EMPIRE and POWER: British Foreign Policy, 1782-present.
Boston University

CAS IR 514 / HI 533
Spring Semester 2019
Monday / Wednesday: 2:30 – 3:45
Classroom: IRC 220

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Office Hours:
Monday/Wednesday, 9:00-9:45
Monday/Wednesday, 3:45-4:30
and by appointment

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description
Examines the evolution of British foreign policy over time, as well as the nature of Great Power rivalry. Key themes include formulation of national diplomatic strategies, policy coordination, diplomatic vs. military considerations, alliance politics, and policy over-stretch.

Objectives
To provide an understanding of the nature of Great Power rivalry and to gain insight into the underlying factors affecting international relations, as well as to consider how governments develop and implement policy. The focus of the course will be the development of British policy overseas, and given the history of British policy it will involve considerations of events in all regions of the world, illustrating the evolving inter-locking nature of British foreign policy. Key themes running through the course are the formulation of national diplomatic strategies, policy co-ordination, the relationship of diplomatic and military considerations, alliance politics, and policy over-stretch.

Requirements
Mid-term examination 25% (18 March)
Research Paper 25% (17 April)
Comprehensive final examination. 50% (tba)

Research Paper
A research paper (10-15 pages) on a topic supportive of course objectives. Topics should be discussed in advance with the instructor.
Final manuscript will be submitted no later than the beginning of class on the date indicated.
A hard-copy and an electronic copy submitted through Turnitin.com is required. Turnitin.com instructions will be provided.
Late turn-in of assignments, without prior written permission will be penalized with a failing grade.
There will be no opportunity for work for extra credit. Make-up examinations will be administered only for excused absence.
Academic Conduct
All class members are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean’s Office. A copy of the Academic Code of conduct is available at https://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/ and https://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/grs-forms-policies-procedures/ This should be read by all students.
Students are reminded that attendance is required, and reasons for non-attendance should be notified to the instructor.

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).

Core Texts:
R.K. Webb, *Modern England: From the 18th Century to the Present*

All journal articles are available electronically through JSTOR from Boston University Libraries e-resources.

Lecture 1: Introduction: The British Tradition in Foreign Policy – Balance of Powers
Paul Kennedy, *The Realities behind Diplomacy: background influences on British external policy, 1865-1980*, chap 1. ‘Structures and Attitudes’

Lecture 2: The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars: The Creation of the Concert of Europe

Lecture 3: Britain and the Concert: The Congress and the Conference Systems
Webb, Chap. 7. ‘Palmerston’, pp. 301-16

David Steele, ‘Lord Palmerston’ *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

Lecture 4: The Crimean War
J. L. Herkless ‘Stratford, the Cabinet and the Outbreak of the Crimean War’
The Historical Journal Vol. 18, No. 3 (Sep., 1975), pp. 497-523
Lecture 5 & 6: Victorian Heyday: The Apogee of Empire
Webb, chap. 8, Britain Overseas, 1870-1886, pp. 352-372.


Lecture 7 & 8: Britain and the Eastern Question

Erik Goldstein, ‘Religion and British Policy Towards the Ottoman Empire, 1875-1923’ in John Fisher and Keith Robbins, eds. Religion and Diplomacy: Religion and British Foreign Policy, 1815 to 1941 (Dordrecht: Republic of Letters, 2010), pp. 85-102

Lecture 9: The Boer War and Diplomatic Isolation

Lecture 10: Origins of the Anglo-American Diplomatic Alignment


Lecture 11 & 12: The Road to the First World War: Anglo-German Naval Rivalry, Imperial Rivalry
Richard Langhorne, The Naval Question in Anglo-German Relations, 1912-1914
The Historical Journal Vol. 14, No. 2 (Jun., 1971), pp. 359-370


Samuel R. Williamson Jr., The Reign of Sir Edward Grey as British Foreign Secretary
The International History Review Vol. 1, No. 3 (Jul., 1979), pp. 426-438

Keith Neilson, ‘Greatly Exaggerated': The Myth of the Decline of Great Britain before 1914
The International History ReviewVol. 13, No. 4 (Nov., 1991), pp. 695-725
Lecture 13: Britain at War, the Diplomacy of the Great War

Bartlett, British Foreign Policy in the Twentieth Century, Chap 1. ‘Partial Commitment and Total War’

Chap. 4 ‘Debates and Policies’

Lecture 14: The Paris Peace Conference, 1919

Session 15: MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Lecture 16 & 17 & 18: The Interwar Period: the Constraints on British Power
Bartlett, British Foreign Policy in the Twentieth Century, Chap 2. ‘Too many challenges’


**Lecture 19: The Second World War: The Diplomacy of the Grand Alliance**

Bartlett, *British Foreign Policy in the Twentieth Century*, Chap 3. ‘From World War to Cold War’

Winston Churchill, *The Gathering Storm*

**Lecture 20 & 21 The Cold War**


**Lecture 22: The End of Empire: Decolonisation and Retrenchment**


**Lecture 23: The Suez Crisis, 1956**


W. Scott Lucas, Redefining the Suez ‘Collusion’ *Middle Eastern Studies* vol. 26, No. 1 (Jan., 1990), pp. 88-112


**Lecture 24 & 25: Britain’s Diplomacy post-Suez**


**Lecture 26: Britain, the United States and the First Gulf War, 1990-91**


**Lecture 27: Retrospective and Review Session.**

SUPPELEMENTAL READING: Use the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB)*. This is available electronically through the Boston University library.
RESEARCH PAPERS
The research papers should be 10-15 pages (2,500-3,000) (excluding footnotes and bibliography) double spaced, 12 point type, one-inch margins, and pages numbered. It should be appropriately footnoted, and with a Bibliography. The bibliography should begin on a separate page.

Footnotes:
- should include all the information that allows the reader to easily locate the source of this reference.
- all direct quotations must be footnoted.
- all factual information must be footnoted, which can be done at the end of the section in which the material appears.

Bibliography:
- The bibliography should list all materials which informed the content of the paper.
- All sources referred to in the footnotes are to be included in the bibliography. The bibliography may also contain works which do not appear in the footnotes.
- Do not include works that have not directly influenced the paper, i.e. do not ‘pad’ the bibliography.
- The bibliography should be divided into primary, printed primary, and secondary sources.
- Internet addresses in the bibliography can be given under the author’s name. Otherwise, list them under a sub-heading of ‘Internet sources’.
- Works should be listed alphabetically by author. Works by the same author should be listed alphabetically by title under his/her name.

Sources: while there is no fixed number of sources, and the number and nature can vary depending on topic, relying on only a few sources is not research.

In addition the sources themselves should be tested.

Sources can include, for example, original archival material, printed documents, newspapers, scholarly journals, government reports, memoirs, biographies, scholarly books.

The bibliography (which is not included in the page limit) therefore should be annotated. This means that each source should be accompanied by a short paragraph stating its utility, and standing in the field. At least four of the sources, if books, should have supporting evidence of their place in the field. Sources for book reviews are, for example, scholarly journals, and specialist book reviews such as the Times Literary Supplement, the New York Review of Book, and London Review of Books. Full references to the supporting evidence is also to be provided.

If not books some sort of evidence should be provided supporting the quality of the source. For example the standing of the academic journal used.

Sources should include both Primary sources as evidence, as well as Secondary sources.

Each bibliography should include one source that you recommend for adding to the course readings, and an explanation of why.

Remember to proof read your paper!
All papers will be submitted in hard copy and through turnitin.com (details of the latter will be provided nearer the due date).