

## International History

Academic year 2019-20

### Evolution of the International System, c. 1815 to the Present

HI102 - Spring - 6 ECTS  
Mondays 10:15-12:00 / P3#506

### Course Description

This seminar offers a broad survey the history of modern international relations in a post/colonial perspective, reflected both in the historical topics and themes picked up for emphases, and the approach to the readings. Against a broad background of the political, economic, social, and intellectual history of the period from the end of the Napoleonic wars till virtually the present, we will explore the interplay of domestic and external factors in shaping states and state policies, the international system, and conflicts therein. The course will also address perspectives on the emergence, role, and decline of the great powers and their relations with the rest of the world.

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This syllabus is subject to revision

## Evaluation

### (1) 50%: Essay, 3000/5000 words

You are encouraged to pair up for the essay. Papers will be presented and discussed in class during the last two sessions of the seminar. The essay can be in the form of a:

→ **Research paper**, historical or contemporary, relating to the seminar. The topic has to be proposed and agreed upon by Week 4, 9 March.

Or

→ **Critical analysis of a 'classic'**. You can choose one text from a list of books related to the subject of the seminar (see list below). The essay must focus on that text but it is not meant to be a simple review/description of its contents. The main goal should be to analyze the historical context in which the book was written: a) how the ideas of the book stem from/are linked with concurrent historical events; b) the short- and long-term impact of the book on historiography, public opinion and international politics; c) the relevance of the book within the life/career trajectory of the author. The book choice has to be

communicated by Week 4, 9 March. We may also consider a 'classic' from outside the book list that is related to the seminar. Other forms of (individual) creative written output relating to the seminar may also be possible.

**Schedule and deadlines:**

Paper topics/book choice: **9 March**

500 word abstracts with references: **30 March**

Presentations: **18 and 25 May** (presentation drafts and slides to be circulated by 16h00 on **16 and 23 May respectively**)

Revised papers: **30 May** (16h00)

**(2) 30%: Active participation in the debate on the movie *Burn! (Queimada)***

The in-class – Week 9 – screening of the movie *Burn!* (1969, directed by Gillo Pontecorvo, starring Marlon Brando and with music by Ennio Morricone) will highlight and exemplify some key questions of the seminar. [See trailer here](#)  
You will have 1 week to prepare for a dedicated debate during the class in Week 10. The discussion could be in a 'talk-show' mode.

In view of the discussion, you are strongly encouraged to complement the movie with the reading of Aimé Césaire's play *The Tragedy of King Christophe* (French or. Ed. 1963; latest Engl. Ed. 2015). The English version will be available in pdf on the Moodle page of the course.

Overall, the evaluation will also include your ability to find original ways to integrate the debate with additional historiographical, philosophical, or literary material relevant to the issues emerging from the movie.

**(3) 20%: Class participation**

'Class participation' covers regular attendance, engaged and reflective participation based on the readings, feedback on your colleagues' presentations.

**PROVISIONAL BOOK LIST**

- C. L. R. James, *The Black Jacobins* (1938) **972.94 HEIA 122872**
- Fanon, *Les damnés de la terre* (1961) **325.8 HEIA 39165**
- Hobson, *Imperialism: A Study* (1902) **327.2 HEIA 11826**
- Lenin, *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism* (1917) **335 HEIA 41027**
- Du Bois, *The World and Africa* (1946)
- Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations* (1948) **327(035) HEIA 7860**
- Schmitt, *The Nomos of the Earth* (1950)
- Halévy, *Essai sur l'accélération de l'histoire* (1948) **901 HALE 2<sup>e</sup> édition**
- Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* (1972) **325.3 (6) HEIA 109779**
- Fukuyama, *The End of History and the Last Man* (1992) **930 HEIA 9644**
- Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century 1914-1991* (1994) **932 HEIA 7454**
- Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* (1996) **327(001) HEIA 9897**
- Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe* (2000) **930(4) HEIA 23056**
- Negri, Hardt, *Empire* (2000) **327(001) HEIA 23879**
- Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery* (1944) **326(42) HEIA 73178**

## Syllabus

### Week 1 / 17 February 2019 / Introduction

### Week 2 / 24 February 2019 / Framing the World

This class should help us take a long view of colonial/modern Western perspectives of the modern world order and relations therein.

1. Robert Cooper, *The Post-modern State and the World Order* (London: Demos, 2000)

### Week 3 / 2 March 2019 / Revolutions and reactions

We will explore here the significance of 'revolutions' in European history and their deployment as interpretive frames for the rest of the world. So, what really were these European 'revolutions' and how did they work to support Western dominance?

1. Christopher Bayly, *Imperial Meridian: the British Empire and the World* (Harlow: Longman, 1989) [Chapter 6]
2. Jonathan Sperber, *Revolutionary Europe, 1780-1950* (London: Longman, 2000) [Chapter 6]
3. Arno J. Mayer, *The Persistence of the Old Regime: Europe to the Great War* (London: Croom Helm, 1981) [Chapter 3]

### Week 4 / 9 March 2019 / Enlightenments and realignments

How was the world viewed in the early Enlightenment? How did these views and attitudes change by the middle of the nineteenth century?

1. Jennifer Pitts, *A Turn to Empire: The Rise of Imperial Liberalism in Britain and France*, Princeton, Princeton UP, 2005, chapter 8, 'Conclusion' (pp. 240-57)
2. Lisa Lowe, *The Intimacies of Four Continents*, Durham NC, Duke UP, 2015, chapter 4, 'The Ruses of Liberty' (pp. 101-33)

### Week 5 / 16 March 2019 / Colonialism and Empire

How did these views and attitudes matter? How can we also more broadly understand late-nineteenth century colonialism and empires?

1. Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Empire, 1875-1914* (New York: Vintage, 1989) [Chapter 3]
2. Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper, *Empires in World History: Power and the Politics of Difference* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP, 2010) [Chapter 10]

### Week 6 / 23 March 2019 / The Long War 1914-1945

How can perspectives from the colonies inform our understanding of the two catastrophic world wars of the twentieth century? What in turn do the wars tell us about the world of colonialism and empires?

1. Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes: A History of the World, 1914-1991* (New York: Vintage, 1994) [Chapters 1 and 3]
2. Burbank and Cooper, *Empires in World History*, [Chapter 12]
3. Mark Mazower, *Governing the World: the History of an Idea* (New York: Penguin, 2012) [Chapter 6]

### Week 7 / 30 March 2019 / Empires and the postwar order

In this class we will explore continuities and discontinuities between the world of empires and the world of nation states. What changed and how?

1. Burbank and Cooper, *Empires in World History*, [Chapter 13]
2. Mazower, *Governing the World*, [Chapters 7 and 10]

#### **Week 8 / 6 April 2019 / Cold war and aftermath**

How did the cold war play into these transformations and affect them?

1. Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2007) [Chapters 3-4]
2. Mazower, *Governing the World*, [Chapter 12]

#### **Week 9 / 20 April 2019 / Movie screening: *Burn!***

#### **Week 10 / 27 April 2019 / Discussion on *Burn!***

#### **Week 11 / 4 May 2019 / Empire and sovereignty**

The first of two related thematic classes, here we try to understand the mutual fostering of imperial rule and modern conceptions of sovereignty

1. Lauren Benton, *A Search for Sovereignty* (Cambridge UP, 2010) [Chapter 6]
2. Siba Grovogui, *Sovereigns, Quasi-sovereigns, and Africans: Race and Self-determination in International Law* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996) [Chapter 3]

#### **Week 12 / 11 May 2019 / Colony and Nation**

One outcome was the emergence of nation states on the heels of the retreat of formal colonial rule. What did nation states mean for the nature and distribution of power in the international system?

1. John D. Kelly and Martha Kaplan, "'My ambition is higher than independence': US power, the UN world, the nation-state, and their critics", in Prasenjit Duara, ed., *Decolonization: Perspectives from Then and Now* (New York: Routledge, 2004)
2. Sundhya Pahuja, *Decolonizing International Law: Development, Economic Growth and the Politics of Universality* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2011) [Chapter 3]

#### **Week 13 / 18 May 2019 / Presentations**

#### **Week 14 / 25 May 2019 / Presentations / Review and reflections**