

Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University

# History of International Relations, 1900-1945

## IR349/ HI332

Fall Semester 2018

Prof. E. Goldstein and Teaching Fellows  
Tuesday-Thursday, 2:00 – 3:15, HAR 105

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

What were the causes and the consequences of the two World Wars? What was the nature of political, economic, and military relations among the major powers of the world from the beginning of the twentieth century to the end of the Second World War? What was the effect of domestic factors (political, economic, religious, and ideological) on the foreign policies of individual states? Seeking to provide a genuinely multinational perspective on world affairs, this course will assess the ways in which powerful nation-states in this period competed for effective control of the territories, resources, markets, and populations of the world and strove to establish global or regional systems favorable to their national interests, prosperity, and security. Other important topics to be treated within this broad framework will include: (a) the emergence of the United States and Japan as Pacific powers, (b) Germany's two abortive bids to achieve hegemony over the Eurasian land mass; (c) the divergent attempts by the European colonial powers to preserve their far-flung overseas empires in the face of challenges by rival states and nationalist movements; (d) the evolution of the United States' hegemonic position in the Western Hemisphere and America's attempt to promote a liberal capitalist world order faced with the challenges of Communism and Fascism; (e) Japan's bid to become the predominant power in East Asia; (f) the rivalry among the great powers over petroleum resources amid growing ethnic and religious conflict in the Middle East; and (g) the Anglo-American-Soviet alliance of necessity during the Second World War and the strains in that partnership that foreshadowed the advent of the Cold War. This is an **undergraduate required principal course**. This course satisfies *Historical Consciousness, Global Citizenship and Intercultural Literacy*, and *Research and Information Literacy*.

### Course Hub Outcomes

#### **HUB CAPACITY: Philosophical, Aesthetic and Historical Interpretation**

##### **AREA: Historical Consciousness**

In IR349, the students will routinely analyze primary source documents on the international history from 1900 until 1945. These primary sources — textual documents, photographs and video clippings— will teach the students to identify various factors that influenced international politics until the end of the Second World War. Students will learn to challenge the historical national narratives regarding various state and non-state actors, and foreign policy choices of major countries in the early and mid-twentieth century.

#### **HUB CAPACITY: Diversity, Civic Engagement, Global Citizenship**

##### **AREA: Global Citizenship and Intercultural Literacy**

Students will be comparing different political and economic systems, notably that of the United States, the Soviet Union, the Third Reich, and Japan. Students will contrast how countries with different political and economic systems might make distinct foreign policy choices, and what implications that have for international relations. Students will interpret the differences in patterns of imperialism, and their impact on state-formation in different regions of the world. During the course, students will also

understand global diversity through comparative analysis based on language, religion and ethnic loyalties, and their impact on the emergence of anti-colonial movements in different parts of the world.

### **HUB CAPACITY: Communication/ Intellectual Toolkit**

#### **AREA: Research and Information Literacy**

In this course, students will be locating a range of publicly available declassified documents, and combine those in deriving their ‘thesis’ for their analytical paper (see assignments). These documents form part of multiple publicly archival databases, like the Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS) published by the U.S. State Department’s Office of the Historian, the CIA Records Search Tool (CREST) published by the Central Intelligence Agency’s historical unit, the Digital National Security Archive (DNSA, accessible through ProQuest with BU login) based at George Washington University, and the Woodrow Wilson Center’s Digital Archive. Students will be guided throughout the course on how to (a) identify the appropriate declassified documents, (b) indicate their relevance to the course material and in formulation of their thesis statement, and (c) interpret their meaning against the historical context in which the documents were produced. These documents will be made available to the students through a course packet. Students will also be encouraged to search and use documents outside of the course packet.

#### **Course Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will have achieved the following course learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate a strong basis of knowledge of the twentieth-century international history from 1900 to 1945.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the dominant explanations for patterns of the emergence of the United States and Japan as Pacific powers, Germany’s two abortive bids to achieve hegemony over the Eurasian land mass, and the divergent attempts by the European colonial powers to preserve their empires in the face of nationalist movements
- Demonstrate the ability to do analysis using the primary sources.

#### **Course Pedagogy, & Approach to Learning**

This is a lecture course led by the instructor organized around required weekly readings, and a weekly discussion section led by a TF. Active participation in discussion sections will account for the participation grade (see criteria for final grade below).

Boston University is committed to providing equal access to our coursework and programs to all students, including those with disabilities. In order to be sure that accommodations can be made in time for all exams and assignments, please plan to turn in your accommodations letter as soon as possible after the first class to the instructor. After you turn in your letter, please meet with me to discuss the plan for accommodations so that we can be sure that they are adequate and you are supported in your learning. If you have further questions or need additional support, please contact the Office of Disability Services ([access@bu.edu](mailto:access@bu.edu)).

## REQUIRED READINGS

William R. Keylor, *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond: An International History since 1900*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition

*Asia, The Middle East and Latin America in World Politics, 1914-1945* (course packet) since 1900, 6<sup>th</sup> edition

George Kennan, *Soviet Foreign Policy, 1917-1941*

Michael E. McGuire, ed., *As It Actually Was: A History of International Relations Through Documents, 1882-1945* (course packet)

J. Samuel Walker, *Prompt and Utter Destruction: President Truman and the Use of the Atomic Bombs against Japan*

NOTE: All of these books are available at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore at Boston University in Kenmore Square.

## REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE

The midterm and final examination must be taken on the two dates specified on the syllabus. Make-up examinations will be given after the scheduled examination time only for a valid medical reason. Any student missing the final examination for a valid medical reason must notify the professor and obtain his permission to miss the examination prior to the examination in order to receive an “Incomplete” grade. If an Incomplete is granted, the student and professor must agree on a date for a make-up examination. If you know that you will be unable to take either or both of the examinations on the specified date for any reason other than a medical one (such as airline flights that cannot be rescheduled) then you must withdraw from this course and enroll in one that fits your schedule. International Relations concentrators who need this course to graduate and cannot take the two examinations at the specified times must arrange with the undergraduate program administrator of the International Relations Department to take an equivalent alternative course for concentration credit.

When you receive your midterm examination after it has been corrected, do not discard it. Keep it in a safe place until you have received your final grade for this course so that you will be sure to receive credit for your examination in case your grade was not properly recorded. Final examinations will be kept on file by your teaching fellow. In addition to the midterm and final examinations, you will have a writing assignment in your section. The nature of that assignment, the ways to avoid the unacceptable and severely punished infraction of plagiarism, and the criteria for determining your course grade will be explained by your teaching fellow.

Professor Goldstein holds office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30-5:00, and by appointment at his campus office, which is located at 152 Bay State Road. His telephone number is 617-353-9280. Your teaching fellows this semester are Julia Carroll, Elizabeth Hameeteman, Jason Henson, and Chenguang Zhu, and they will also hold weekly office hours at times and locations that will be announced in your discussion section. Your professor and your teaching fellow are here to help you. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions or concerns related to the course

## **PLAGIARISM: WHAT IT IS AND HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND AVOID IT**

### **“What is Plagiarism and Why is it Important?”**

In college courses, we are continually engaged with other people’s ideas: we read them in texts, hear them in lecture, discuss them in class, and incorporate them into our own writing. As a result, it is very important that we give credit where it is due. Plagiarism is using others’ ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information.

### **How Can Students Avoid Plagiarism?**

To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use:

- another person’s idea, opinion, or theory;
- any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings—any pieces of information—that are not common knowledge;
- quotations of another person’s actual spoken or written words; or
- paraphrase of another person’s written or spoken words.”

The above quotation is taken from a website of the Writing Tutorial Services of Indiana University ([www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html)).

### **Plagiarism Will Not Be Tolerated at Boston University**

Since plagiarism is a form of theft (in this case, theft of ideas or words), it is not tolerated in this university and is punished very severely by the Dean’s Office of the College of Arts and Sciences. You must be certain that you understand exactly what plagiarism is and how to avoid it as you prepare your written work for this course. Your teaching fellow will discuss the issue of plagiarism in greater detail.

All members of the University are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity, and the CAS Academic Conduct Code will be strictly enforced. The Conduct Code can be found at <http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>.

## **CRITERIA FOR THE DETERMINATION OF YOUR FINAL GRADE**

- Mid-Term Examination: 25%
- Discussion Section Participation: 20%
- Analytical Paper: 25%
- Final Examination: 30%

NOTE: The Instructor and Teaching Fellows will adjust the final grade upward if the student’s performance on the final examination is substantially higher than his or her performance on the mid-term examination.

## LECTURE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

- Sep. 4                    Introduction to the Course & the Inheritance of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- Sep. 6                    Patterns of Imperialism  
                               Keylor, Prologue (pp. 1-39)  
                               McGuire, pp. 8-19
- Sep. 11                   America, Japan, and Europe: The Emerging Centers of Power  
                               Keylor, Prologue (pp. 1-39) [Continued]  
                               McGuire, pp. 1-8, 19-47
- Sep. 13, 18, 20, 25 The First World War and the Peace Settlement, 1914-1919  
                               Keylor, Chaps. 1-2 (pp. 44-95)  
                               Kennan, Chaps. 1-3 (pp. 10-38), documents 1-12  
                               McGuire, pp. 48-60, 70-71(E), 73-107
- Sep. 27                   The Atlantic Region in the Twenties: The Quest for Security & Stability  
                               Keylor, Chap. 3 (pp. 110-129)  
                               McGuire, pp. 107-111, 144-161
- Oct. 2, 4                The Pacific Region in the Twenties: Japan, the United States and the Washington System & Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism in Asia  
                               Keylor, Chap.7 (pp. 219-230)  
                               ‘Asia, The Middle East & Latin America’ (pp. 1-26)  
                               McGuire, pp. 60-65, 112-119, 137-140
- Oct. 9.                   **Monday Schedule**
- Oct. 11                   The Inter-American Region in the Twenties  
                               Keylor, Chap. 6 (pp. 193-206)  
                               ‘Asia, The Middle East & Latin America’ (pp. 143-162)  
                               McGuire, pp. 127-135, 141-143
- Oct. 16                   The Soviet Union in the Twenties  
                               Keylor, Chap. 2 (pp.83-85)  
                               Kennan, Chaps. 4-6 (pp. 38-77), documents 12-24  
                               McGuire, pp. 135-137
- Oct. 18                   **Mid-Term Examination** (in class)
- Oct. 23                   The International Economic Order in the 1920s: from Versailles to Wall Street  
                               Keylor, Chap. 3 (pp. 97-110)  
                               McGuire, pp. 150-161
- Oct. 25                   The Collapse of the International Economic Order: The World in Depression  
                               Keylor, Chap. 3 (pp. 131-139)  
                               McGuire, pp. 205-207

- Oct. 30            The Rise of the German Colossus  
Keylor, Chap. 4 (pp. 139-153)
- Nov. 1            The Pursuit of Appeasement  
Keylor, Chap. 4 (pp. 154-168)  
McGuire, pp. 186-192, 209-212
- Nov. 6            The Inter-American Region in the Thirties  
Keylor, Chap. 6 (pp. 206-218))  
'Asia, The Middle East & Latin America' (pp. 163-172)  
McGuire, pp. 192-199
- Nov. 8            The Middle East Emerges  
Keylor, Chap. 2 (pp. 86-91)  
'Asia, The Middle East & Latin America' (pp. 69-136)  
McGuire, pp. 65-70, 71-72, 119-127, 199-205
- Nov. 13           The Soviet Union in the Thirties **Analytical Paper Due in Lecture**  
Kennan, Chap. 6-10 (pp. 77-102), documents 25-31  
McGuire, pp. 183-186, 212-214
- Nov. 15           The European War, 1939-1941  
Keylor, Chap. 5 (pp. 170-176)  
Kennan, Chap. 9 (pp. 102-115), documents 32-34  
McGuire, pp. 221-223
- Nov. 20           The Pacific Region in the Thirties: The Rising Sun  
Keylor, Chap. 7 (pp. 230-242)  
'Asia, The Middle East & Latin America' (pp. 23-68)  
McGuire, pp. 168-172, 177-183
- Nov 27, 29, Dec. 4, 6 Global War and the Intervention of the Superpowers; War Aims to Peace Aims  
from Yalta to Potsdam; From Pearl Harbor to Hiroshima  
Keylor, Chap. 5 (pp. 177-192), Chap. 7 (pp. 242-250)  
McGuire, pp. 220-252
- Dec. 11           The Political Consequences of Victory and Defeat  
Walker, complete  
McGuire, pp. 252-258
- TBA                **Final Examination**

## SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

- Sep. 4 Introduction to the Course  
 6 Patterns of Imperialism  
 11 America, Japan, and Europe: The Emerging Centers of Power  
 13 The Great War: Road to War & The First Phase, 1914-17  
 18 The Great War: The Final Phase, 1917-1918  
 20 Documentary Film  
 25 The Paris Peace Conference: Putting the World Together Again  
 27 The Atlantic Region in the Twenties: The Quest for Security and Stability
- Oct. 2 The Pacific Region in the Twenties: Japan, the United States, and the 'Washington System'  
 4 Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism in Asia  
 9 **Monday Schedule**  
 11 The Inter-American Region in the Twenties  
 16 The Soviet Union in the Twenties  
 18 **Mid-Term Examination (in class)**  
 23 The International Economic Order in the Twenties: From Versailles to Wall Street  
 25 The Collapse of the International Economic Order: The World in Depression, 1929-1939  
 30 The Rise of the German Colossus:
- Nov. 1 The Pursuit of Appeasement in Europe  
 6 The Inter-American Region in the Thirties  
 8 The Middle East Emerges, 1919-39  
 13 The Soviet Union in the Thirties: **Analytical Paper due in lecture**  
 15 The European War, 1939-41  
 20 The Pacific Region in the Thirties: The Rising Sun  
 27 Global War and the Intervention of the Superpowers  
 29 From War Aims to Peace Aims: Yalta to Potsdam
- Dec. 4 The Pacific War: From Pearl Harbor to Hiroshima  
 6 Documentary Film  
 11 The Political Consequences of Victory and Defeat
- TBA **Final Examination** (STO B50)