

COURSE SYLLABUS

Title: HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS AND SOCIETIES IN WORLD HISTORY

Professor: Dario Battistella

Credits: 4

Language of instruction: English

Available on moodle: NO

The course is a historical overview of the evolution of international politics from its early beginnings to the contemporary post-Cold War world.

Its purpose is twofold. First and foremost to recall the major stages of this evolution with the view of enabling students to have an in-depth knowledge of long-term trends and processes at the roots of current historical features.

Second objective: to serve either as a complementary or as a preliminary class to a course on IR theories.

Social sciences being plural fields composed by competing paradigms, the analysis proposed is necessarily a personal – although not an arbitrary – one. As such, it is open to discussion and criticism.

The exam will take the form of a short oral examination.

Syllabus

1. **Introduction.** How to Approach World History?

Part I. The Evolution of the International System

2. 1492-1648: From the Middle Ages to a Global International System

3. 1648-1815: The Anglo-French Struggle for Mastery in Europe

4. 1815-1945: The Rise and Decline of *Pax Britannica*

5. 1945-1989/91: The Soviet-American Struggle for Mastery in the World

6. 1989/91- ... The Triumph of *Pax Americana*

Part II. The Development of the International Society

7. 1492-1648: Christianity vs. Heathen Barbarians

8. 1648-1815: European Commonwealth vs. Savage Tribes

9. 1815-1945: Civilization vs. Non-Civilized Entities

10. 1945-1989/91: Western World vs. Eastern Totalitarianism

11. 1989/91- ...: International Community vs. Rogue Regimes

12. **Conclusion.** What Does World History Tell Us?

Selective Bibliography

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