

## International History (provisional syllabus)

Academic year 2020-21

### Evolution of the International System, c. 1815 to the Present

HI102 - Spring - 6 ECTS  
Mondays 08:15-10:00 / online and P3#506

#### Course Description

This three-part seminar offers an interpretative historical survey of modern international relations from perspectives informed by race, colonialism, and empire. Opening with a review of their overlapping epistemologies, it examines the role of revolution/counterrevolution and insurgency/counter-insurgency across the world in shaping power relations in the international system, before finally exploring its fraught relationship with the empire and the nation state.

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## Evaluation

This class is about debate, discussion, and discovery. Class participation in cumulating weekly discussions of the readings is therefore a core element. The seminar revolves around three broad overlapping themes: race/empire/liberalism; revolution/counterrevolution/counterinsurgency; and nationalisms/post-nationalisms between empire and the international system. We will pause for breath and take stock in two discussion classes in Weeks 8 and 14. The working prompts for the discussions will also serve as your prompts for the end-semester essay. However you are welcome to define or narrow them according to your particular interests. You may pair up for the essay. The word limit is 3000 words for single-authored essays and 5000 words for paired essays. Essays are due on 4 June 2021. You are welcome to discuss your essay ideas with us at any point during the semester.

The basis for evaluation is as follows: class participation/20 per cent; discussion classes 20 per cent each; end-semester essay 40 per cent.

## Syllabus

### Week 1 / 22 February 2021 / Introduction

### Week 2 / 1 March 2021 / Ghostly orders

So we begin with three classes discussing some poltergeists in the modern world order

1. Robert Cooper, *The Post-modern State and the World Order* (London, 2000)

- Zubairu Wai, 'Africa in/and International Relations: An Introduction', in Marta Iñiguez de Heredia and Wai, eds, *Recentering Africa in International Relations: Beyond Lack, Peripherality, and Failure* (Cham, 2018).

### **Week 3 / 8 March 2021 / Race, empire, liberalism**

- Duncan Bell, *Reordering the World: Essays on Liberalism and Empire* (Princeton, 2016), ch. 2
- Lisa Lowe, *The Intimacies of Four Continents* (Durham NC, 2015), ch. 4

### **Week 4 / 15 March 2021 / Race, coloniality, hegemony**

- Walter Dignolo, 'The Geopolitics of Knowledge and the Colonial Difference', *South Atlantic Quarterly*, 2002
- Clive Gabay, *Imagining Africa: Whiteness and the Western Gaze* (Cambridge, 2018), ch. 1

### **Week 5 / 22 March 2021 / Revolution, containment, counterrevolution: Europe in the Long 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

Is the international system an arena of expanding revolution or persisting counterrevolution? We start in Europe, the 'cradle' of revolution ...

- Richard Evans, *The Pursuit of Power: Europe, 1815-1914* (London, 2016), ch. 1
- Arno J. Mayer, *The Persistence of the Old Regime: Europe to the Great War* (New York, , 1981), ch. 2

Recommended:

- Beatrice de Graaf, *Fighting Terror after Napoleon: How Europe became Secure after 1815* (Cambridge, 2020), pp. 1-17.
- Karl Marx, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon*, I and II (about 20 pages)

### **Week 6 / 29 March 2021 / Revolution, containment, counterrevolution: Beyond Europe**

... then go to its supposed 'grave', and ...

- Julius Scott, *The Common Wind: Afro-American Currents in the Age of the Haitian Revolution* (London, 2016), ch. 5 and Epilogue
- Sujit Sivasundaram, *Waves across the South: A New History of Revolution and Empire* (London, 2020), ch. 4

### **Week 7 / 12 April 2021 / Revolution, containment, counterrevolution: Beyond the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

... carry those lenses into the twentieth century

- Arno Mayer, *The Politics and Diplomacy of Peacemaking: Containment and Counterrevolution at Versailles, 1918-1919* (New York, 1967), Prologue
- Kenyon Zimmer, *Immigrants against the State: Yiddish and Italian Anarchism in America* (Chicago, 2015), ch. 5
- Seema Sohi, 'Race, Surveillance, and Indian Anticolonialism in the Transnational Western U.S.-Canadian Borderlands', *Journal of American History*, 2011.

### **Week 8 / 19 April 2021 / Discussion class**

**Working prompt: How may we understand the nineteenth century world order in relation to revolution and insurgency? What implications can we draw for the twentieth century and the present?**

Here are some suggested readings. You may divide them up and bring in additional readings:

1. Kim Wagner, 'Savage Warfare: Violence and the Rule of Colonial Difference in Early British Counterinsurgency', *History Workshop Journal*, 2018.
2. Greg Grandin and Gilbert M. Joseph, eds, *A Century of Revolution: Insurgent and Counterinsurgent Violence during Latin America's Long Cold War* (Durham, 2010)
  - a. Introduction
  - b. Corey Robin, 'You Say You Want a Counterrevolution: Well, You Know, We All Want to Change the World'
  - c. Gilbert M. Joseph, 'Latin America's Long Cold War: A Century of Revolutionary Process and U.S. Power'
  - d. Interview with Arno J. Mayer

### **Week 9 / 26 April 2021 / Nation, state, empire**

How did European nation-states relate to their empires? Did states make empires, or did empires make states?

1. Gary Wilder, *The French Imperial Nation-State: Negritude and Colonial Humanism between the Two World Wars* (Chicago, 2005), chs 1 and 2
2. Andrew Baker, 'Divided Sovereignty: Empire and Nation in the Making of Modern Britain', *International Politics*, 2009

### **Week 10 / 3 May 2021 / Expansive claims: sovereignty in empire**

How did colonial subjects make claims within the empire, and what did they mean for the empire?

1. Sukanya Banerjee, *Becoming Imperial Citizens: Indians in the Late-Victorian Empire* (Durham, NC, 2010), Introduction
2. Gary Wilder, *Freedom Time: Negritude, Decolonization, and the Future of the World* (Durham, NC, 2015), ch. 1

### **Week 11 / 10 May 2021 / Reconstituting empire and sovereignty**

The empire was the precursor to the international system. How exactly and why?

1. Mark Mazower, *No Enchanted Palace: The End of Empire and the Ideological Origins of the United Nations* (Princeton, 2009), ch. 1
2. Amy Niang, 'Rehistoricizing the Sovereignty Principle: Stature, Decline, and Anxieties about a Foundational Norm', in Marta Iñiguez de Heredia and Wai, eds, *Recentering Africa in International Relations*.

### **Week 12 / 17 May 2021 / Post-national imaginings**

How were postnational strivings Did postnational imaginings survive the nation-state order? How were they resurrected?

1. Frederic Cooper, *Citizenship between Empire and Nation: Remaking France and French West Africa, 1945-1960* (Princeton, 2014), Introduction and ch. 1.
2. John Kelly and Martha Kaplan, "'My Ambition is much Higher than Independence': US Power, the UN World, the Nation-state, and their Critics", in Prasenjit Duara, ed., *Decolonization: Perspectives from Then and Now* (New York, 2004)

### **Week 13 / 24 May 2020 / Public holiday—no class**

### **Week 14 / 31 May 2021 / Discussion class**

**Working prompt: How did anti-colonial movements seek to remake the world? In what ways did decolonization and the nation-state system reflect the success of anti-colonial movements, in what ways did they serve to channel or contain their promise and aspirations?**

1. Adom Getachew, *Worldmaking after Empire: The Rise and Fall of Self-Determination* (Princeton, 2019), chs 3 and 5.
2. Movie *Burn!* (1969, directed by Gillo Pontecorvo, starring Marlon Brando and with music by Ennio Morricone). [See trailer here](#).