

## CAS IR 553 - CLASSICS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Semester II - Spring 2014

Wednesday 1-4 PM

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### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE

This course is intended principally for those in an International Relations concentration within the College of Arts and Sciences. The course will have a seminar format. Discussions in class are a major part of the undertaking. By the end of the course, students should have a good understanding of the works most often referred to or incorporated into the world view of state and international organization leaders.

### REQUIREMENTS/GRADING

Requirements for the course are:

- Classics Today papers (20%) as prescribed in Appendix I,
- class participation 30%, and an
- end of course paper (50%) as prescribed in Appendix II.

Students choose their paper topics in consultation with the instructor. All papers must refer to the readings. Class attendance and participation is mandatory and will be taken into account for calculating the final grade. Students are expected to do the readings of each week prior to the class for which they are listed.

### ABSENCES

If a student misses more than two classes, the course grade will be taken down one level (i.e., from A to A-, or from B+ to B) for every lecture missed without a valid excuse, such being defined as religious holidays, medical problems, or deaths in the immediate family.

Absences are excused when there is a valid reason, in my judgment. If you are ill, you will need a medical professional's written excuse for more than two consecutive absences. If you are absent because of a University sanctioned function, you will need a written notification from your sponsoring activity. University policy states that students who are "excessively absent" may be required to withdraw from the course "without credit." I consider that more than four absences from class, for any reason, is excessive and will seek your withdrawal from the course.

Attendance/participation is a factor in grading.

## INCOMPLETES

The College policy on incomplete grades is very specific and I will follow it in all cases.

## GRADING FACTORS AND SCHEDULES

Attendance/participation	Continuous	30%
Classics Today papers (3)	As scheduled	20%
Course paper	Paper due: Tues., May 7	50%

## REQUIRED TEXTS

There are 6 required texts for this course, available at the Bookstore. They will be on reserve at the Mugar Library. There are also a number of excerpted readings which will be provided to you in hard copy or by web site address.

Howard, Michael. **Clausewitz: A Very Short Introduction.**

Jackson, Robert. **Classical and Modern Thought on International Relations.**

Machiavelli, Niccolo, (trans. David Wootton). **The Prince.**

Mackinder, Sir Halford. **Democratic Ideals and Reality.**

Niebuhr, Reinhold. **Moral Man and Immoral Society.**

Thucydides (trans. Rex Warner). **The History of the Peloponnesian War.**

## ACADEMIC CONDUCT

All class members are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. You are expected to provide citations in papers for all quotations, paraphrases, and ideas taken from any source other than your own original thoughts. Boston University has very strict standards for intellectual integrity, and punishment for plagiarism is severe, and can include permanent expulsion from the university. For more on the definition of plagiarism and the standards to which you will be held, see the CAS Academic Conduct Code, available at:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/> or the GRS Academic Conduct Code:

<http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/forms-policies-procedures/academic-discipline-procedures/>

## CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

### Week I

Jan 15 Introduction to Classic Readings

### Week II

Jan 22 Jackson, *Classical and Modern Thought on International Relations*  
Chapters 1 & 2

**Week III**

Jan 29 Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*  
Introduction, Book I [all numbering is from the Warner translation]

**Week IV**

Feb 5 Thucydides, Book II - sections 34-65, Pericles' Funeral Oration, the plague, Pericles' policy  
Book III - sections 36-50, Mytilenian debate sections 69-85, civil war in Corcyra  
Book IV - sections 1-23, Athenian success at Pylos

**Week V**

Feb 12 Thucydides, Book V - sections 84-116, The Melian dialogue  
Book VI - sections 6-32, The Sicilian expedition undertaken  
Book VII - sections 42-87, disaster in Sicily

**Week VI**

Feb 19 MONDAY SCHEDULE

**Week VII**

Feb 26 Machiavelli, *The Prince*

**1<sup>st</sup> Classics Today paper due**

**Week VIII**

Mar 5 Clausewitz: Howard (all)

**Week IX**

Mar 19 Kant: <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/kant/kant1.htm> [Eternal Peace]

Wilson:

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=65405> [14 Points speech]

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=65366> [War Message to Congress]

**Week X**

Mar 26 Mahan, handout

Mackinder, *Democratic Ideals and Reality*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Classics Today paper due**

### **Week XI**

Apr 2      Lippmann: Walter *Foreign Affairs*, 1987, Vol.65(4), pp.869-884

Churchill:

(<https://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/speeches/speeches-of-winston-churchill/120-the-sinews-of-peace>)

Kennan: Spring 1947 *Foreign Affairs*

<http://www.shafr.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/XArt.pdf>

### **Week XII**

Apr 9      Lenin [Imperialism] [www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc](http://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc)

5 Principles of Peaceful Coexistence

<http://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/unts/volume%20299/v299.pdf> - see p.82 (of the pdf-doc)

### **Week XIII**

Apr 16 Niebuhr: *Moral Man and Immoral Society*

Chs. 1, 4 - 9

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Classics Today paper due**

### **Week XIV**

Apr 23      Sovereignty in International Affairs  
Jackson, Chs. 4-6

### **Week XV**

Apr 30 Justice in International Affairs  
Jackson, Chs. 7-9

# **COURSE PAPER DUE MAY 7**

## **Appendix I - 'CLASSICS TODAY' PAPER INSTRUCTIONS**

This requirement is for the submission of a 4 to 5 page essay relating some contemporary situation to the readings we will have thus far completed. For example, after reading Thucydides you may wish to compare the Sicilian expedition of Athens that he describes with the US decision to go to war in Iraq in 2003. After reading Machiavelli, for the second paper you may wish to compare Vladimir Putin's actions as president in Russia with Machiavelli's prescriptions for how a prince should rule (Kim Jong Un in North Korea may seem a relevant example but information about his country is mostly speculative). And for the third paper you may wish to compare the ethical questions of international affairs and foreign policy with the approaches generally taken by Scandinavian countries to foreign policy.

These papers are essays but you still must cite or make reference to specific ideas or passages in the assigned readings (or other writings of the authors) that you are using as a basis for your paper in order to show your comprehension of the work.

There are obviously no right answers in such papers but they must be organized coherent and finished products (i.e., a 'night before' paper always looks like what it is and stylistic errors will detract from your grade).

If you have questions about the suitability of a theme or comparison, please see me.

## **Appendix II - COURSE PAPER INSTRUCTIONS**

### **DESIGN:**

This paper will be a scholarly paper on a topic selected by you, and approved by me. Length for undergraduates is 15 pages and 20-25 pages for graduate students. In this paper you are to analyze the statecraft of a recognized world leader of the 20<sup>th</sup> or current century in the viewpoint of at least two of the major works we have studied. For example, you might analyze Woodrow Wilson at Versailles in terms of Machiavelli and Niebuhr (but not Wilson himself) or Gandhi in terms of Lenin and Kennan. By scholarly paper I mean one with appropriate citations from relevant works, proper level of discourse, and a bibliography. As with the shorter papers, if you have any questions see me.

**COMPONENTS:** All papers will have a body of content and a scholarly bibliography.

As with all research papers, you must use acceptable scholarly practice on attributing your sources. You may use any citation method you wish but I prefer the use of parenthetical citation. Consult a good style sheet for the proper practice of the method you select. Whichever method you choose, you must be consistent. The number of sources will depend on your topic but you must have enough in order to insure that you are not merely doing a book report on one or two works.

### **STYLISTIC MATTERS:**

Almost everyone can write well if they will but it takes time for re-writing. A first draft is always obvious.

If you don't know Strunk and White's Elements of Style, get to know it. The main message of this work is that simplicity is the best "style." Anything you write will be improved by laying it aside for at least a day, then returning to it and removing extraneous matter, reorganizing it for greater impact, and checking to see that all ideas are clearly expressed. Last minute work always looks like what it is. I will be grading, not editing.

Specific points:

Format: 1" side margins, double space, Courier 12 or similar size type.

Do not use slang or colloquial expressions.

Avoid extended narratives and chronologies.

Submit finished work.

Know and observe the CAS Academic Conduct Code on plagiarism.