INTST101-001
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
Fall 2018 (1189)
DC1350, Mondays, 6:30-9:20 pm

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Course Description

If there is one issue that has preoccupied thinkers and practitioners of world politics over the course of history, it is the issue of war. Many have seen war principally as a problem to be avoided. Others have sought it as an opportunity for glory or gain. But whatever one’s attitude toward war, it has undeniably been a major engine of change, both reflecting and affecting virtually everything else: politics, society, culture, the economy, science, technology, and even the environment. So war is an efficient lens through which to begin to look at international affairs in general. In this course we examine the past two centuries of Great Power war from a variety of angles with an eye to seeing both what war changes and how it has changed. On alternate weeks we look at war through the medium of film, as screen writers and directors are particularly good at capturing the passions, tensions, joys, fears, and hopes that wars have aroused or expressed in different historical eras. The course should provide useful background for students who wish to go on to study international politics more systematically in upper-level courses, but should prove thought-provoking to students who are taking the course simply out of general interest.

Prerequisites

None.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students should

- Be familiar with some key concepts for making sense of international affairs, as well as the ambiguities of those concepts
• Have a grasp of the main empirical trends in Great Power politics and war over the last 200 years
• Understand both the nature and the causes of changes in political and social attitudes toward interstate war during this period
• Improve their analytical writing skills
• Relate history to the present more effectively
• Cultivate good current-affairs-awareness habits
• Watch some great (and not-so-great, but highly entertaining and very informative) movies.

University Regulations

Academic Integrity

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. For details on the definition and requirements of academic integrity, please visit [http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity](http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity). Please also visit [https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-students](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-students).

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71).

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). In addition, consult [https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/undergraduate/student-support/academic-standing-understanding-your-unofficial-transcript/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/undergraduate/student-support/academic-standing-understanding-your-unofficial-transcript/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes) for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read [Policy 72 - Student Appeals, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72).

**Turnitin.com:** I use plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) to screen your paper assignment. The purpose of Turnitin is to verify that your paper is original and that you have properly documented all material and sources that you have used. In the first week of the term, I will provide details about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course. The paper assignment for this course will be submitted via a dropbox on the course LEARN site. Turnitin compares your paper to a massive database of other papers and various online sources, flagging overlaps, generating an
“originality report” specific to your paper. I have found that the single most useful aspect of this is that it shows me who is and who is not citing sources properly. In the vast majority of cases, these are not instances of plagiarism, and there is clearly no attempt on the part of students to deceive; but when I view the originality reports, I can see who is inadvertently leaving out quotation marks or putting them in the wrong place; and who is being imprecise in quoting. If I come across a paper with a lot of issues, I will give you a short tutorial on paper-writing hygiene. This is not a penalty; it is a service I can offer you, thanks to Turnitin, that I would not otherwise be able to offer. While Turnitin is very good at catching plagiarism, this is not its most useful feature, from my perspective. In other words, my use of Turnitin does not indicate that I suspect your honesty. I use it for convenience and its pedagogical value.

Your use of Turnitin does not mean that you are relinquishing copyright on your work. You retain the copyright. The fact that your papers are added to the Turnitin database helps protect your intellectual property by making it easier to discover misuses of your work. The university does require that instructors provide an opt-out option for students who do not wish to use Turnitin, however. For students who wish to opt out, I will administer a 15-minute oral examination on your paper. Students who wish to opt out must notify me by the beginning of the second class.

For more information on Turnitin, see https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitinr-waterloo.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

**Note for students with disabilities:** AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Course structure and readings

The course is divided into five two-lecture-slot segments. In the first slot of each segment, I will give a lecture on a particular period of Great Power politics and introduce the film that we will watch in the following class. At least a week prior to each new segment, I will post readings on the LEARN site. The main readings will be edited versions of draft chapters of the 10th edition of Joseph S. Nye, Jr., and David A. Welch, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation*. Since these are versions of draft chapters tailored specifically for this course, not published versions, I can provide them free of charge, but they are not to circulate further, a condition to which your enrolment in the course constitutes your agreement. From time to time I will post additional material as well. The readings will not be onerous, so you are expected to do them all unless I specifically post something as “recommended.” Anything not posted as “recommended” is testable, both in quizzes and in the final in-class test.

I will expect you to stay abreast of world news as the course progresses so that you can see how the material we cover relates to current international events. I will refer to current events from time to time in my lectures, and both the quizzes and final in-class test may ask you to relate current events to course material.
Course Requirements

Assignments

Quizzes
Quizzes are worth 50 percent of your final grade. There will be five time-limited quizzes administered through the course LEARN site. Your TOP FOUR quiz scores will count (i.e., I will drop your lowest quiz score), so your top four quizzes will each count for 12.5 percent of your final grade. If you miss one or more quizzes, I will drop your FIRST missed quiz score of zero; any subsequent missed quiz WILL count zero toward your final grade. Each quiz will be available for 48 hours beginning shortly after the second class of each segment (i.e., right after each film). Quiz questions will draw upon (non-“recommended”) reading material, my lectures, in-class films, and current world events. These quizzes will be True/False, Multiple Choice, or Multiple Select, so that they can be graded quickly and accurately. Do not panic if you get a shockingly low score on a quiz, especially early in the course. If necessary, I will adjust quiz grades to achieve a typical distribution.

Paper
10 pages maximum, double spaced; worth 30 percent of your final grade; due at 23h59 EST on Sunday, November 18. In this paper you will compare and contrast representations of social and political attitudes toward war in TWO films of your own choice that you will find and watch on your own. At least one month before the paper is due, I will post a list of eligible films on the LEARN site.

In-class test
In the last class (December 3), I will administer a written final test worth 20 percent of your final grade covering the entire course (readings, lectures, in-class films, in-class Q&A, world events).

Late Policy
The lateness penalty for the paper is 2% per day, weekends and holidays included.

Extensions
I will give extensions on PAPERS ONLY in the event of unforeseen and unavoidable delay caused by such things as accidents or illness (with a UW Verification of Illness form), death in the family, or religious observances. Foreseeable or unavoidable delays owing (for example) to assignments coming due or midterms scheduled in other courses, or loss of data caused by computer failure without data backup, are not grounds for extensions. For students who miss the final test as a result of unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances, I will provide one (and only one) opportunity to write a makeup. There are no extensions or makeups for quizzes.

Other Course Policies
If another professor schedules a midterm test during our class time, an affected student will immediately notify that professor of a conflict and arrange a different midterm time. It is not acceptable for other professors to prevent students enrolled in this course from attending class.
Students can share lecture notes with other students enrolled in the course, but cannot share them more widely (for example, by upload them to an online course note repository) without my express permission. My lectures are my personal intellectual property.

Students will in all cases comport themselves with dignity, mutual respect, and—wherever possible—good humour.

**Schedule**

**Class 1 (Sept. 10)**
General orientation to the course
Napoleon’s legacy

**Class 2 (Sept. 17)**
Film: *The Charge of the Light Brigade*

**Class 3 (Sept. 24)**
Balance of power and imperial rivalry

**Class 4 (Oct. 1)**
Film: *The Wind and the Lion*

**Class 5 (Oct. 15)**
The Great War (World War I)

**Class 6 (Oct. 22)**
Film: *All Quiet on the Western Front*

**Class 7 (Oct. 29)**
The last crusade (World War II)
Tips and tricks for writing the assigned paper

**Class 8 (Nov. 5)**
Film: *Casablanca*

**Class 9 (Nov. 12)**
Hot peace, Cold War
Class 10 (Nov. 19)
Film: *Dr. Strangelove.*

Class 11 (Nov. 26)
Conclusion and course review
Questions and answers

Class 12 (Dec. 3)
In-class test