

University of Southern California

Spring 2008

International Relations 212

Historical Approaches to International Relations

Prof. Mary Elise Sarotte

Associate Professor of International Relations

School of International Relations

Lectures: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00am - 12:20pm, WPH B27

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Office phone: (213) 740-3480

Office hours: Thursday, 9:00am-10:30am or by appointment

Course Teaching Assistants (TAs):

Christina Faegri, cfaegri@usc.edu

Sections: Tuesday, 1-1:50pm, VKC 261; and Friday, 9-9:50am, VKC 254

Office Hours: Tuesday, 9:50-10:50am and Thursday, 9:50-10:50am, in Peet's Coffee in Doheny Library, or by appointment

Kosal Path, phat@usc.edu

Sections: Thursday, 1-1:50pm, VKC 261; and Friday, 1-1:50pm, VKC 202

Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:00-4:00pm, VKC B42F

Course goals:

- To introduce students to, and deepen their knowledge of, the history of international relations, and US foreign policy in particular
- To enable students to gain experience in using historical methodology by writing a paper on a suitable topic

- To develop analytical skills applicable to a range of issues in the study of politics and international relations

Required Texts:

David Kennedy, (hereafter **Kennedy**)

Freedom from Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945.

(New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, USA; paperback 2001)

ISBN-10: 0195144031

ISBN-13: 978-019514403

Paul Levine and Harry Papasotiriou (hereafter **Levine**)

America since 1945: The American Moment (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).

ISBN-10: 1403948321

ISBN-13: 978-1403948328

Dennis Merrill and Thomas G. Paterson, eds. (hereafter **Merrill**)

Major Problems in American Foreign Relations, Volume II, Since 1914, 6th edition

(Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005).

ISBN-10: 0618370390

No ISBN-13 in book

Mary Lynn Rampolla (hereafter **Rampolla**)

A Pocket Guide to Writing, 5th edition (Boston: Bedford, 2007).

ISBN: 0-312-44673-X

ISBN-13: 978-0-312-44673-4

M. E. Sarotte, *Dealing with the Devil* (hereafter **Sarotte**)

(Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2001).

ISBN-10: 0807849154

no ISBN-13 printed in paperback copy

O.A. Westad, *The Global Cold War* (hereafter **Westad**)

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, paperback edition, March 19, 2007

ISBN-10: 052170314X

ISBN-13: 978-0521703147

Optional, to provide more geographical information:

Richard Overy, ed. (hereafter **Overy**)

Collins Atlas (London: Harper Collins, 2005).

ISBN-10: 006089072X

ISBN-13: 978-0060890728

Blackboard and **online** readings indicated below (there may be additional online materials added during the term).

Lecture and reading schedule, with suggested paper topics

Week One, Jan. 15-17

Lectures

Overview of Course Goals and Requirements

Theoretical vs. Historical Approaches in International Relations

Reading

Blackboard Reading 1: John Lewis Gaddis, "History, Science and the Study of International Relations," pp. 32-48, in Ngaire Woods, ed., *Explaining International Relations since 1945* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996).

Week Two, Jan. 22-24

Lectures

Theoretical vs. Historical Approaches in International Relations (continued)

Case study: US founding principles and their legacy for foreign policy today

Reading

Merrill, pp. 226-242.

Westad, Introduction and Chp. 1, pp. 1-38; and Conclusion, pp. 396-407.

Blackboard Reading 2: Introduction and Conclusion, pp. 1-16; 306-12, in William Appleman Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, 2nd revised and enlarged edition (New York: Dell, 1972).

Potential paper topic: Developing on the arguments presented by Williams, Gaddis, and Westad, assess whether or not you think that the United States is an imperialist power.

Week Three, Jan. 29-31*Lectures*

World War I

Wilsonianism

Reading

Merrill, Chapter 2, pp. 33-70.

Blackboard Reading 3: Chp. 1, "The Bush Revolution," pp. 1-16, in Ivo Daalder and James Lindsay. *America Unbound: The Bush Revolution in Foreign Policy* (Washington: Brookings, 2003).

Potential paper topic: Has the US entered a new era of Wilsonianism?

Week Four, Feb. 5-7*Lectures*

Roosevelt and World War II

Truman and the Problems of the Atomic Era

Reading

Kennedy, Chps. 14-16, pp. 426-564

Potential paper topic: How did order re-emerge after the upheaval of World War II? Using the writings of John Ikenberry and others, assess what lessons there are for the present reordering moment.

Week Five, Feb. 12-14

Lectures

The Problem of Creating a New World Order (1)

The Problem of Creating a New World Order (2)

Reading

Levine, Chp. 1, pp. 8-29.

Merrill, Chp. 6, pp. 186-244.

Blackboard Reading 4: J. Samuel Walker, "The Decision to Use the Bomb," pp. 206-33, in Michael J. Hogan, ed., *America in the World* (New York: Cambridge, 1995).

Potential paper topic: Why did the Truman Administration drop the atomic bomb? Using Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, *Racing the Enemy* (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 2005) and other texts on the subject, analyze the reasons why the US took this fateful step.

Week Six, Feb. 19-21

You must receive approval for your paper topic by the time of your section this week.

Lectures

A Divided World (1)

A Divided World (2)

Reading

Levine, Chp. 3, pp. 56-71

Merrill, Chp. 7 and 8, pp. 245-324.

Potential Paper Topic: What impact did thermonuclear weapons have on international relations?

Week Seven, Feb. 26-28

Lectures

Feb. 26: Midterm Exam

The History of International Relations in Film

Reading

Rampolla, pp. 1-95; skim remaining pages on methods of citation.

Note: This week, discussion sections will provide guidance on researching term papers and on citing your sources.

Week Eight, Mar. 4-6

Lectures

The Linked Problems of Berlin and Cuba: Overcoming Stalemate in International Relations

Stalemate, continued

Reading

Levine, Chp. 5, pp. 95-115.

Merrill, Chp. 10, pp. 367-413.

Blackboard Reading 5: Preface and "Saturday October 27," pp. ix-xiv and 596-629, in Ernest May and Philip Zelikow, eds., *The Kennedy Tapes* (Cambridge: Harvard, 1997).

Potential paper topic: Why did the Cuban Missile Crisis end peacefully? Using the readings above, plus Sheldon Stern, *The Week the World Stood Still* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2004) and Graham Allison and Philip Zelikow, *Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis*, 2nd edition (New York: Longman, 1999), and the original documents in Ernest May and Philip Zelikow, eds., *The Kennedy Tapes*, assess why.

Week Nine, Mar. 11-13

You must submit a bibliography and outline before the start of class on Mar. 11.

March 11: Paper Day

This week a “paper day” will take place on Tuesday, March 11. It will replace sections and there will not be a reading assignment. Please submit your outline and bibliography either as a Word attachment via email over the weekend before, or, at the latest, in hard copy at the start of class. (The longer in advance you submit them, the more helpful your TA can be.) The class will break into smaller groups for this meeting and the locations will be announced closer to the time.

March 13: No Class – work on your papers (the final draft is due soon) and have a great spring break!

Week Ten, Mar. 25-27

Lectures

Vietnam

Vietnam (continued)

Reading

Levine, Chp. 7, pp. 141-63.

Merrill, Chp. 11, pp. 414-54.

Blackboard Reading 6: Preface, pp. ix-xv, in Robert K. Brigham, *Is Iraq Another Vietnam?* (New York: Public Affairs, 2006).

Potential paper topic: What are the most significant lessons of the Vietnam conflict for the conduct of US foreign policy?

Week Eleven, Apr. 1-3

You must submit the first draft of your paper in hard copy in lecture on Tuesday, April 1.

Lectures

Ending the Cold War (1)

Ending the Cold War (2)

Reading

Levine, Chp. 9, pp. 188-211.

Merrill, Chp. 13, pp. 496-510.

Potential Paper Topic: Were President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev serious about eradicating all nuclear weapons? Using the original documents in Merrill and the assessment in books like Jack Matlock, *Reagan and Gorbachev* (New York: Random House, 2004), explore why.

Week Twelve, Apr. 8-10

Lectures

The Clinton Era, Economic Growth, and the Balkans

Understanding the Interaction between Domestic and Foreign Issues

Reading

Merrill, Chp. 13, pp. 510-35.

Blackboard Reading 7: Chp. 23, pp. 508-528, in Bill Clinton, *My Life The Presidential Years* (New York: Vintage 2005).

Blackboard Reading 8: Chp. 23, pp. 378-421, in Madeleine Albright, *Madame Secretary: A Memoir* (New York: Miramax Books, 2003).

Potential paper topic: When should the US intervene? Assess the US-led intervention in the Balkans, using the titles listed above, and also such books as

Wesley K. Clark, *Waging Modern War* (New York: Public Affairs, 2001) and Samantha Power, *“One Hell of a Problem”* (New York: Basic Books, 2002).

Week Thirteen, Apr. 15-17

You must submit the final paper in lecture on Tuesday, April 15.

Lectures

The Bush Administration and the Challenge of 9/11

Neo-conservatism and the Invasion of Iraq

Reading

Levine, Chp. 11, pp. 237-257.

Merrill, Chp. 14, pp. 536-40; 550-84.

The US National Security Strategy, 2002, read “Introduction” and “Overview of America’s International Strategy” (available online at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss.html>)

The 9/11 Commission Report, read Executive Summary and Preface; skim Chp. I, “We Have Some Planes,” (available online at: www.9-11commission.gov)

Potential paper topic: Assess the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Report. Do you think that they are appropriate, go too far, or do not go far enough?

Week Fourteen, Apr. 22-24

Lectures

Using History to Understand International Relations

Using History to Address Contemporary Challenges

Reading

Sarotte, Preface, Introduction, Conclusion and Note on Sources

Potential paper topic: Use one of the monographs assigned for this course (Kennedy, Westad, Sarotte) as the basis for a case study of a historical event of interest to you.

Week Fifteen, Apr. 29-May 1

Lectures

Lectures this week will provide concluding remarks and a review of main themes, along with time to ask questions about the final.

Reading

Sections this week will serve as final exam review sessions, so look over your course and reading notes and prepare questions for your TAs as preparation.

FINAL EXAM:

Currently scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, from 11am-1pm, but changes are possible, so pay attention to lecture announcements.

The Fine Print: Course Requirements

Be sure to read these paragraphs carefully. By enrolling in this course, you agree to fulfill the following course requirements (as well as all relevant university regulations). Violations will result in grade reductions and/or failure of, and removal from, this course.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation in lectures and sections are required. Students who do not observe this requirement will fail the course. In particular, students repeatedly missing sections will receive a grade reduction, and any student missing more than half of the sections will automatically fail the course regardless of any work completed.

Disabilities

We are happy to make adjustments for students but, in order to do so, we do need to know as soon as possible about your disability and your requirements. Students requesting academic accommodations based on disability must register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations must be obtained from DSP (once adequate documentation is filed). Please deliver a copy of the letter to the professor as soon as possible and, at the very latest, as indicated on the DSP website, three weeks before the requirement on which you are requesting an adjustment. This means the deadline is Tues., Feb. 15, three weeks before the first exam (if you are requesting adjustments on exams); or Tues., Jan. 29, three weeks before the first paper due date (if you are requesting paper adjustments); or the earlier of the two dates, Jan. 29, if you are requesting both. After these dates, in order to maintain the academic integrity of the class, adjustments can only be made for new diagnoses, so be sure to file your request for an adjustment in time. DSP is in STU 301; the phone number is 213-740-0776.

Grading

Participation (not just attendance) in discussion sections will count for 10% of your total grade.

The midterm examination will count for 20% of your total grade. More information about the midterm will be forthcoming during the semester.

The term paper will count for 40% of your total grade. It is the most significant assignment, consisting of various requirements listed below, and will take much of the term to finish. Because it is a whole-semester project, you will need to budget your time in order to complete it along with other course work. In particular, remember that a deadline is not the day on which you should still be working on something. Rather, it is the day on which it should be complete and ready for submission. As a result, you should plan to have your work ready before the due date, in order to prevent any last-minute problems (printer issues, illness) from causing you to submit your work late. Since this is a whole-semester assignment, we will not accept last-minute excuses as sufficient reason for failure to submit work on time.

Paper requirements:

Topic. You are free to choose any topic related to the issues discussed in this course, but you must receive the approval of your TA for your topic no later than your discussion section meeting during **week six**.

Outline and Bibliography. You must submit a two-page outline and bibliography no later than the "paper day" on **March 11 in week nine**.

Final Draft. You must submit a final draft, including citations, **in lecture on April 1 in week eleven**; this must be in hard-copy. Email is not acceptable. At the end of lecture, the draft will be late.

The topic, outline/bibliography, and final draft will be marked both (1) on time/not on time and (2) acceptable/not acceptable. Failure to submit acceptable work on time (or failure to submit these items at all) will result in reductions to the final paper grade.

The final paper, due in lecture on **Tues., April 15 in week thirteen**, must be 2000-2500 words in length (including notes and bibliography). Please put the word count on the cover page. Format the citations according to the Rampolla booklet. You must submit the final paper in hard copy; email is not acceptable. At the end of lecture on April 15, the paper will be late and will immediately receive a one-letter-grade reduction. After 24 hours, it will receive another one-letter-grade reduction, and so forth, until it automatically becomes a failing grade. These one-letter-grade reductions will be in addition to any reductions caused by failure to submit acceptable preparatory work, as described above.

The final examination will count for 30% of your grade. It will cover all aspects of the course. There will be more information about the final exam provided closer to the time.

Language and Communications

In lectures and discussion sections, students must ask questions and conduct debate in a respectful fashion, using appropriate language. Email communications must also be conducted in a professional manner.

Inappropriate behavior, poor writing, grammatical mistakes, misspellings and insulting language are never acceptable, whether in term papers or in email, and may result in grade reductions and/or failure of the course, if severe. The course instructors will not respond to inappropriately written or phrased emails or phone calls. In all other cases, we will respond within three business days and we ask you to do the same. Repeated failure to respond to instructor emails within this time frame will be considered a failure of participation and will result in a grade reduction.

Lecture and Discussion Section Conduct

Students are required to prepare for, and attend, both lectures and discussion sections. In doing so, they must turn off cell phones, Blackberries, and other such devices. If a student's phone, pager, or any other device makes a noise during lecture, that student will be required to either sing or recite poetry (professor's choice) at the end of the same lecture.

Make-up Requirements

There will be no make-up assignments or tests for unexcused absences or unannounced failure to appear or hand in an assignment. Acceptable excuses must be provided to your teaching assistant in person, in writing, or by phone *before an absence or failure to complete work and in writing afterwards* in order to be considered. After considering the written communication, a decision will be made about make-up possibilities.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Students must avoid plagiarism and/or cheating on exams. If they see or hear of another student acting in this manner, they must report it to the instructors. The teachers of this course, and the university as a whole, are committed to the general principles of academic honesty. These principles include and incorporate the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. By taking this course, students are expected to understand and abide by these

principles. In particular, all submitted work for this course may be subject to an originality review as performed by Turnitin technologies (<http://www.turnitin.com>) to find textual similarities with other Internet content or previously submitted student work. Students of this course retain the copyright of their own original work, and Turnitin is not permitted to use student-submitted work for any other purpose than (a) performing an originality review of the work, and (b) including that work in the database against which it checks other student-submitted work.

You will automatically be failed in the course if you are caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing the term paper. This is the recommended penalty in SCampus, whose relevant section you should review online at http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/appendix_a.html. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) copying text from the web (for example, from Wikipedia) and pasting it anywhere (online or hardcopy) without attribution, implying that it is your own work. If you are in any doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, ask! We would far prefer to clear up uncertainties informally in advance rather than formally via plagiarism proceedings.

Recordings

Recordings of any type (sound or video) are prohibited except by written permission of the instructor.

Travel

We will not accept travel, the purchase of plane tickets, absence from LA, and similar events (except for university-approved travel) as excuses for failing to fulfill course requirements. If you have made travel plans before the start of this semester, please make sure they will allow you to fulfill all course requirements. Excused, scheduled absences need to be documented to the TAs before they take place.