POLS 455: World Politics I: Historical and Conceptual Foundations
Department of Political Science, Bilkent University
Fall 2010, Tuesdays 13:40 and Thursdays 15:40, 16:40 in T 272
(Extra Hour: Tuesdays 14:40 also in T 272)
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Office Hours: Thursdays 13:40 till 15:40

This course is an introduction to world political history. It covers a 350-year period between 1648-1991, or, put differently, it covers the period between the signing of Treaty of Westphalia and the end of the Cold War. This 350-year period is very crucial to understand the dynamics of contemporary world politics. The goal in this course is not only to acquaint the students with major political events that shaped the world political history, but also to a lesser degree, to familiarize them with the major theories and concepts of international relations, the emergence of which are closely related to the political events of their respective period. Despite this delicate balancing act of introducing history and theory at the same time, this syllabus has one major bias: due to time limitations, it covers the world political history from the perspective of major Western (economic and military) powers, omitting the lesser powers of history.

Reading Materials:
Reserve Readings:
There will be book chapters and articles. These will be left with the copier shop on the ground floor of the FEASS building. Needless to say, all readings are required readings.

Assignments and Grading:
1. Midterm: 40% (in class) => November 4th
2. Quiz: 5% (each)=15% total => October 14th, December 2nd, December 23rd
   • There will be three quizzes. They will account for 5% of your overall grade each. This means if you take all three of the quizzes you might have an extra, 5 points added to your overall grade. This also means there will be NO MAKE-UP FOR ANY OF THESE QUIZZES as the third quiz is a make up for those who missed the first or the second one. So, if you want extra points you take three of the quizzes. If you miss one, you take the other two. If you miss both quizzes that means you also missed the chance for the make up quiz.
3. Final: 50% (in class) To be announced by the Deans’ Office in early December.
TOTAL: 105% (if you take all three quizzes)
If You Want to Get an ‘A’ in this course……

YOU
(1) should not skip any classes,
(2) should do the reading assignments regularly,
(3) should take notes while doing the readings (this will save you enormous amount of time when you are studying for the exams)
(4) should think critically and comparatively while doing the readings and listening to the lectures.

Make-up, Grading and Academic Dishonesty Policy:
MAKE_UP: Since, unfortunately, medical reporting system in Turkey is openly misused (or abused, to be more correct), I reserve the right to decide who deserves the right to take the make-up exam on a case by case basis. That means, a doctors report does not automatically qualify you for a make up exam.
Apart from the medical excuses, excuses like ‘I have another exam/paper due the same day,’ ‘our family pet just passed away,’ ‘I broke up/quarreled with the girlfriend/boyfriend/spouse,’ ‘the alarm clock did not go off so couldn’t make it to the exam,’ etc.,” will not be accepted as emergencies that entitle the student for a make-up.

GRADING: At the end of the semester, before asking me why you got the grade that you got, please, do ask yourself how your performance was for this course. Below is what Bilkent University administration asks from the instructors to keep in mind while evaluating students’ performance.
A+: Truly OUTSTANDING performance. [An indication of having achieved a full grasp and an exceptional analysis and synthesis of the material combined with a display of superb analytical and writing performance. This grade is left to the discretion of the instructor and only 1 student per class with a size larger than 25 can have it.]
A: Excellent [Superb performance in assignments, full attendance, and the indication of the having done all the assigned readings.]
A-: Very good.
B+: Good.
B: Somewhat good.
B-: More than adequate.
C+, C: Varying degrees of acceptable/adequate performance during the course.
C-, D+, D: These grades imply less than adequate performance but they will enable the student to pass the course.
F: Less than minimally acceptable performance during the course.
FX: Failure as a result of not fulfilling either one or all of the assignment requirements of the course.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Academic dishonesty is not tolerated and punished in accordance with the university regulations. Regulations regarding academic dishonesty can be found at http://www.provost.bilkent.edu.tr/procedures/DisipKopya.htm.

A note on Attendance and Grade-Beggars:
I don’t usually take attendance. I believe that you are all grown ups and know that every action has a consequence. This means that if you don’t show up for classes you will likely not to succeed in this course, and since you are grown ups, I assume that you are fully cognizant of this fact. So if you think you will be missing more than two classes and won’t be able to make up for it properly please don’t take this course.
And, please, please, please, please, after the final exam, don’t come up to me asking for a grade that you really didn’t deserve. **I give my students more than enough chances to get good grades. If you can’t make good use of these opportunities this is absolutely your fault, not mine.**

**One Final Note:** As you all know, like every course we have an extra hour allocated for this class. Currently, I don’t foresee any use of that slot, but if need be, I will let you know by announcing in class and/or via email. Finally, though it is very unlikely, I reserve the right to make changes regarding the readings or assignment dates.

**Class Schedule:**

**PART I: The Emergence of Modern International Relations System**

**Week 1:** September 16: Introduction to the Course

**Week 2:** September 21 and 23: The Treaty of Westphalia (1648) and The State of Monarchs around Europe in the 17th Century + Concepts Central to International Relations

- Paul R. Viotti and Mark V. Kauppi, *International Relations and World Politics*, pp. 35-39. [polarity, balance of power]
- Edward Whiting Fox, *The Emergence of the Modern European World*, pp. 3-25. [the state of the monarchs]

**PART II: The Age of Revolutions**

**Week 3:** September 28 and 30: The French Revolution, and the Rise and Fall of the Napoleonic Empire


Norman Rich, *Great Power Diplomacy*, pp. 28-43. [Concert of Europe]

**Week 4:** October 5 and 7: The Industrial Revolution


**Week 5:** October 12 and 14: The American Revolution and the Emergence of the US as a Great Power

- **Quiz #1** (October 14th)

**PART III: THE ROAD TO THE WORLD WAR I AND II**

**Week 6:** October 19 and 21: German and Italian Unifications


**Week 7:** October 26: World War I

- Edward Whiting Fox, *The Emergence of the Modern European World*, pp. 239-282. [WWI]

**October 28:** No Class: Republic Holiday Starts after 12:00 pm}
Week 8: November 2 and 4: Inter War Period: Post WWI Settlement and the Rise and the Decline of Various Ideologies
  o Edward Whiting Fox, *The Emergence of the Modern European World*, pp. 283-328. [WWI Settlement or the lack thereof]
  o **November 4th: MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 9: November 9 and 11: World War II:
  o Edward Whiting Fox, *The Emergence of the Modern European World*, pp. 329-373. [WWII]

**Week 10: November 16 and 18: NO CLASS: KURBAN BAYRAMI**

**PART IV: The World from the End of WWII until the End of the Cold War**

Week 11: November 23 and 25: The Cold War Begins
  o Charles W. Kegley and Eugene Wittkopf, *World Politics: Trend and Transformation*, pp. 35-42. [Realism and Neo-realism]

Week 12: November 30 and December 2: The 1960s I:
  o **Quiz #2 (December 2nd)**
  o Wayne C. McWilliams and Harry Piotorowski, *The World Since 1945*, pp. 76-101; pp. 175-197 [W and E European integration, Cuban Missile Crisis, Sino-Soviet Split, SU dominance over most parts of E. Europe]

Week 13: December 7 and 9: The 1960s II:

Week 14: December 14 and 16: The 1970s:

Week 15 and Week 16: December 21, 23, 28 and 30: Towards the End of the Cold War: The 1980s and the early 1990s:
  o **Quiz #3 (December 23rd)**
  o WRAP UP, FINAL THOUGHTS AND CONCLUSIONS

*FINAL EXAM: TBD BY THE DEAN’S OFFICE*