

The American University in Cairo
Department of Political Science
Fall Semester 2020

Course Code & Title: POLS2405 | History and International Politics

Lecturer: Dr. Javed Maswood (javedmaswood@aucegypt.edu)

Office Hours: For appointments, email me, and I will reply with time and a zoom link.

Purpose and Objective:

This course is designed to give students a historical understanding of the development of the discipline of International relations/politics. As a separate field of study it is dated to the beginning of the 20th century, but its antecedents go further back in time. The focus however will be on the period and we will begin with the Peace of Westphalia. Along the way, I will refer to key concepts in International Relations, such as sovereignty, nation-state, colonialism etc. This course is useful for majors in political science and for those who intend to specialize in IR. Our key objective in this course is to acquire a good understanding of the concepts and vocabulary relevant to the discipline, and become familiar with the historical evolution of international politics.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, you will:

- Acquire an understanding of key terminology for describing and analyzing international politics, such as, “balance of power”, or “colonialism”;
- Know the main historical events that shaped international politics;
- Develop your ability to present, substantiate and defend complex arguments;
- Develop your ability to write a clear, well-argued and substantiated papers and exams.

Course Format

The course will be taught in virtual mode, both synchronous and asynchronous. The main lecture will be recorded on Panopto and made available to you through blackboard. You must view that lecture, do the readings and come prepared for the zoom discussion session. The discussion class should be interactive and I will grade your participation. For the zoom sessions, it is a requirement that you keep the video on, and give us your undivided attention.

Assessment:

Assessment for the course will be based on a combination of written assignments, oral presentations and examinations. Every student will be required to participate in zoom discussions and come with pre-prepared questions from assigned readings and lectures. There will be a mid-term and a final examination. Students will also prepare two position papers, each of around 750-1000 words. In the position paper, you should take a stand one way or another on the topic of your choice. The topics are given below:

Position paper Topics

1. The League of Nation failed to keep the peace because of a) weaknesses in the system, b) punitive treatment of Germany, c) absence of the United States d) an overall desire to avoid any future war leading to appeasement.
2. The French Revolution led to the formation of nation-states. Nationalism is the main cause of inter-state or intra-state conflict. Agree/Disagree.
3. The behavioral revolution in International Relations has produced significant intellectual breakthroughs. Agree/Disagree.
4. The non-aligned movement has little to show by way of success. Agree/Disagree.
5. Do political scientists use or abuse history?

In the position paper, you should take a stand and provide a rationale for that position. You should use evidence to support your position, validate your position with authoritative references, and identify the strengths and weaknesses of your position. In the introductory paragraph, please identify and state your position. In the main text, you should provide background information, supporting evidence or facts, incorporate a discussion of both sides of the issue. Finally, in the conclusion, you should summarize the main concepts and ideas. The two position papers should be submitted at the same time, and will become due in the middle of November.

Breakdown of Assessment Marks

Participation	10 percent	Mid Term Exam	20 percent
Position Paper 1	20 percent	Final Exam	30 percent
Position Paper 2	20 per cent		

Lecture Topics

Week I: Introduction: No required reading

Week 2: History and Political Science

Gaddis, John Lewis. 1997. "History, Theory, and Common Ground." *International Security*, 22(1): 75—85.

Week 3: IR Before the Twentieth Century – Westphalia and after

Wedgwood, Cicely V. 1938. *The Thirty Years War*. New York: New York Review of Books

Black, Jeremy. 2002. *European Warfare, 1494 – 1660*. London: Routledge. Chapter 7, pp. 129 – 166.

Week 4: IR Before the Twentieth Century -- From the French Revolution to World War I

Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan, 2019, *The making of global international relations: origins and evolution of IR at its centenary*, Introduction, Chapter 1, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Week 5: IR after World War I

Strachan, Hew. 2003. *The First World War*. New York: Penguin.

Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan, 2019, Chapter 2 and 3, *The making of global international relations: origins and evolution of IR at its centenary*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. <https://lib.aucegypt.edu/record=b2979896>

Week 6: IR after World War II

Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan, 2019, *The making of global international relations: origins and evolution of IR at its centenary*, Introduction, Chapter 1, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6.

Week 7: League of Nations and United Nations

Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan, 2019, *The making of global international relations: origins and evolution of IR at its centenary*, Introduction, Chapter 1, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3.

Week 8: The Behavioral Revolution in IR – COW and DON

Singer, J. David (1972). "The 'Correlates of War' Project: Interim Report and Rationale." *World Politics*, 24 (2): 243-270.

Frank Whelan Wayman, 'Rummel and Singer, DON and COW'.
https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-54463-2_9

Week 9: The Three Worlds and NAM – Decolonization

Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan, 2019, *The making of global international relations: origins and evolution of IR at its centenary*, Introduction, Chapter 1, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 5.

Week 10: Beyond Hegemony – Japan, China and the US

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, 2000, *The Decline and Fall of Empire*, Part 4, Empire, Harvard University Press.

Week 11: Non-State Actors in World Politics

Fred Halliday, 2001, *The Romance of the Non-state Actors*, In Daphne Josselin and William Wallace, *Non-State Actors in World Politics*, Chapter 2, pp. 21-37.

Week 12: Global IR

Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan, 2019, *The making of global international relations: origins and evolution of IR at its centenary*, Introduction, Chapter 1, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Week 13: Review and Final Exam