
PSC 578
International Relations History and Theory

Fall 1999

Tues 11:05-1:45, Harkness 329

Prof. Curtis S. Signorino

325 Harkness Hall

Office Hours: Thursday 1:00-2:30

sign@troi.cc.rochester.edu

273-4760

PURPOSE: The primary objective of this course is to provide advanced graduate students with a survey of international relations history, focusing on European and U.S. diplomatic history from 1763 through the end of the Cold War. Students will be expected to critique current international relations theory based on the history covered. We will also assess whether alternative formal methods might be used to model international politics better.

PREREQUISITES: This is an advanced graduate course, intended for students who have taken the international relations field seminar and a course in game theory. It is assumed that students have read the major works on international relations theory, can identify their authors and main arguments, and can critique them. Students are also assumed to be familiar with game-theoretic concepts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: There are five course requirements. For each, the percentage of the course grade is shown in parentheses.

1. **Timeline and dictionary** (15%). Each student must pick one period on the syllabus and construct a timeline and dictionary for that period. The student will present (and distribute in hardcopy) the timeline and dictionary to the class. The timeline should consist of a chronology of the events for the period. The dictionary must contain brief summaries of the “important” people, places, events, movements, concepts, etc pertaining to the period.
2. **Summary of available research resources** (15%). Each student must pick one period (different from the timeline period) and document the research resources available for that period. These may be data sets, primary source books/articles/treaties, secondary source books or articles, web-based resources, etc – anything that would help an ambitious graduate student empirically test their hypotheses via data analysis or case studies. A summary/description should accompany all resources – e.g., What particular data and observations are in a relevant data set? Why is a given primary or secondary source useful? The student will present (and distribute in hardcopy) the summary to the class.
3. **Model of a period** (15%). Each student must pick yet another period (different than the two above) and sketch a formal model for that period. The model could be an extensive form game, a dynamic game, an evolutionary game, an arms race model based on differential equations, whatever. *The model need not be solved – just specified.* The student will present the model to

the class (but need not distribute it in hardcopy, except to the instructor).

4. **Research paper** (50%). A research paper (~25 pages) will be due to me by 8am on Monday, Dec 20. The paper may address anything relevant to the course. For example, the paper might construct and solve a model for a particular period, using the history for illustration/motivation. A model for multiple periods might be constructed, solved, and illustrated. An existing theory/model might be tested using detailed case studies. Alternatively, two (or more) competing histories might be compared and then judged with reference to primary sources. Students need not avoid the periods they chose for the other assignments. Each student will present their project on the last day of class. No incompletes will be given for the research paper. Late papers will be penalized a half-grade for each day they are late.
5. **Class participation** (5%). Students are expected to come to class prepared, ready to discuss the readings and to critique IR theory.

READINGS: The course readings will be drawn from a number of books. The following are currently available at the bookstore.

Required texts:

- Larry Addington. *Patterns of War Since the Eighteenth Century*. Indiana Univ.
- John Lewis Gaddis. *We Now Know*. Oxford Univ.
- Raymond Garthoff. *Détente and Confrontation*. Brookings Institute.
- Paul Kennedy. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. Random House.
- Henry Kissinger. *Diplomacy*. Touchstone.
- Paul Schroeder. *Transformation of European Politics, 1763-1848*. Oxford Univ.
- Fritz Stern. *Varieties of History*. Random House.
- A.J.P. Taylor. *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe (SME), 1848-1918*. Oxford Univ.
- A.J.P. Taylor. *The Origins of the Second World War (OSWW)*. Touchstone.

Not required, but really really recommended:

- Norman Rich. *Great Power Diplomacy, 1814-1914*. McGraw Hill.

Recommended text:

- Robert Rotberg and Theodore Rabb. *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*. Cambridge Univ.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

- 1. Course Organization** 9/7
- 2. History and Theory** 9/14
 - Stern: (~241 pages)
 - Introduction
 - Part I
 - 2. The Critical Method
 - 3. The Ideal of Universal History
 - 6. History as Biography
 - 8. Positivist History and Its Critics
 - 9. Historical Materialism
 - 13. An American Definition of History
 - Part II
 - 6. Economic History
 - 7. Historical Relativism
 - 9. History and the Social Sciences
 - 12. Time, History, and the Social Sciences
 - 13. Social History
 - 14. A New Economic History
 - Balance of power (Morgenthau). Neorealism (Waltz). Power transition (Organski). Hegemonic stability (Gilpin). Expected utility (BdM). Neoliberalism (Keohane). Domestic politics. Misperception (Jervis).
 - Recommended: In Rotberg & Rabb: Gilpin, Waltz, BdM, Levy, Jervis (pp. 15-126).
- 3. 18th-Century Europe and the French Revolutionary Wars, 1763-1802** 9/21
 - Schroeder, Ch 1-4 (pp. 1-230)
 - McKay and Scott, Ch 7-10 (pp. 201-302)
 - Kennedy, Ch 3 (pp. 115-126)
 - Addington, Ch 1 (pp. 19-26)
 - Total: 349 pages
- 4. Napoleonic Wars, 1802-1815** 9/28
 - Schroeder, Ch 5-11 (pp. 231-516)
 - McKay and Scott, Ch 11-12 (pp. 303-344)
 - Kennedy, Ch 3 (pp. 126-139)
 - Addington, Ch 1 (pp. 27-42)
 - Total: 354 pages
- 5. Congress of Vienna, 1815-1848** 10/5
 - Schroeder, Ch 12-17, (pp. 517-804)
 - Kissinger, Ch 4, (pp. 78-102)
 - Kennedy, Ch 4 (pp. 143-169)
 - Total: 337 pages

- Recommended: Rich, Ch 1-6 (pp. 1-100)

6. Crimea, Italian Unification, and German Unification, 1848-1871 10/12

- Taylor, *SME*. Ch 1-10 (pp. 1-227)
- Kissinger, Ch 5 (pp. 103-136)
- Kennedy, Ch 4 (pp. 170-193)
- Addington, Ch 2 (pp. 43-67, 94-101)
- Total: 313 pages
- Recommended: Rich, Ch 7-11 (pp. 101-217)

7. European Stability(?), Alliances, and Imperialism, 1871-1905 10/19

- Taylor, *SME*. Ch 11-18 (pp. 228-426)
- Kissinger, Ch 6 (pp. 137-167)
- Addington, Ch 3 (pp. 102-131)
- Total: 257 pages
- Recommended: Rich, Ch 12-19 (pp. 218-363)

8. World War I, 1905-1918 10/26

- Taylor, *SME*. Ch 19-23 (pp. 427-568)
- Kissinger, Ch 7-8 (pp. 168-217)
- Addington, Ch 3-4 (pp. 132-141)
- Kennedy, Ch 5 (pp. 194-274)
- Total: 279 pages
- Recommended: Rich, Ch 20-26 (pp. 364-465)

9. World War II, 1919-1945 11/2

- *Taylor. *OSWW*. Entire book (~280 pages).
- **Kissinger, Ch 9-16 (pp. 218-422)
- Kennedy, Ch 6 (pp. 275-346)
- Addington, Ch 5-6 (pp. 172-208)
- Total: *387 pages, **311 pages

10. Cold War, 1946-1969 11/9

- *Gaddis, Entire book (~295 pages).
- **Kissinger, Ch 17-24 (pp. 423-619)
- Addington, Ch 7 (pp. 266-297)
- Kennedy, Ch 7 (pp. 347-395)
- Total: *374 pages, **275 pages

11. Cold War, 1970-1976 11/16

- *Garthoff, Ch 1-16 (pp. 1-622)
- **Kissinger, Ch 25-29 (pp. 620-761)

- Addington, Ch 7 (pp. 298-306)
- Total: *630 pages, **149 pages

12. Cold War, 1977-1992

11/23

- Garthoff, Ch 17-29 (pp. 623-1180)
- Kissinger, Ch 30 (pp. 762-803)
- Addington, Ch 7 (pp. 307-326)
- Kennedy, Ch 7 (pp. 395-437)
- Total: 659 pages

13. Reassessing International Relations Theory

11/30

14. Student Paper Presentations

12/7

Papers due

Monday 12/20, 8am