

POL486H1/2205H
Topics in International Politics I
(The Emergence of Modern World Politics)

POL486H1/2205H2PE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Professor Mathias Albert

Classroom: UC248
 Class hours: Tuesdays 4-6 pm
 Office hours: immediately after class (detailed individual scheduling in classroom)

Course Description

This course deals with the emergence of world politics as a specific form of politics in the context of the transformation of modern society particularly during the 19th century, and the global spread of world politics during the 19th and 20th centuries. The first main course goal is to enable students to understand and critically assess the degree to which world politics is not a practice which somehow takes place as an exchange between pre-existing political units, but that changes in the form of these units the shape of the system of world politics are closely linked to each other; the second major goal is to introduce students to work systematically with resources from sociological theory and global history research in the study of international relations.

Learning Objectives

The main aim of the course is to enable students to engage in advanced debates about theories of international relations by viewing them through the lenses of sociological theory and global history. In a strongly research-driven seminar, the aim specifically is to critically discuss the processes of state and system-formation particularly since the 19th century.

Requirements

Students are required to complete two assignments in order to pass the course:

1. A 6000-word research essay: 65% [due 31 March 2015]
2. A 1500-word literature review (excl. references, of which at least 20), incl. brief, 5-10 min presentation on the topic of one class: 25% [individual due dates on specific class dates]
3. Participation: 10%

Extensions and penalties

Penalty for late papers: 5 percent for the first day, 2 percent per day thereafter. Extensions are exceptionally granted on medical or compassionate grounds when they are requested before the essay is due. *No extensions will be granted after the due date.*

In medical cases, you must submit the *original copy* of a University of Toronto student medical certificate: <http://www.healthservice.utoronto.ca/pdfs/medcert.htm>. A medical certificate alone does not entitle you to an extension; rather, the instructor has to be satisfied that the illness was genuine and that it prevented the student from completing the assignment.

Schedule and Weekly Readings

Schedule flexibility: the schedule below is basically fixed, yet flexible enough to accommodate more extensive treatment or addition of some subjects if the need arises. As some readings are quite long books it will be determined as a result of in-class discussion which chapters are the most important ones to read. This means that the course is conducted in a classical seminar style.

Week 1 – Introduction and overview (Jan. 6)

Week 2 – Images of international politics (Jan. 13)

Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*. Longgrove. Waveland Press 2010 (or earlier edition).
 Hans J. Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations*. Boston: McGraw Hill 2007 (or any other edition).
 Hedley Bull, *The Anarchical Society*. London: Macmillan 1977.

Week 3 – Forerunners of the modern international system; a first account of systemness (Jan. 20)

Barry Buzan and Richard Little, *International Systems in World History*. Oxford. Oxford University Press 2000.
 Jürgen Osterhammel, *The Transformation of the World. A Global History of the Nineteenth Century*. Princeton: Princeton University Press 2014.

Week 4 – The making of the modern international system – an IR account (Jan. 27)

Barry Buzan and George Lawson, *The Global Transformation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2015.

Week 5 – The making of the modern international system – a global history account (?) (Feb. 3)

Osterhammel

Week 6 – The making of the modern international system – a social evolutionary account (Feb. 10)

Hauke Brunkhorst, *Critical Theory of Legal Revolutions*. New York: Bloomsbury 2014.

Week 7 – Images of international politics revisited (Feb. 24)

Readings from previous weeks

Week 8 – What is a system? (Mar. 3)

Morton A. Kaplan, *System and Process in International Politics*. Huntington: Krieger 1975 (or earlier printing).

Mathias Albert, Lars-Erik Cederman, Alexander Wendt (eds.), *New Systems Theories of International Relations*. London: Palgrave 2010.

Week 9 – International and world society (Mar. 17)

Barry Buzan, *From International to World Society*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2004.

Week 10 – Differentiation (Mar. 24)

Mathias Albert, Barry Buzan, Michael Zürn (eds.), *Bringing Sociology to IR. World Politics as Differentiation Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2013.

Week 11 – The history, extent and scope of the system of world politics (Mar. 31)

John W. Meyer et al., World Society and the Nation-State. *American Journal of Sociology* 103 (1997): 144-181.

Hedley Bull, Adam Watson (eds.) *The Expansion of International Society*. Oxford: Clarendon Press 1984.