-111.

**WEEK 5: CONTENDING WITH MODERNITY**Tuesday, February 6:

- Devetak, Richard. "The project of modernity and international relations theory." *Millennium*, vol.24, no.1 (1995):27-51.
- Ruggie, John Gerard. "Territoriality and Beyond: Problematizing Modernity in International Relations." *International Organization*, vol. 47, no. 1 (1993)139–174.

Thursday, February 8:

- Dirlik, Arif. "Global modernity? Modernity in an age of global capitalism." *European Journal of Social Theory* vol.6, no.3 (2003):275-292.
- Wittrock, Björn. "Modernity: One, None, or Many? European Origins and Modernity as a Global Condition." *Daedalus*, vol.129, no.1 (2000):31–60.

## **WEEK 6: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION**

Tuesday, February 13:

- Therborn, Gö. “Globalizations: Dimensions, Historical Waves, Regional Effects, Normative Governance.” *International Sociology* vol.15, no.2: (2000):151-179.
- Lang, Michael. “Globalization and Its History.” *The Journal of Modern History*, vol.78, no.4 (2006):899–931.

Thursday, February 15:

- Armstrong, David. “Globalization and the Social State.” *Review of International Studies*, vol.24, no.4 (1998):461–478.
- Holton, Robert. “The inclusion of the non-European world in international society, 1870s–1920s: evidence from global networks.” *Global Networks*, vol.5, no. 3 (2005):239-259.

## **WEEK 7: RESEARCH PROPOSAL PRESENTATIONS**

Tuesday, February 20: No Assigned Readings

- Presentation of Topics

Thursday, February 22: No Assigned Readings

- Presentation of Topics

## **WEEK 8: EUROPEAN UNIVERSALISM AND INTERNATIONAL LAW**

Tuesday, February 27:

- Wallerstein, Immanuel. *European Universalism: The Rhetoric of Power*. New York: The New Press, 2006. p.1-29.
- Buzan, Barry. “Universal Sovereignty.” In: Dunne, Tim and Christian Reus-Smit. *The Globalization of International Society*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017. p.227-247.

Thursday, March 1:

- Anghie, Antony. “Finding the Peripheries: Sovereignty and Colonialism in Nineteenth-Century International Law.” *Harvard International Law Journal*, vol.40, no.1 (1999):1-80.

**WEEK 9: HUMANITARIANISM, PEACE AND THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

Tuesday, March 6:

- Weitz, Eric D. "From the Vienna to the Paris System: International Politics and the Entangled Histories of Human Rights, Forced Deportations, and Civilizing Missions." *The American Historical Review*, no. 5 (2008):1313-1343.
- Caron, David D. "War and international adjudication: reflections on the 1899 peace conference." *American Journal of International Law* 94.1 (2000):4-30.

Thursday, March 8:

- Haskell, Thomas L. "Capitalism and the Origins of the Humanitarian Sensibility, Part 1." *The American Historical Review*, vol. 90, no. 2 (1985):339–361.
- Green, Abigail. "Humanitarianism in Nineteenth-Century Context: Religious, Gendered, National." *Historical Journal*, vol.57, no.4 (December 2014): 1157-1175.

**WEEK 10: INTERNATIONALISM IN AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

Tuesday, March 13:

- Iriye, Akira. *Cultural Internationalism and World Order*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997. p.1-50.
- Geyer, Martin H. and Johannes Paulmann. "Introduction: The Mechanics of Internationalism." In: Martin H. Geyer and Johannes Paulmann, eds. *The Mechanics of Internationalism: Culture, Society and Politics from the 1840s to the First World War*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. p.1-26.

Thursday, March 15:

- Calhoun, Craig. "'New Social Movements' of the Early Nineteenth Century." *Social Science History*, vol. 17, no. 3 (1993):385–427.
- Davies, Thomas Richard. "Educational Internationalism, Universal Human Rights, and International Organisation: International Relations in the Thought and Practice of Robert Owen." *Review of International Studies*, vol.40, no.4 (2014):729-751.

## WEEK 11: INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM AS A SYSTEM OF INSTITUTIONS

### Tuesday, March 20:

- Howland, Douglas. “An alternative mode of international order: The international administrative union in the nineteenth century.” *Review of International Studies*, vol.41, no.1 (2015):161-183.
- Weiß, Norman. “Institutionalised Co-operation on International Communication: The International Administrative Unions as a Means of Governing Globalisation Processes.” In: Löhr, Isabella and Roland Wenzlhuemer, eds. *The Nation State and Beyond*. Springer: Berlin, 2013. p.65-82.

### Thursday, March 22:

- Chatfield, Charles. “Intergovernmental and Nongovernmental Associations to 1945.” In: Smith, Jackie, Charles Chatfield, and Ron Pagnucco, eds. *Transnational social movements and global politics: Solidarity beyond the state*. Syracuse University Press, 1997. p.19-41.
- Fischer-Tané, Harald. “Global Civil Society and the Forces of Empire: The Salvation Army, British Imperialism, and the ‘Prehistory’ of NGOs.” In: Conrad, Sebastian and Dominic Sachsenmaier, eds. *Competing Visions of World Order: Global Moments and Movements, 1880s-1930s*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. p.29-68.

## WEEK 12: CONCLUSIONS

### Tuesday, March 27:

- Readings **TBD**

### Thursday, March 29: No Assigned Readings