TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF DIPLOMACY

VISIONS OF WORLD ORDER

NYU Florence - La Pietra Campus
Fall Semester 2011

Dr. Anne-Isabelle Richard

OVERVIEW

This course offers an introduction to international history from the late nineteenth until the beginning of the twenty first century. It will examine how visions of world order competed, co-existed and succeeded each other. The course will study and question the development of international relations from a Europe dominated concert of imperial nation states to a Cold War world of superpowers to an era of a hyperpower faced with the rise of new powers, such as China and India, as well as illusive international networks, such as Al Qaeda. The aim of the course is to familiarise students with key events in international history as well as trace the development of diplomacy, from meetings of Western diplomats, to the New Diplomacy, the proliferation of interest groups and the rise of international organisations. The course seeks to integrate events in the United States, Europe and the Soviet Union/Russia with developments in the ‘non-Western world’.

Every week a ‘gobbet’, a short excerpt from an original source, will be discussed. The aim of this exercise is to get a feeling for original sources, set them in context, understand this context and thus the importance of the gobbet for the theme. In combination with the weekly student presentation this exercise will serve to draw out the theme and start the class discussion.

Anthony Best (ed.), International history of the twentieth century and beyond (London 2008) will serve as a textbook for the course. The specialised readings for each week draw attention to major (historiographical) debates.

ASSESSMENT

Participation: 20%
You are expected to complete the reading assignments on time, and to come to class prepared to discuss them. Regular, active and informed participation in class discussions is key.

Presentation: 20%
Each student will give a short presentation on one of the topics to start the class discussion.

Gobbet: 20%
Having practiced analysing gobbets, you will be given a ‘gobbet’ to analyse yourself. This will be due after the mid-term break.

Final Essay or Exam: 40%
At the end of the semester you will be expected to write an essay (8-10 pages) on one of the themes discussed during the course or sit the exam, which will consist of essay questions.
WEEK 1 (5-9 SEPTEMBER)

Introduction

Reading:
Paul Kennedy, *The rise and fall of the great powers. economic change and military conflict from 1500 to 2000* (London 1988). [check section]

WEEK 2 (12-16 SEPTEMBER)

The old ‘liberal order’ revisited

Readings:

WEEK 3 (19-23 SEPTEMBER)

The debate on the origins of the First World War - in Europe and beyond?

Readings:

A choice of:
Add…
WEEK 4 (26-30 SEPTEMBER)

World War I

Readings:
Russian Revolution…
The First World War in the colonies…

WEEK 5 (3-7 OCTOBER)

The interwar period

Readings:

WEEK 6 (10-14 OCTOBER)

The Second World War and its origins

Readings:
A choice of:


Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent. Europe’s Twentieth Century* (London 1998). (Ch. 5)
David Reynolds (et al.), *Allies at War: The Soviet, American and British Experience, 1939-45* (Basingstoke 1994). [check section]
WEEK 7 (17-21 OCTOBER)

The Post War Period: the Marshall Plan and the search for a new world system

Readings:

WEEK 8 (24-28 OCTOBER)

European Cooperation

Readings:
Alan Milward, *The European Rescue of the Nation-State* (London 2000, 2nd edition). (Ch. 1, 2)

WEEK 9 MIDTERM BREAK (31 OCTOBER - 4 NOVEMBER)

WEEK 10 (7-11 NOVEMBER)

Decolonization

Readings:
Frederick Cooper, *Africa Since 1940: The Past of the Present* (Cambridge 2002). [check section]
Kwame Nkrumah, *Neo-Colonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism* (London 1974). (Ch. 18)

WEEK 11 (14-18 NOVEMBER)

The Global Cold War

Readings:
Michael Leifer, *ASEAN and the security of South East Asia* (London 1989). [check section]

**WEEK 12 (21-25 NOVEMBER)**

The Nuclear Arms Race

Readings:
Add…

**WEEK 13 (28 NOVEMBER - 3 DECEMBER)**

The end of the Cold War

Readings:

**WEEK 14 (5-7 DECEMBER)**

A new international order?

Readings:
Samuel Huntington, ‘The clash of civilisations?’ *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993, vol. 72, no. 3)
Timothy Garton Ash, *Free world. why a crisis of the West reveals the opportunity of our time* (London 2004). [check section]
Add…

**FINAL ESSAY OR EXAM (12-15 DECEMBER)**