

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

GRS IR 772

CLASSICS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SEMESTER I, 2007/2008
MONDAY 4:00 – 7:00 PM
IRC 102, 154 Bay State Road

PROFESSOR DAVID FROMKIN

Office Hours at the Pardee House, 67 Bay State Road
MONDAY, 3:00 – 4:00 P.M.
TUESDAY, 10:00 – 12:00 NOON
Office telephone: 358-4002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE OBJECTIVE

International Relations became an academic field of its own only in the twentieth century. In this seminar students will read the original texts of the pioneering works that led to the establishment of the academic discipline; that remain the classics and points of reference in the field; and that remain permanently relevant to a consideration of international relations issues and policies. The course aims to give students a first-hand working knowledge of the great books to which both scholars and practitioners return time and time again when formulating their own theories and programs of action. Brief introductory lectures will place each classic in its historical setting.

REQUIREMENTS

The seminar meets once a week for three hours. Readings drawn from the list of required readings will be assigned each week.

Attendance is required. Students will be called upon, sometimes orally, sometimes in writing, to summarize, analyze, and assess the assigned readings.

After the first few weeks, participants will be called upon to submit each week a written paper of 250-500 words on a topic set each week.

No final examination will be given. Grading generally will be based 50/50 on class participation and the weekly written papers.

Course Syllabus (cont.)
GRS IR 772
Fall, 2007

REQUIRED READINGS

The following texts are required in whole or in part and are available at the Boston University Bookstore (“BUB”), or else are on reserve and Mugar Library (“ML”). Those in the course packet are marked “CP.”

Carr, Edward Hallet, *The Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919-1939*, Harper Torchbook, 1964. (BUB.ML)
(Call Number: JX3091.F39)

American Diplomacy. Expanded edition. Univ. of Chicago Press, (BUB) (ML) 1984.
(Call Number: E744.F511)

Lippmann, Walter, *The Cold War*, Little Brown, 1947. CP (ML) (Call Number: E744.F476)
U.S. War Aims, Little Brown, 1944. CP (ML) (Call Number: D742.U5F44)
U.S. Foreign Policy, Shield of the Republic, Little Brown, 1943. CP (ML)
(Call Number: E744.F43)

Morgenthau, Hans, *Politics Among Nations*, Brief Edition: McGraw Hill, 1993. (BUB) (ML) (Call Number: JX1391.M6)

Niebuhr, Reinhold, *Moral Man and Immoral Society*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2001. (BUB) (ML) (Call Number: HM216.N5)

Waltz, Kenneth N., *Man, the State and War*, Columbia University Press, 1954. (BUB) (ML) (Call Number: JX1308.F59)

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COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: The World: 1789-1913

This session will be given over to an introductory lecture focused in part on practical planning in the pre-World War I world for a permanent peace: the work of Andrew Carnegie; the conferences at the Hague; and the projects for collaboration among the great powers advanced by Theodore Roosevelt and by Woodrow Wilson's advisor, Edward House. The lecture will contrast this with the contemporaneous breakdown of Bismarck's European order that was leading to world war.

Week 2: The World: 1914-1932

Lecture- Woodrow Wilson's analysis of international relations. A discussion of his views, outlook, and influence. The 1914-1918 war. The 1919-1920 peace. The revulsion against war.

Arnold Toynbee; the work of the Royal Institute of International Affairs and of the Council on Foreign Relations; and first steps in creating the academic field of international relations.

For Class Discussion:

The Ideologies: Bolshevism, fascism, liberalism, pacifism and others.

Weeks 3-5: The Moral Dimension of International Relations

Reading Assignment: - Niebuhr

A discussion of Niebuhr's views and of his great influence on subsequent thinkers.

Lectures: Moral and political dilemmas of the early 1930s

Week 6: Responding to the Nazi Threat

Reading Assignment: - Carr (all)

Lecture: The first successful international relations textbook, Frederick Schuman's *International Politics*. Popular cynicism about world politics; Schuman's eclectic skepticism; Carr's brand of realism. If war is wicked and Nazism is wicked, should one continue to be pacifist or should one take up arms to stop the march of Hitlerism? Political dilemmas of the late 1930s.

A discussion of Carr: Realism, power politics; and appeasement of Nazi Germany and the communist Soviet Union.

Week 7: Which Way to Peace?

Reading Assignment: - Lippmann (*War Aims* and *U. S. Foreign Policy*) (all)

Lecture: The Second World War.

The contrast between two balance-of-power realist schemes advanced by Lippmann, and the return to Wilsonianism urged by Sumner Welles. Welles, not Lippmann, writes a best-selling book, and it is his plan that goes forward.

Week 8: Another Kind of Realism

Reading Assignment: - Kennan (both) and Lippmann (*Cold War*)

Lecture: The Soviet threat and the Cold War

A discussion of Kennan's views, and of how his type of realism contrasts with that of Schuman, Carr, and even Lippmann.

Weeks 9, 10 and 11: Realism Ascendant

Reading Assignment: - Morgenthau (excerpts)

Lecture: Morgenthau's text overtakes Schuman's. the many kinds of realism in the world of the 1940s. Morgenthau contrasted with Schuman, Carr, Lippmann, and Kennan, The great realist writers abroad, especially Raymond Aron and Georg Schwarzenberger. Morgenthau's debt to Niebuhr; and realism's roots in moral concerns.

Morgenthau's classics: the literature upon which he draws, from the history of Thucydides to the pamphlets of Hamilton to the speeches of Winston Churchill.

Morgenthau's text contrasted with Martin Wight's essays: the theoretical approach contrasted with the historical in dealing with such issues as balance of power, vital interests, the national interest, intervention, Great Powers, the toll of diplomacy, the politics of prestige, disarmament, arms control, alliances, and war and peace. Wight's criticism of Morgenthau's approach.

Week 13: The Attacks on Realism

Reading Assignment: - Waltz

Lecture: Waltz's Criticisms. Morgenthau's own doubts in his final years. The revival of Wilsonianism.

Discussion: Has Waltz written the last word on Morgenthau's failings and on the question with which international relations began in the early part of the century: why are there wars?

Week 14: What Did We Learn?

The enduring value of the classics assessed.