

HIST311 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: 1890s-1950s

WINTER 2019

**HISTORY DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
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TIME AND LOCATION: THURSDAYS 02:30PM-05:20PM DWE1515

OFFICE HOURS AND LOCATION: THURSDAYS, NOON-02:00PM, PAS1236

The present course surveys the evolution of international relations from the European *fin de siècle*, 1890s, through WWI and WWII, to the dawn of the Cold War and the 1956 Suez Crisis. Twelve transformative historical events act as an organizing framework to understand the following dynamics: competition for global hegemony between colonial empires and the newly rising powers, the struggle for a rule-based international order, the rise of Cold War Superpowers, and the emergence of new actors in global diplomacy, namely, multinationals as global corporate actors, anti-colonial movements and non-governmental actors (NGOs). At the core of the survey lies an appraisal of how these events and the interaction between the states and the emerging NGOs (from the anti-slavery, suffragette, and peace activists to the international labour, agrarian and student movements) caused such tectonic shifts in classic diplomacy whose *longue durée* impact is still felt today. Students grasp a more sensory and “up-close” understanding of the said events by viewing, and critically engaging with, an array of audio-visual primary sources, i.e., historical film rails, TV and radio broadcasts, and telegram and telex communiqués, and examine the precursory role of modern mass electric media and telecommunication technologies in creating the global village, complicating international diplomacy, and sometimes, empowering the nascent global civil society. For major topics and organization of the course, please look at the detailed outline below.

Assessment:

Attendance and Participation: 15%

4 Multiple Choice+Short Answer Open-Book Online Quizzes (solely based on glossary of terms on the Learn): 40% (10% Each)

500 Word Annotated Research Proposal: 10%

2000 Word Research Essay: 20%

Written Final Exam: 15%

Course Material: Lectures Slides and Glossary of Concepts plus select number of additional articles on the Learn + Course Textbook: Antony Best et al., International History of the Twentieth Century and Beyond 3rd ed. London: Routledge, 2015.

The Outline

1. Peace: Between Mobilized Deterrence and Struggle for an International Rule-based Order
 - i. Dunant-Von Suttner: The International Red Cross and Pacifist Movements
 - ii. The Russo-American Initiative for the International Court of Justice

2. Rise of the Asian Dragon and the Balkan's Quagmire
 - i. Anglo-Japanese Alliance of 1902 and the Russo-Japanese War of 1905
 - ii. The Anglo-French *Entente Cordiale* and the 1907 Anglo-Russian Treaty
 - iii. 1911 Franco-German Conflict over Morocco
 - iv. The Balkan Wars

3. 1914: Assassination in Sarajevo, Guns of August
 - i. “State-sponsored” Terrorism, Anarchism, and the European Peace

- ii. Gallipoli and the Armenian Genocide
 - iii. Sykes-Picot: Arab Revolt and rise of the New Middle East
 - iv. Secret State and Humanitarian Diplomacy for Peace during the War
4. 1919: Wilson's Dreams and the League of Nations
 - i. League's First Challenge and the first international IGOs and NGOs
 - ii. The Redline Agreement: Anglo-French Powers, Oil Multinationals, and the Middle East
 - iii. Anglo-American Rivalry over Oil in the Middle East
 - iv. League's Intervention in the Oil Dispute between Britain and Persia
 5. The Three-Pronged Rise of Fascism: Death of the League of Nations by a 1,000 Cuts
 - i. Fascist, leftist, and humanitarian Intervention in the Spanish Civil War
 - ii. Japanese Imperialism in Manchuria
 - iii. Italian Conquest of Ethiopia: failure of state and humanitarian diplomacy
 6. Appeasement: Nazi Assault on Eastern Europe and the Collapse of the League of Nations
 - i. 1939: Molotov-von Ribbentrop Pact
 - ii. 1939: Italian Mediation for Peace, i.e., Mussolini's Opportunism
 7. WWII and Humanitarian Diplomacy
 - i. League of Nations during the War
 - ii. The Swiss and the International Red Cross
 - iii. Raul Wallenberg, Folke Bernadotte
 - iv. Iranian Schindler: Abdolhossein Sardari
 8. WWII: From Pearl Harbour to the United Nations
 - i. US: Between Isolationism and Lend and Lease
 - ii. British Alliance Building: Anglo-Soviet Invasion of Persia
 - iii. Japan's Energy Crisis and the US Pacific Red Line
 9. WWII: Grand Alliance Diplomacy and Rise of the Global Rule-based Order
 - i. Between Tehran Conference and Yalta
 - ii. Enters United Nations: The 1945 San Francisco Conference
 - iii. UN'S First Challenge: Security Council Resolution 2 on the Soviet Occupation of Iranian Azerbaijan
 10. Dawn of the Cold War
 - i. Deterrence through Aid Diplomacy: Marshal Plan and Truman Doctrine
 - ii. 1948 Berlin Crisis
 - iii. 1949: NATO
 11. 1948-1952: UN and Threats to World Peace
 - i. 1948: Arab Israeli War and the Assassination of the UN Envoys
 - ii. Korea War: The UN Police Action
 12. End of the Anglo-French Colonial Empires
 - i. *Dien Bien Phu*
 - ii. The Suez Crisis of 1956: Pearson's Canadian Peace Diplomacy