Course Description

Focusing on the international diplomatic history of the 19th and 20th Centuries – from the end of the Napoleonic Wars to the end of the Cold War – this course seeks not only to offer knowledge and information on the evolution of modern history and Zionism. Rather,
the course will also encourage and provide tools to reflect upon, and understand, the trends and processes that have molded the world, as we know it today.

Notably, the 19th and 20th Centuries were the era of Western predominance. Considered the main historical driver of this period, the rise of the West will be the course’s focal point – examining its possible sources, impact, and effects, culminating with the Western victory at the end of the Cold War, the advent of globalization, and the eventual rise of the rest of world.

In this discussion on the rise of the West, the course will also address the evolution of Zionism. Although unique in many ways, the very idea of Zionism – the aspiration for Jewish national self-determination and statehood in its own ancestral land – and its realization are integral and inseparable of the historical evolution of the Western Civilization and the world order, as we know it today.

Course Goals

A student of government, diplomacy, and strategy attempting to understand current global, regional, and national challenges must understand history: the ability to define, analyze, and assess history’s key drivers, processes, and trends. The historical “toolkit” enhances our capacity to comprehend the present day and to think about shaping the future. Therefore, the assignment and final exam in this course practice analytical essay-writing. The active (and orderly) participation of students is highly encouraged and warmly welcomed.

Grading

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION

1. **Attendance** is required. To be clear, class discussions may extend beyond the readings and raise analytical issues.

2. **Regular reading of the weekly assigned bibliography and asynchronous review assignments** will not only prepare you for the final exam, but improve your understanding and engagement during class discussions.

   Ahead of each class, the lecturer will provide when possible asynchronous assignments – essentially “offlining” parts of class by utilizing useful documentaries and video clips. The viewing of the items will be guided; with background in class – before and after – and with key questions/issues to follow as you view the items. **To be clear – the asynchronous items are as required readings.**

3. **One Essay Paper (1,500 words) – Due on December 16**, an essay addressing a wide-ranging question (covering multiple themes) will account for 20% of the final grade. Passing and/or submitting the reflection essays is not a pre-condition for submitting the final paper assignment and receiving a grade in this course. Please
see below the guidelines for late submissions.

4. **The Final Exam** will consist of four comprehensive essay questions of which the student will choose two. Exemplary questions will be published on the course website. The final exam makes up 80% of the final grade.

**Guidelines for Late Submissions/Postponements**

Late submissions will not be marked except for extenuating circumstances. Eligible excuses for late submission include – special events (weddings, mourning, etc.), medical emergencies, and active military reserve service – and are subject to documentation approved by the Student Administration Office and as listed in the university's Student Regulations.

A student enrolled for active military reserve service (up to 14 days) overlapping the period of publishing and submitting the essay assignment will be able to submit it 7 days after ending the service. A student enrolled for reserve service for a period of more than 14 days overlapping the period of publishing and submitting the assignment will be exempted from submitting the assignment. The weighting of that assignment will be transferred to the student's final exam.

The student is responsible for presenting the documentation to the Student Administration Office and coordinating the late submission or exemption with the Lecturer.

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**Lecturer Office Hours**

By appointment - via ZOOM

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**Additional Notes**

**CONDUCT AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Meaningful learning can only happen in an environment of trust, integrity, and mutual respect. The vast majority of student conduct themselves accordingly and take for-granted the specific instructions that appear below.

**According to the university's disciplinary regulations, each assignment must be personally authored by the submitting student.** Notwithstanding, students are allowed to work in groups on the assignment before beginning to write them, but each student must write the assignment herself (or himself). Submitted assignments with very similar phrasing will be disqualified and could lead to disciplinary action. Furthermore, a completed assignment shared with other students and used for the purpose of copying – will be disqualified. In addition, false reporting or presenting fabricated information regarding an assignment and/or for the purpose of obtaining a postponement or exemption is a violation of the disciplinary code. Violations will lead to disciplinary action.
COURSE READINGS

In addition to several separate readings, the course will use three key textbooks:


COURSE THEMES & READINGS

**Introduction: The Enduring Relevance of International History**


**The Great Divergence: The Rise of the West and Pax Britannica**

*Contemporary World History*, Chapter 1.

**Old vs. New Europe in the Early 19th Century: From the French Revolution to the European Concert**

*Western Civilizations*, Chapters 18 & 20.

**Turmoil in Europe: New "isms", an Eastern Question, a New Germany, and the Slide to War**

*Western Civilizations*, Chapters 21–23.

**Western Civilization and the Birth of Zionism**


The First World War & Versailles

*International History*, Chapters 1 & 2.

The Intermission: Between Two World Wars

*International History*, Chapter 7.

World War II

*International History*, Chapter 8.

From World War to Cold War onto Long Peace

*International History*, Chapters 9, 11, 20.

A Third World Emerges and Asia Ascends


Concluding Reflections: The End of the Cold War, Globalization, and the Rise of the Rest

*Contemporary World History*, Chapter 16.

*Western Civilizations*, Chapter 29.