

**Oberlin College
Department of History**

History 454: International Relations Theory for Historians

Fall 2010

Wednesdays, 2:30-4:20 PM

Instructor: Leonard V. Smith

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:00-2:30; Wednesdays, 9:00-12:00; Thursdays 12:00-2:30; 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. Students are not required to print them out, but they are strongly encouraged

Eric Foner, *The Origins of Antislavery Nationalism* (2007)

Manu Tupan, *The Making of a Modern State: The Making of a Modern State, 1945-1963* (1999)

Niall Ferguson, *The Cash Nexus: Money and Power in the Modern World* (2002)

John R. Heilbrunn, *The Global Cold War: Third World Conflicts and the Making of Our Times* (2005)

Matthew Connolly, *A Diplomatic Revolution: Algeria's Fight for Independence and the Origins of the Post-Cold War World* (2002)

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

Matthew Connolly, *Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Control World Population* (2008)

II. Presentations:

short (10-15 minute) presentations
purpose of the presentations is to lay out
to initiate discussion. The presentations

should lay out the methodologies and work on the readings, and begin to provide more

at least two and often three students will present per week. Collaboration among students

to present the content of their presentations in

presentations on the same book, they should coordinate with the instructor

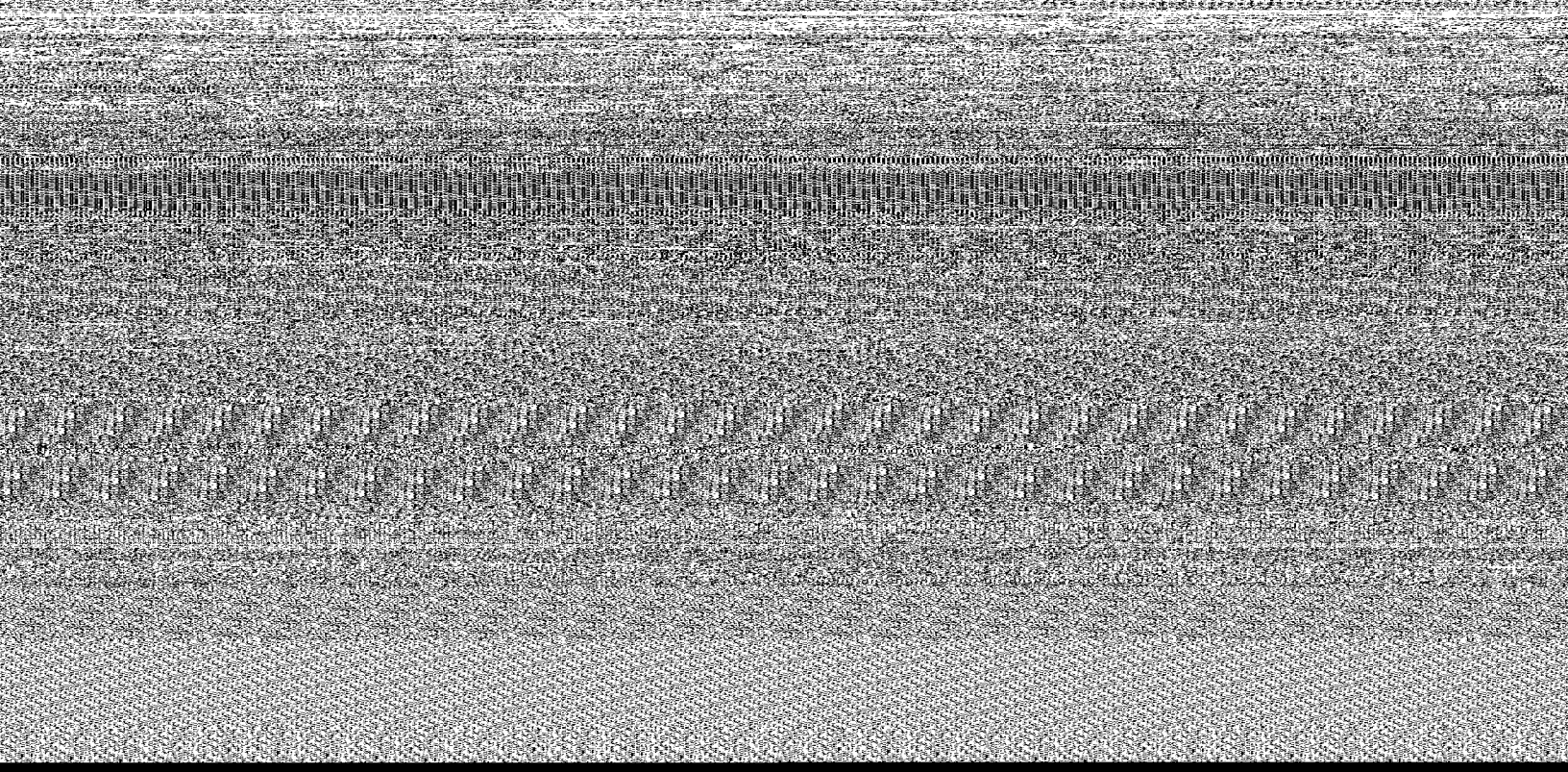
Students should expect to make several
regularly over the course of the semester. The

the main issues of the assigned readings so as to

III. Papers:

Writing List of Synonyms
IR they before ESL
Break, and a second paper by Thanksgiving. A third paper is due at the end of the

sified with
The
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.



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 29 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 6 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 13

PART II: INTERNATIONAL HISTORY

October 13 The Long Shadow of Realism

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

October 20 The West Outside the West

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

Fall Break!!

November 3 Money Changes Everything?

Readings: Niall Ferguson, *The Cash Nexus: Money and Power in the Modern World* (2002)

November 10 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 17 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)

SECOND PAPER DUE BY 4:00 PM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

November 24 No Class (Day before Thanksgiving, and instructor is in Australia)

December 1 Challenging the Cold War Order

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

December 8 International History: Present and Future

Readings: Matthew Connelly, *Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Control World Population* (2008)

FINAL ESSAY DUE AT THE TIME DETERMINED BY THE COLLEGE MASTER
SCHEDULE FOR SEMINARS: MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 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. E-mailed papers will not be accepted, except under special circumstances determined by the instructor.
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.