

**I.S. 190: International Relations Since 1945**  
**Rhodes College, Fall 2008**  
**CRN 19082**

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“The great events of history are often due to secular changes  
in the growth of population and other fundamental economic causes,  
which, escaping by their gradual character the notice of contemporary observers,  
are attributed to the follies of statesmen or the fanaticism of the atheists.”

John Maynard Keynes  
The Economic Consequences of the Peace

**Course Overview**

This course introduces students to the history of international relations since 1945 as well as many of the major international events, actors, outcomes, and themes that occurred during that time. The post-1945 time frame allows for a concentrated focus on two of the most significant periods in the contemporary study of international relations – “the Cold War” era and “the post-Cold War” era. Several leading theoretical frameworks – and the various grand strategy approaches based on them – will be used to both guide and supplement the study of these events and outcomes. Applying broader theoretical frameworks is instructive for not only studying the events of the day, but also for fostering a better systematic understanding of why such events occurred, for placing such events in the broader historical perspective, and for improving our understanding of the contemporary nature of world politics.

**Course Readings**

The assigned reading material will play a prominent role in the lectures, class discussions, the examinations and, ultimately, your learning. There are three required texts for the course. The first text, *The Peace of Illusions: American Grand Strategy from 1940 to the Present*, by Christopher Layne, provides a useful theoretical backdrop for studying the international relations of the latter part of the twentieth century. In doing so, he also advances a provocative thesis of his own which you will be asked to evaluate. Second, Wayne McWilliams and Harry Piotrowski’s *The World Since 1945: A History of International Relations* provides a sweeping, yet accessible and descriptive overview of the major international events of the period. This text offers considerable substantive content for readers new to the subject. Third, Mehran Kamrava’s *The Modern Middle East: A Political History Since the First World War* offers an insightful look into the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the modern Middle East – an area that has become increasingly relevant in the post-Cold War era. These texts are available in the campus bookstore. Finally, I highly recommend that all students acquire a writer’s handbook to keep as a companion reference. There are several good ones available, including Keene and Adams’ *Instant Access: The Pocket Handbook for Writers*.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you are interested in other supplemental reading materials. Finally, it is very important that you keep up with the reading assignments throughout the semester, so please see me if you are having difficulty keeping up.

### **Required Texts**

- Christopher Layne. *The Peace of Illusions: American Grand Strategy from 1940 to the Present*. Cornell University Press. 2006.
- Wayne McWilliams and Harry Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945: A History of International Relations*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers. 2005.
- Mehran Kamrava. *The Modern Middle East: A Political History Since the First World War*. University of California Press. 2005.

You will find other course materials at three different sites. First, the Reserve Desk at The Paul Barret, Jr. Library will have all of the reserve articles listed in the course schedule. Second, you may find materials on the college fileserver named: Acad\_Dept\_Pgm (Academic Departments and Programs) at: [\\fileserv1\Acad\\_Dept\\_Pgm\Intl\\_Stu\Ceccoli\\_Stephen\Public](\\fileserv1\Acad_Dept_Pgm\Intl_Stu\Ceccoli_Stephen\Public). Finally, some materials can be accessed online via the “on-line databases” link on the Barret Library webpage. In particular, students should become familiar with the “ProQuest Direct” on-line database.

### **Course Requirements**

The final grade for the course will be determined by several sources. There will be two mid-term exams (October 1<sup>st</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup>) and one final exam (December 15<sup>th</sup>). The mid-term exams will include a combination of in-class and take home components. Students are also required to complete one original, analytical essay (roughly 12-15 typed, double-spaced pages). The topic selection must be approved by your instructor no later than September 15<sup>th</sup> and the first draft of the analytical essay is due at the beginning of class on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The final version of the analytical essay will be due at the beginning of class on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Specific instructions and details regarding all writing assignments will be provided at a later time. Attendance and participation in class are very important. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and explore related questions. An occasional quiz over the daily reading assignment may contribute to the participation component of the course.

Your final grade for the course will be derived as follows:

|                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Two Midterm Exams (40%)            | Analytical Essay (25%) |
| Final Exam (25%)                   | = 15% for first draft  |
| Attendance and Participation (10%) | = 10% for final draft) |

### **Course Objectives**

Students should keep in mind that this is an introductory course and that the proposed schedule is an ambitious one. Since your instructor firmly believes that there is virtue in flexibility, the course schedule may be adjusted to meet the pace of the class if or when necessary. The following student learning objectives for the course have been identified:

- 1.) Gain a greater appreciation for the various grand strategy approaches and the conceptual frameworks on which they are based when analyzing post-1945 international events;
- 2.) Develop a solid and substantive understanding of diplomatic history and the historical underpinnings of international events in the latter part of the twentieth century and beyond;
- 3.) Continue to enhance critical thinking and confident debating skills through the use of effective study habits both inside and outside of the regular classroom meetings.
- 4.) Improve analytical writing skills through the drafting and redrafting of an essay that focuses on a single substantive area and developing a set of competing arguments.

## Guidelines

- Excessive (as determined by the instructor) absences may result in a diminished (or failing) course grade.
- Each student (including those taking the class pass/fail) must complete all assignments.
- All work should be completed on time. Late work will not be accepted.
- All students are expected to adhere to the College's Honor Code.
- Your instructor will gladly discuss your individual progress at any time.

## Course Schedule

| Day       | Date               | Comment  |
|-----------|--------------------|--|
| Wednesday | <b>August 27</b>   | Course Introduction  |
|           |                    | <b>Developing Explanations for International Events/Outcomes</b><br>Case: Nuclear Proliferation and Disarmament<br>a.) levels of analysis      b.) main IR paradigms<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 508, 511-522, 527-530, 534-535<br>Read: Stephen Walt, International Relations: One World, Many Theories<br>(Available via the Barret Library online database ProQuest Direct) |
| Friday    | 29                 |  |
| Monday    | <b>September 1</b> | Labor Day Holiday – No Class   |
|           |                    | International Relations, System Structure and State Behavior<br>Read: R. Gilpin, The Nature of Int'l Political Change (res.)<br>(Note: This is a lengthy essay, so take your time with it and try to familiarize yourself with the key terms.)   |
| Wednesday | 3                  | Drop/add period ends   |
|           |                    | Domestic Explanations of State Behavior; Introduction to Grand Strategy<br>Skim: F.J. Turner, The Frontier in American History (res.)<br>Question: What is the Frontier Thesis? Why is it significant?<br>Read: C. Kupchan and P. Trubowitz, Grand Strategy for a Divided America (Available via the online database ProQuest Direct)  |
| Friday    | 5                  |  |
| Monday    | 8                  | Realist Explanations of State Behavior<br>Read: Layne, pp. 1-38  |
| Wednesday | 10                 | <b>Origins of the Cold War: The End of World War II</b><br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 1-30   |
| Friday    | 12                 | Origins of the Cold War: Institution Building<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 31-49, 79-95   |
|           |                    | Origins of the Cold War: Institution Building (cont.)<br>Read: Cold War original documents (res.)  |
| Monday    | 15                 | <b>Analytical Essay topic approval deadline</b>  |
| Wednesday | 17                 | U.S. Grand Strategy and the USSR<br>Read: Layne, pp. 39-70   |
|           |                    | American Hegemony in Western Europe<br>Read: Layne, pp. 71-93, 118-128<br>Withdraw Period begins (9/18)  |
| Friday    | 19                 |  |
| Monday    | 22                 | East-West Relations<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 179-193, 236-243   |
| Wednesday | 24                 | The Transformation of the Soviet Union and Communist Europe<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 458-489  |
|           |                    | The Balkan Crises in Bosnia (1995) and Kosovo (1999)<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 496-502<br>Read: Layne, pp. 129-133<br>Read: Misha Glenny, The Balkan Vortex, 1989-1999 (res.)  |
| Friday    | 26                 |  |
| Monday    | 29                 | The End of Unipolar Era<br>Read: Layne, pp. 134-58   |

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| Wednesday | <b>October 1</b>  | <b>First Midterm Exam</b>   |
|           |                   | <b>The Cold War in Asia, Africa, and Latin America</b>  |
| Friday    | 3                 | The Cold War in Asia<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 50-78  |
| Monday    | 6                 | The Korean War<br>Read: Warren Cohen, The Korean War & Its Consequences (res)   |
| Wednesday | 8                 | The War in Indochina<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 120-128, 205-227   |
| Friday    | 10                | The War in Indochina (cont.)<br>Read: Thomas Paterson and D. Merrill: The Vietnam War (reserve) - Be sure to read the original documents carefully  |
| Monday    | 13                | The China Question: One China? Two Chinas?<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 194-201, 228-236   |
| Wednesday | 15                | The China Question (cont)<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 352-374   |
| Friday    | 17                | Fall break / No Class   |
| Monday    | 20                | The Cold War in South and Southeast Asia<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 113-120; 375-402   |
| Wednesday | 22                | Decolonization in Africa<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 129-147  |
| Friday    | 24                | Nigeria and the Biafran War: A Case Study<br>Read: Michael Crowder, Indirect Rule – British and French Style (res.)<br>Read: TBA<br><b>First Draft of Analytical Essay Due</b>              |
| Monday    | 27                | South Africa and Apartheid<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 294-311  |
| Wednesday | 29                | Economic Development and Political Stability in Africa<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 245-281<br>Skim: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 282-294<br>Withdraw Period Ends              |
| Friday    | 31                | The Cold War in Latin America<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 312-351<br>(Note: Skim sections on Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Mexico, while carefully reading the rest of this chapter) |
| Monday    | <b>November 3</b> | Guatemala: A Case Study of The Cold War in Latin America<br>Read: S. Schlesinger and S. Kinzer, Bitter Fruit, Chs. 1,5 (res.)   |
| Wednesday | 5                 | Cuba: A Case Study of The Cold War in Latin America<br>Read: C. Staten, Fidel Castro: The Man and the Myth (res.)<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 95-104                            |
| Friday    | 7                 | <b>Second Midterm Exam</b>  |
| Monday    | 10                | The Strategy of Offshore Balancing<br>Read: Layne, pp. 159-92   |
| Wednesday | 12                | <b>Transformation in the Middle East: The Cold War and Beyond</b><br>Political Islam and the Middle East<br>Read: Kamrava, pp. 1-18<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 539-43          |
| Friday    | 14                | Decline of Ottoman Rule; Rise of Nationalism in Turkey, Iran, S. Arabia<br>Read: Kamrava, pp. 22-34; 50-66  |
| Monday    | 17                | State Formation in the Middle East<br>Read: Kamrava, pp. 35-50  |
| Wednesday | 19                | The Zionist Movement and the Birth of Israel<br>Read: Kamrava, pp. 67-83<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 148-54   |

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| Friday    | 21                | The Emergence of Palestinian Nationalism<br>Read: Kamrava, pp. 83-88<br>Read: A.D. Miller, The Palestinian Dimension (res)   |
| Monday    | 24                | The Rise of Nasserism in Egypt<br>Read: Kamrava, pp. 88-115  |
| Wed, Fri  | 26, 28            | Thanksgiving Break begins Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 10 p.m.  |
| Monday    | <b>December 1</b> | The Arab-Israeli Wars<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 154-163<br>Read: Kamrava, pp. 115-137<br><b>Analytical Essay Due</b>   |
| Wednesday | 3                 | The Ongoing Palestinian-Israeli Conflict<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 163-173<br>Read: Kamrava, pp. 215-256   |
| Friday    | 5                 | Iran: A Case Study of The Cold War<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 543-551<br>Read: Mark Gasiorowski, US Foreign Policy Toward Iran<br>During the Mussadiq Era (res) |
| Monday    | 8                 | The Iranian Revolution<br>Read: Kamrava, pp. 138-168   |
| Wednesday | 10                | The Gulf Wars<br>Read: McWilliams and Piotrowski, pp. 551-563<br>Read: Kamrava, pp. 169-212  |
| Thursday  | 11                | Reading day  |
| Monday    | December 15       | <b>Final Exam</b> at 9:00 am   |