

The American University in Cairo

Department of Political Science Spring Semester 2021

Course Code & Title: POLS2405| History and International Politics

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

Lecture Times: Mondays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:15

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

Communication: All emails must include course code/course title at start of message. I may not respond to emails without course code/course title

Lecture Format: Generally, we will do one asynchronous lecture on Monday followed by zoom discussion on Thursday. More than six zoom absences will lead to a grade of F for the course, but only participation, not attendance, will earn you the 10 percent allocated for participation. Only the two exams, mid-term and final, will be on campus, provided circumstances permit.

Purpose and Objective:

This course is designed to give students a historical understanding of the development of the discipline of International Relations (IR). We will also explore some of the main theoretical perspectives to help us make sense of international events. As a field of study, IR 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:

1. Acquire an understanding of key terminologies for describing and analyzing international relations, such as, “balance of power”, or “colonialism”;
2. Know the main historical events that have shaped international relations;
3. Understand major contemporary issues in international relations;
4. Develop your ability to present, substantiate and defend complex arguments;
5. Develop your ability to write a clear, well-argued and substantiated papers.

Textbook: No prescribed text, but many of the readings will be from Acharya and Buzan, as listed below.

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 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, not including citations and references/bibliography. **YOU MUST NOT EXCEED THE LIMIT OF 1000 WORDS.** In the position paper, you should take a stand one way or another on the topic of your choice. You can submit the two paper at any time between weeks 5 and 11. I will not accept anything submitted after week 11. The topics are given below:

Position paper Topics

1. The League of Nation failed to keep the peace after the First World War. The United Nations has been more successful but do we credit peace to the UN or to nuclear deterrence? Take a position and explain.
2. The Treaty of Westphalia is an important milestone in world politics. What did it produce and what did it destroy?
3. The behavioral revolution in International Relations has produced significant intellectual breakthroughs. Agree/Disagree.
4. What was the rationale behind the non-aligned movement (NAM)? Can a ‘movement’ be rightly considered a non-state actor (NSA) with influence in international politics? What does the NAM have to show by way of success? (Remember that a NSA is usually

institutionalized and has continued presence over time)

5. History is the laboratory for political scientists. Do political scientists use or abuse history?
6. What are the main assumptions and findings of the Liberal world-view? What is its relevance in the contemporary period?

In the position paper, you demonstrate evidence of research by way of citations, footnotes or end notes. The essays must be well written and you should provide evidence to support your position, validate your position with authoritative references, and identify the strengths and weaknesses of your position. Spelling and grammatical mistakes will be penalized. 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. **Every written submission must have a title page with full details, and papers have to have full references and citations. Do not cite ANY web-based sources. Rely only on ebooks and ejournals that are available in the AUC library.**

I grade on the following scale: A (94 and above); A- (90-93); B+ (87-89); B (84-86); B- (80-83); C+ (77-79); C (74-76); C- (70-73); D+ (60-69); D (50-59); F (below 50)

Breakdown of Assessment Marks

Assessment	Weight	Learning Objectives Assessed
Position Paper 1	20 percent	2,3,4,5
Position Paper 2	20 percent	2,3,4,5
Mid-Term Exam	20 percent	2,3,4
Final Exam	30 percent	2,3,4
Participation	10 percent	1

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: War and Peace (N-deterrence)

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: Cold War and Nuclear Deterrence

Weltman, J., 'Nuclear Devolution and World Order', *World Politics*, Vol. 32, Issue 2, January 1980.

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: Global Issues 1: Paris Climate Accord (zoom discussion only)

Week 13: Global Issues 2: Nuclear Proliferation (zoom discussion only)

Week 14: Review and Final Exam