

**Oberlin College
Department of History**

History 454: International Relations Theory for Historians

Fall 2013

Wednesdays, 2:30-4:20 PM

Instructor: Leonard V. Smith

E-mail: lvsmith@oberlin.edu

Office: Rice 317; Phone: x58950

Office Hours: Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 1:30-4:00; Wednesdays, 9:00-12:00; and by appointment

It is tempting to think that historians and political scientists have a great deal to say to each other. But in fact, the reverse is commonly the case. Historians sometimes find limiting political scientists' fixation on stuffing "the facts" into rigid theoretical models. For their part, political scientists can find frustrating historians' abiding attachment to narrative, and the ambiguous claims of narrative on "truth." Yet historians of international relations rely constantly on international relation (IR) theory, and most political scientists can hardly make do without historical examples. This course is about exploring this curious disciplinary divide, and rethinking how the two disciplines can inform each other.

This course unfolds in two not-quite-equal parts. In the first part of the course, we will be working our way as historians through the broad schools of IR theory. Our goal is not to become experts, but to arrive at a common language of analysis and to think about how IR theory itself has been conditioned by historical events. We will also consider what kinds of historical narratives are implicit in various theoretical constructs. In the second half of the course, we will examine a variety of important, recent works in "international history," the successor to "diplomatic history." This part of the class will focus on how historians draw intentionally or unintentionally from varieties of IR theory.

Requirements:

The format of the course is discussion. Regular and intensive participation by each member of the class is essential to the success of the enterprise. Though grading remains more an art than a science, approximately 50 percent of each student's final grade will depend on her or his ability to contribute to class discussion.

This course has no prerequisite, though some background in international relations, or United States or European history, would be helpful. For the second half of the course, it is particularly important to have a working knowledge of the Cold War. I am happy to help with general historical background as needed.

I. Readings:

The readings for the first part of the course have been made available in .pdf format on Blackboard.

The following books have been ordered through the Oberlin Bookstore for purchase:

Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism* (2007)

Marc Trachtenberg, *A Constructed Peace: The Making of a European Settlement, 1945-1963* (1999)

Niall Ferguson, *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power* (2004)

Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (2005)

Matthew Connelly, *A Diplomatic Revolution: Algeria's Fight for Independence and the Origins of the Post-Cold War Era* (2000)

Jeremi Suri, *Power and Protest: Global Revolution and the Rise of Detente* (2005)

Kupchan, Charles, *No One's World: The West, the Rising Rest, and the Coming Global Turn* (2012)

II. Presentations:

Students should expect to make several short (10-15 minute) presentations regularly over the course of the semester. The purpose of the presentations is to lay out the main issues of the assigned readings so as to initiate discussion. The presentations should lay out the methodologies at work in the readings, and begin to critique them. At least two and often three students will present per week. Collaboration among students presenting in a given week is encouraged. Particularly if two or three students are presenting on the same book, they should coordinate the content of their presentations in order to avoid overlap. I am happy to assist in dividing labor among presenters.

III. Papers:

The writing component of the course comprises three short (4-5 page) essays. These may be drawn from students' presentations, though this is not a requirement. As with the presentations, the purpose of the papers is to explain and critique methodologies of writing the history of international relations. No reading beyond the assignments will be required for these papers. Students must write one paper on IR theory before Fall

Break, and a second paper by Thanksgiving. The third paper is due at the end of the course, on a reading or readings of the student's choice.

Rewrites will be allowed for the first two papers if students are not satisfied with their grades. Rewrites are due one week after the original paper is handed back. The rewrite grade will be recorded as the final grade for the paper. Students who wish to rewrite their papers may wish to have a conference with me to discuss problems with the original version. There is more to rewriting a paper than changing a sentence here and there.

Schedule of Classes and Readings:

PART I: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY

September 4 Introduction

Readings (made available before class):

Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," *Foreign Policy*, No. 145 (Nov-Dec. 2004): pp. 52-62.

September 11 Realism and Neo-Realism

Readings:

Hans J. Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace* (1949), Part One: International Politics: A Dual Approach (pp. 3-9); Part Four, Limitations of International Power: The Balance of Power, Chapter IX-XI, (pp.125-166)

Kenneth N. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (1979), "Anarchic Structures and Balances of Power" (pp.102-128)

John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (2001), Chapter I, "Introduction," and Chapter II, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power," (pp. 1-54)

September 15 (Make-up Class) Liberalism and Neo-Liberalism

Readings:

Primary Documents:

Woodrow Wilson, "Fourteen Points" Speech, (January 1918)

League of Nations Covenant (1919)

United National General Assembly, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History," (1989)

Secondary Sources:

Joseph S. Nye, Jr., and Robert Keohane, "Transnational Relations and World Politics: An Introduction," *International Organization*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (Summer 1971): pp. 329-49

John Mueller, *Retreat from Doomsday: The Obsolescence of Major War* (1989), "Introduction: History's Greatest Nonevent" (pp. 3-13); "Conclusions" (pp. 217-65)

September 25 IR Theory and Political Economy

Readings:

Immanuel Wallerstein, "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 16, no. 4 (Sept. 1974): pp. 387-415

Robert Gilpin, *The Political Economy of International Relations* (1987), Ch. 3, "The Dynamics of the International Political Economy," pp. 65-117

October 2 Constructivism

Readings:

Ted Hopf, "The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations Theory," *International Security*, vol.23, no. 1 (Summer 1998): pp. 171-200

Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics," *International Organization*, vol. 46 (Spring 1992); pp. 391-425

Alexander Wendt, "The State as Person in International Theory," *Review of International Studies*, vol. 30 (2004): pp. 289-316

FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

PART II: INTERNATIONAL HISTORY

October 9 The Long Shadow of Realism

Readings: Marc Trachtenberg, *A Constructed Peace: The Making of a European Settlement, 1945-1963* (1999)

FIRST PAPER DUE

October 16 The West Outside the West

Readings: Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism* (2007)

Fall Break!!

October 30 Required Lecture by Charles Kupchan, Georgetown University

“*Navigating Global Change: Sustaining Order in No One’s World*”
King 341, 4:30 PM

November 6 The Present-ness of the Past

Readings: Charles Kupchan, *No One’s World: The West, The Rising Rest, and the Coming Global Turn* (2012)

November 13 IR and Imperial Nostalgia

Readings: Niall Ferguson, *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power* (2004)

November 20 The Cold War as World War

Readings: Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (2005)

November 27 No Class (Day before Thanksgiving)

SECOND PAPER DUE BY 4:00 PM WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

December 4 Decolonization and the World

Readings: Matthew Connelly, *A Diplomatic Revolution: Algeria’s Fight for Independence and the Origins of the Post-Cold War Era* (2000)

December 11 Challenging the Cold War Order

Readings: Jeremi Suri, *Power and Protest: Global Revolution and the Rise of Detente* (2005)

FINAL ESSAY DUE AT THE TIME DETERMINED BY THE COLLEGE MASTER
SCHEDULE FOR SEMINARS: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 11:00 AM

Additional Ground Rules:

1. Deadlines and page-limit requirements are to be taken most seriously. I am not in the business of persecuting students if a genuine problem exists, but in principle I strongly dislike giving extensions. Normally, I take off 1/3 of a letter grade for every 24 hours a paper is overdue.
2. Three excuses for requesting extensions will never be acceptable: 1) a self-defined character flaw of procrastination; 2) extracurricular activities, including performances and political activism; 3) work in other classes. Two possible exceptions exist for unacceptable excuse #3. I am prepared to exercise some indulgence concerning students doing Seniors Honors projects or, in the case of Conservatory students, students playing Senior recitals. This is because of the "once in a lifetime" character of these projects.
3. Papers must be word-processed, double-spaced with one-inch margins. I reserve the right to return any paper that is not legible. Papers must be submitted in hard copy
4. All written work at Oberlin College is covered by the Honor Code. No graded essay will be read until the Honor Code is signed.
5. All written work for the course must be completed in order to pass. That is to say, if two instead of three papers are turned in, a student will fail the entire course. Incompletes are governed by the rules of Oberlin College; unofficial incompletes will not be given.
6. No permission is granted to upload ANY materials from this course on to a third party web site. Such materials are for the use of students in this class only.
7. Electronic devices are permitted in class only for purposes of accessing the readings. Mobile phones may not be used in class for any reason.