

HISTORY 2705E
The Western Tradition in International Relations Theory and Practice
Fall/Winter 2020-21
Thursdays 9:30 to 12:30

Instructor: Professor Oleksa Drachewych

Office Hours: TBA

Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 2245

Email: odrachew@uwo.ca

This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

This course will be offered in a virtual synchronous format - on-line and at a dedicated time.

Course Description:

History 2705E is a 'great books' course. The purpose is to examine critical works of international relations theory in context. The focus is "the Western tradition". Thinkers to be considered include: Cicero, Augustine, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Erasmus, Grotius, Hobbes, Frederick of Prussia, von Clausewitz, Angell, and Morgenthau.

Course Syllabus:

What is the lineage of ideas that brings us to modern understandings of international relations today? Focusing on the "Western tradition," this course will examine the works of prominent influences on international relations theory from the ancient world to the present as philosophical texts, but also in context. In doing so, this course will explore the interplay of how certain events influenced major works, but also consider how some thinkers influenced others. The course is split into three sections. The first section of the course will focus largely on thinkers prior to the "modern era." The second section will focus on international relations theories and their development in the nineteenth and twentieth century to shed light on modern debates in present international relations. Students will gain an understanding in several concepts such as just war theory, political realism, political idealism and ideological IR theory before exploring how globalization, anti-imperialism, gender and the environment have led to new considerations in modern IR theory. In the third section, students will apply what they have learned in a multi-week simulation.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- Understand the major concepts in the intellectual history of international relations as shown through major works by major thinkers in political and diplomatic thought
 - Effectively read, critique, summarize and understand primary sources as major philosophical texts and as historical artifacts
 - Gain an appreciation for the historiography of international relations scholarship along with an understanding of the context and lineage of certain philosophical concepts in international relations theory
 - Communicate clearly and effectively an argument through class discussions and written assignments
- As part of this course, there are several written assignments which will allow students to enhance their understanding of IR theories or help students write concisely, clearly, and purposefully.

- Through an interactive crisis simulation, students will work collaboratively with one another while understanding the challenges in the application of major IR theories.

Course Materials:

Most materials will be linked via OWL, using ebooks or online sources.

The following textbook is recommended:

Torbjorn L. Knutsen, *A History of International Relations Theory*, 3rd edition (Manchester: University of Manchester Press, 2016).

Methods of Evaluation:

Short Response Assignment: 15%

Overview Assignment: 10%

Final Assignment – International Relations Crisis Simulation: 35%

- In-class Participation/Group Collaboration: 15%
- Two Written Reports: 20% (10% each)

Final Exam: 25%

Participation: 15%

Short Response Assignment: Students will be required to write a **750-1000 word** response to one of four questions regarding early course content. Responses will be marked on clarity of writing and presentation of content, strength of arguments, and use of sources and research. Questions will be posted on OWL at the start of the course. **Deadline for submissions is October 9.**

Overview Assignment: Students will complete a **750 to 1000 word** overview of a thinker or work discussed in History 2705E. This overview will cover the thinker, the context of the works/thinker relevant to the class, and offer some strengths and limitations of the work/thinker's ideas as relates to international relations.

This assignment has two steps. The first step requires students to submit their assignment by **October 29**. Feedback with an assigned grade will be returned within two weeks. For the second step, students who submit the assignment at the first deadline, *on time*, will receive the opportunity to consider any feedback they may receive and to resubmit their assignment to improve their mark.

The resubmission deadline is **November 26**. No late resubmissions will be accepted. Students who fail to submit their first step assignment on time or those who fail to resubmit their assignment for the second step will keep the mark of work submitted at the first deadline.

The nature of this assignment will be to show mastery of the subject material, while mimicking the peer review process or similar processes one would see in professional writing or policy analysis in a deadline-oriented setting. Students who complete the entire process, including resubmission, will have the opportunity to publish their overviews on the History 2705E International Relations Thinker Database. The database can be found at <https://history2705.wordpress.com/> and can provide examples of the content expected. Overviews will be expected to include complete citations, including a bibliography.

Final Assignment: The final assignment in this course will be a crisis simulation taking place over the final weeks of the course. Students will be assigned to teams representing different schools of thought discussed in History

2705E. In these teams, students will discuss how their fictional nations, governed by these schools of thought, manage and navigate problems of diplomacy. The simulation will begin with an initial crisis and then as teams negotiate and work with, or against, one another, other crises will take place. The end goal will be to find common ground between the different schools of thought, resolving any crises and, hopefully, develop a balanced world system while gaining an appreciation for applied international relations. The simulation will be similar to Model UN Crisis Committees.

One's mark will be determined by two items. The first will be based on the students' involvement in online discussions taking place during class time during the simulation. Students should be active in team discussions, while also encouraging group collaboration and teamwork. Understanding that students may have different technological challenges, both verbal and written involvement during class time will be considered.

The second part of the mark will be determined by two 1000 word written reports. The first report will be due **February 11** and will evaluate and examine how the student's assigned school of thought would respond to the initial crisis. The second report will be due on **March 18** and will reflect on some of the simulation's events and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the school of thought as applied to the simulation's events. Though students will likely be influenced by their fellow teammates' positions and ideas throughout the simulation, students are responsible for their own written reports.

Groups are encouraged to meet and discuss their nation's position throughout the simulation outside of class time. Information regarding the simulation will be posted on OWL in January.

Obtaining a passing grade on the final assignment is a requirement for passing History 2705E.

Exam: There is a final take-home exam in this course. It will be cumulative and take place in the final exam period. Students will have 10 days to complete the exam. No late submissions will be accepted.

Participation: Participation will be determined by in-class discussion and the quality of student contributions in class and online discussions over the entire duration of the course. A detailed breakdown of discussions, their method of delivery, and topics, will be made available at the start of the course, posted on OWL.

General Information about Submissions and Deadlines:

All assignments should be submitted online via OWL at 11:59:59 pm ET on its due date. Additionally, all assignments will be submitted to Turnitin. The timestamp on OWL will be considered final for any disputes regarding the punctuality of submissions. All written assignments will require citations (endnotes/footnotes and bibliography) in the most recent version of Chicago Style. Hardcopies are not required, nor will they be accepted.

Late Policy:

For all late assignments, a late penalty of **3% per day**, including weekends, will be applied. Should you require accommodation due to medical reasons or otherwise, please see the following section, contact Academic Counselling, or consult the "Medical Issues" section at the end of this syllabus.

Accommodation for missed midterms with a Self Reported Absence:

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a makeup test on one of the two time slots available in each term:

Fall Term

- Tests scheduled before November 1 – the makeup will take place Monday, November 9 at 9:30am.
- Tests scheduled between November 9 and December 3 – the makeup will take place Friday, December 4 at 12:30pm.

Winter Term

- Tests scheduled before February 13 – the makeup will take place Monday, February 22 at 9:30am.
- Tests scheduled between February 22 and April 1 – the makeup will take place Friday, April 2 at 12:30pm

No other make-up opportunities will be provided. Students who fail to write a makeup test in the designated time slots will receive a grade of zero.

Students in online courses will write the make-up test through OWL over a 24-hour period beginning at the time noted above.

Students should be aware that course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup test slots.

Accommodation for missed assignment deadlines with a Self Reported Absence:

If a student reports a SRA for an assignment (i.e. an essay) the new due date will be 48 hours after the SRA was submitted. For example, if you complete a SRA on March 19 at 3pm, your new due date will be March 21 at 3pm.

Additional Statements

Academic Offences:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Student Accessibility Services at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding

accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:
www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Medical Issues

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation.

Please visit https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html to view all updated academic policies regarding medical accommodations.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the

bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are another writer's ideas.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in "A" above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in "A" above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Copyright

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

Health and Wellness

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Student Accessibility Services at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail vangalen@uwo.ca.

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