

History 280/ Political Science 380
Topics in American History (HI) and International Relations (PO)
Class meetings: 3:00 on Mondays, unless otherwise noted, and will
be held in CAS 227.

Fall 2014
Boston University

Professor: David Mayers
Phone: 617-353-2543
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00 to 2:30
Friday 1:00 to 2:30

Office: #201
232 Bay State Road
email: dmayers@bu.edu

Wars, Peace, and Diplomacy

Scope and Objective of the Course:

This is a reading intensive course. It is also centered on discussion and writing. The central idea is to get students of history to take political science concepts seriously and to acquaint political science students with problems in historiography and interpretation.

The main substance of the course deals with these questions: Why do wars occur? What constitutes peace and how is it maintained or lost? What are the virtues and deficiencies of diplomacy as practitioners have sought to implement it? How do memory, the demands of justice, and the requirements of security interact in the international arena?

To answer these questions, we will read a few foundational political science texts on international politics and immerse ourselves in the diplomatic record of the United States—and touch upon that of other major powers—during the twentieth century.

Books:

The following books can be purchased at the Boston University bookstore. These same books are also available at the university library.

- Herbert Butterfield, *The Whig Interpretation of History*

- Kenneth Waltz, *Man, State, and War*
- Thomas Paterson and Dennis Merrill, *Major Problems in American Foreign in Relations: Since 1914*
- James Joll, *the Origins of the First World War*
- E. H. Carr, *The Twenty Years Crisis*
- Gerhard Weinberg, *Visions of Victory*
- Simon Wiesenthal, *The Sunflower*
- Wilson Miscamble, *The Most Controversial Decision*
- Michael Marrus, *The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial*
- Paul Kennedy, *Parliament of Man: The United Nations and the Quest for World Government*
- John Lewis Gaddis, *The Landscape of History*

Course Requirements:

Each student will have to produce two essays. Each essay will be eight pages in length (excluding endnotes). The first essay = 1/3 of grade. The second essay = 1/3 of grade. Participation in class discussion = 1/3 of grade.

First essay topic(s) will be given to students on October 20. First essay will be due in class on October 27.

Second essay topic(s) will be given to students on December 1. Second essay will be due in class on December 8.

Late essays will be not be accepted unless the request is accompanied by a letter from a doctor or university official.

Reading assignments and discussion schedule:

Books should be read by the dates indicated below.

September 8: introduction to class and general discussion

September 15: Herbert Butterfield, *The Whig Interpretation of History*

September 22: Kenneth Waltz, *Man, State, and War*

September 29: portions TBA of Paterson and Merrill, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations: Since 1914* (World War One and aftermath) and/or James Joll, *The Origins of the First World War*

October 6: E. H. Carr, *The Twenty Years Crisis*

October 14 (Tuesday): Gerhard Weinberg, *Visions of Victory*

October 20: Simon Wiesenthal, *The Sunflower*

October 27: Wilson Miscamble, *The Most Controversial Decision*

November 3: Michael Marrus, *The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial*

November 10: portions TBA of Paterson and Merrill, *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations: Since 1914* (Cold War and aftermath)

November 17: Paul Kennedy, *Parliament of Man: the United Nations and the Quest for World government*

November 24: discussion topic TBA

December 1: John Lewis Gaddis, *The Landscape of History*

December 8: discussion topic TBA