

POLS/HIST 2404 Global Politics and Europe in the
Twentieth Century – Spring 2017
Instructor: Ashraf El Sherif
Monday- Thursday 11:40 am- 1:00 pm WALEED C150
Office hours: Monday-Thursday
3:30-5:00 pm
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*I keep six honest serving men (They taught me all I knew);
Their names are what and Why and When and How and
Where and Who.*

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to a broad historical knowledge of the twentieth century politics and the special place of Europe in it. The long story of the 20th century witnessed huge and unprecedented transformations in politics, economy, society, culture, military, science, ideology and technology. The course would overview an interrelated set of processes, events, issues and actors including state-making, empire-formation, colonialism, imperialism, wars, peace, cold war, national liberation movements, racism, ideologies, nationalism, capitalism, socialism, communism, fascism, liberalism, conservatism, deterrence, self-independence, de-colonization, political theories, violence, revolutions, counter-revolutions, structures, religious politics, secularism, sectarianism power relations, economic systems, institutions, social movements, political parties, development, reform, alliances, integration, transnational movements and terrorism.

After a historical background highlighting the world and how it looked like by the late 19th century, the course will delineate the necessary framework to approach the 20th century World and European politics by discussing theories of power, empire and international relations, providing you with a conceptual framework with which you can choose to study history. Then we shall be telling the story of global politics in the

twentieth century and beyond; the story of German ascendance and defeat, emergence of the USSR, British and French decline during the first half of the century, rise of American supremacy, the cold war and the decolonization of Third World countries in the second half, and finally the end of the cold war. A special highlight on European transformations over the second half of the twentieth century will be due by the last part of the course. Finally, the course will profile the cases of Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East under the reigns of the post-cold war Post-cold war's new world order and the questions of the future.

COURSE PHILOSOPHY

A sage (Karl Jaspers) once said: "University life is no less dependent on students than on professors. The best professors flounder helplessly at a school where the student body is unfit. Hence, it is all up to the young people who are supposedly entitled to study. They must show themselves worthy of this privilege to the best of their ability."

This course has been organized on the premise that you are worthy of this privilege. The success of this course depends entirely on your continued and sustained participation. Thus, I ask that you be agile participants and intervene as often as possible in class discussion by posing questions and comments or even disagreements (based on additional or alternative readings or personal experiences).

In this course you will be exposed to a wide range of ideas, norms, preferences, and values different from your own. This exposure may force you to question, rethink (and if needed, abandon) your present "understanding" of world politics. Who knows by the end of the course you might feel that you have taken part in a serendipitous voyage of discovery!

The readings will introduce the students to some of the more important scholarship on the subject, and form the springboard for interactive class discussions. My role is to steer class discussion and engender an informal participatory class environment where we can all search collectively for the broader understanding of the subject matter at hand. Importantly, an excess of readings was given for each theme and students will be left with the choice of selecting from the given readings.

Please do not hesitate to drop by my office should you have problems with the course, or just want to talk. My office hours provide us with an opportunity to get to know each other better. So, it is incumbent upon you to take advantage of my office hours to pursue interests and concerns not raised in class. Students who may need special consideration because of any sort of disability should make an appointment to see me in private at the beginning of the semester.

ACADEMIC QUALITY

In addition to the above issue, my main priority now is to promote academic quality and make sure that students who come out of my classes meet the highest educational standards. This is a

shared responsibility of the instructor and the students. My part is to come to class prepared, update my lectures, be involved, address your questions, and be available during office hours. Your part is to come to class on time, do the readings in advance, raise questions and participate effectively in class discussions, turn in your assignments on time, and be involved. Let us all strive to fight mediocrity (According to Oxford Dictionary, a mediocre person is: indifferent, ordinary, common place, average, medium, third-rate, inferior, poor).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance: In view of the fact that my presentations will complement rather than reiterate the assigned readings, it is expected that you attend *all* class meetings. You will be held responsible for all the material we cover in readings and lectures. Attendance is also mandatory for all exams, and make-ups will be given only for bona fide emergencies (i.e., severe illness documented by a physician).

Participation: In addition to being physically present, I expect you to be mentally present as well! As such, you should complete all assigned readings *before* each class meeting, so that you are familiar with the concepts, facts, theories, and controversies with which we are dealing.

Exams: You will have two midterms and a final.

Book review: You have to write a 3000-3500 words comparative review of two books relevant to the course. Selection has to be approved by the instructor in advance

COURSE GRADE

Attendance & Participation	10%
1st Midterm	20%
2nd Midterm	20%
Book review	25%
Final Exam	25%

MAIN TEXTS:

William Keylor, *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond: An International History since 1900*, International fifth edition, Oxford University Press, 2010.

Best, Hanhimaki, Maiolo and Schulze. *International History of the Twentieth Century and Beyond*

COURSE OUTLINE

January 30th

Introduction and course overview

February 2nd -5th

Prologue: Late 19th century and Europe through the 20th century: Colonial empires and Paxa Britannica

Keylor, Prologue: pp.1-39

Best, Hanhimaki, Maiolo and Schulze. pp. 81-105

February 9th-16th

20th century world: Conceptual framework

V.I. Lenin, Imperialism is the Highest Stage of Capitalism. pp. 82-124

Antonio Negri and Michael Hardt. Empire. Cambridge, London: Harvard University Press. pp.1-42

Niall Fergusson, Civilization: The West and the Rest, pages TBA

_____, Empire : the rise and demise of the British world order and the lessons for global power, pages TBA

_____, Colossus : the price of America's empire, pages TBA

Immanuel Wallerstein, World-systems analysis : an introduction, pages TBA

Michel Foucault, Power/Knowledge, pages TBA

Edward Said, Orientalism, pages TBA

February 19th-23rd

Germany's first bid for European domination (1914-1918)

Keylor, chapters 1

Best, Hanhimaki, Maiolo and Schulze, pages TBA

February 26th –March 2nd

The Russian Revolution: the Rise of the Soviet Union

Leon Trotsky, History of the Russian revolution, pages TBA

March 6th

First midterm

March 9th -13th

Inter-war period: European uncertainties, emergence of fascism, failures of collective security , rise of American and Japanese supremacies and emergence of the modern Middle eastern state-system

Keylor, chapters 2, 3 and 4

Best, Hanhimaki, Maiolo and Schulze, pages TBA

Arendt, Hannah, Origins of Totalitarianism, chapters 1 and 2

March 16th -20th

Germany's second bid for World domination: Second World War and descent of the West

Keylor chapter 5

Best, Hanhimaki, Maiolo and Schulze, pages TBA

Ferguson, Neall, The war of the world : twentieth-century conflict and the descent of the West, pages TBA

March 23rd

Beginning of Cold war

Keylor chapter 8

Best, Hanhimaki, Maiolo and Schulze, pp. 216-243

March 27th

De-colonization in Asia and Africa

Keylor, chapter 14

Best, Hanhimaki, Maiolo and Schulze, pp. 107-129 and 404-425

Fanon, Franz, Wretched of the Earth, preface by Jean Paul Sartre, chapter 1 and conclusion

March 30th

Second Midterm

April 3rd -6th

Cold war in Europe, Asia and Latin America: From Confrontation to Detente

Keylor, chapters 9,10, 11

Best, Hanhimaki, Maiolo and Schulze, pp.271-290

Stanley Kubrick film, "Dr. Strangelove: Or how I learned to stop worrying and love the bomb"

April 27th

Cold war: Last gasp

Keylor, chapter 12 and16

Best, Hanhimaki, Maiolo and Schulze, pp. 480-498

May 4th

The Rise of a New Europe (1945-2000): Social and Cultural revolutions, ideological conflicts and regional integration

Best, Hanhimaki, Maiolo and Schulze, pp.501-519

Tony Judt, Post-War: A History of Europe since 1945, pages TBA

Keylor, chapter 17

May 8th

Asia: The New Giant?

Keylor, chapters 15 and 18

May 11th

Africa: The lost Continent?

Keylor, chapter 19

May 15th

Middle East: Elusive dreams and New World disorder? Conclusions

Keylor, chapter 20

John Keay's: Sowing the Wind: the Mismanagement of the Middle East, chapters 14-16, pp. 389-451

Lewis, Bernard. *What Went Wrong*. The Atlantic Monthly, January 2002

Gilbert Achcar, The People wants: A radical exploration of the Arab Uprisings, pages TBA

Ashraf El-Sherif, Egypt's Post-Mubarak Predicament, Carnegie, 2014

Other readings TBA

Recommended

Adam Hanieh, Lineages of Revolt: Issues of Contemporary Capitalism in the Middle East, pages TBA

Marc Lynch, the Arab Uprisings: The Unfinished revolutions of the New Middle East, pages TBA