

**HISTORY 2705E**  
**The Western Tradition in International Relations Theory and Practice**  
**Fall/Winter 2021-22**  
**Thursdays 9:30 to 12:30 TBA**  
**Course delivery in-person, synchronous**

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

**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 influence major works, but also consider how some thinkers influence others. The first half of the course will focus largely on thinkers prior to the "modern era." The second half 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, natural law, political realism, liberalism, and ideological IR theory. The course will also explore how globalization, anti-imperialism, race, gender, and the environment have led to new considerations in modern IR theory. In this course, students will also come to terms with the limits of the traditional Western "canon" of IR theory. What is gained when considering the ideas of figures often not included in the "canon?" What does placing "canonical" Western theorists and theories in context, highlighting the role of imperialism or racism, to name two examples, do to our understanding and the applicability of their theories?

**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 a number of written assignments which will allow students to enhance their understanding of IR theories or help students write concisely, clearly, and purposefully.

- Consider concepts of race, gender, and class in why certain voices are prioritized and others marginalized in the “canon” of the “Western tradition” of IR theory
- Grapple with ways to think beyond the standard canon to develop a broader understanding of IR
- 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 items will be made available for purchase at the UWO Bookstore:

Required:

Stella Ghervas, *Conquering Peace: From the Enlightenment to the European Union* (Harvard University Press, 2021).

Recommended:

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

Ghervas will be required reading for class discussion. Knutsen is a useful overview of the main currents in IR thought and is recommended for students looking for an accessible textbook in addition to course lectures and readings.

### **Course Structure:**

This course will be a mixed of pre-recorded lectures, available on OWL, and in-class discussions. Class discussions will vary between smaller groups and class-wide simulations and presentations. Class discussions will take place in-person, unless otherwise indicated. More information regarding tutorials will be posted on OWL.

### **Methods of Evaluation:**

Overview Assignment: 15%

Short Response 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 in Class Discussion: 15%

**For all assignments, further instructions will be included on OWL.**

*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. Students will be assigned a thinker and work they will cover in their overview within the first weeks of class.

This assignment has two steps. The first step requires students to submit their assignment by **October 7**. Students can elect to submit a rough draft for initial feedback or a more polished draft to save time later. Feedback will be returned within two weeks. Students who submit the assignment at the first deadline, *on time*, will receive the opportunity to resubmit. The resubmission deadline is **October 29**. No late resubmissions will be accepted. Students who complete the entire process, including resubmission, will have the opportunity to publish their overviews on the History 2705E International Relations Thinker Database.

*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, content, strength of arguments, and use of sources and research. Questions will be posted on OWL at the start of the course and refer to course material covered before the Fall Reading Week. **Deadline for submissions is November 18.**

*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 internally 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. The simulation will be similar to Model UN Crisis Committees.

One's mark will be determined equally by two items. The first will be based on the students' involvement in the live simulation taking place during class time. Students should be active in team discussions, while also encouraging group collaboration and teamwork. Marks will be determined through a mix of self-evaluation, peer evaluation and the evaluation of the professor.

The second part of the mark will be determined by two 1000-1500 word written reports. The first report will be due **February 10** and will use historical examples to inspire an analysis of how a student's nation's assigned school of thought would respond to the initial crisis. The second report will be due on **March 24** and will be a reflection of some of the simulation's events and discuss the challenges of implementing a theory into practice. 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 exam in this course. It will be cumulative and take place in the final exam period. It will be composed of two essay sections.

*Participation:* Scheduled class time used for class discussion. Some weeks, the class will be separated into three hour-long sessions; other weeks will have class presentations or simulations. Participation will be determined by the quality of student contributions over the entire duration of the course. Students will be expected to be prepared to discuss course readings and lectures each week. More information regarding tutorials will be 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 be accepted.

### ***Late Policy:***

For all late assignments, a late penalty of **2% per day (weekends will count as one day)** will be applied. Should you require accommodation due to medical reasons or otherwise, please see the following section, contact Academic Counselling or consult the History Course Must-Knows on the History Department website.

### **Accommodation for missed tests/midterms, including Self Reported Absences (SRA):**

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a makeup test.

Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Online courses will have online makeup tests.

In person classes have scheduled makeup tests scheduled at the following times:

#### **Fall Term**

- Tests scheduled before November 1 – the makeup will take place November 8 at 9:30am.
- Tests scheduled between November 2 and December 7 – the makeup will take place December 8 at 9:30pm.

#### **Winter Term**

- Tests scheduled before February 19 – the makeup will take place February 28 at 9:30am.
- Tests scheduled between February 20 and March 31 – the makeup will take place April 1 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.

Course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup test slots.

Students should be aware that when they have submitted an SRA for one test, they are not permitted to write a test or complete an assignment for another course during the period covered by the SRA. Failure to observe this regulation will result in the cancellation of the SRA and the possible application of late penalties.

### **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.

### **Use of Electronic Devices:**

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and exams. In class, students are welcome to use laptops and other technology as appropriate, provided they use them for class related matters.

**Intellectual Property Statement:**

Course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member's intellectual property; it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party without prior written consent of the faculty member.

**Email Statement:**

I will do my best to respond within 24 hours unless otherwise stated in class or OWL. One exception to this rule will be weekends where I will aim to respond within 48 hours.

**Additional Statements:**

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document, <https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>, for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness