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SUMMER I, 2005
M, T, W, Th, 14:00-16:00
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International Affairs since 1945

PL 399B HS 399

Course description:

This course covers the history of international relations since 1945. The different periods of international competition will be analyzed in a global context. We will study the development of international competition from the time it was military and ideological in character to when it became primarily economic in nature. Phenomena like decolonization, local wars, political blocs, and developing societies, will be covered. The process of transition to a new, contemporary, era will be treated. The class format will include lectures, discussion, presentations, and audiovisual materials. The students will be asked to do a small research project, utilizing information technology.

Course goals:

This course attempts to provide the student with a general understanding of international relations development, and transition processes in a global context. Priority is given to conceptualization of different phenomena and their historical development. Critical thinking and comparative analysis will be applied to achieve a clear understanding of the world's international affairs in the last sixty years.

Required readings:

McWilliams W.C., Piotrowski H., *The World since 1945. A History of International Relations*. Fifth Edition, London, 2001.
Mingst K.A., *Essentials of International Relations*. Third Edition, New York, 2004.

Recommended readings:

Young J.W., Kent, J., *International Relations since 1945. A Global History*. Oxford, 2004.
Baylis J., Smith S., (ed.), *The Globalization of World Politics*. Third Edition, Oxford, 2005.

General readings:

Goldstrein J. S., *International Relations*. New York, 2001.
Kegley C. W., Wittkopf E. R., *World Politics. Trend and Transformation*. Belmont CA, 2001

Program:

Week 1

<u>Unit 1</u> (May 23)	Introduction. Methodology. Definitions.
<u>Unit 2</u> (May 24)	The Origins of the Cold War. The End of World War II and the Dawn of the Nuclear Age. (McWilliams, p. 1-29; Mingst, p. 1-15; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 3</u> (May 25)	The Cold War Institutionalized. Marshall Plan. Cold War in Asia: a Change of Venue. (McWilliams, p. 30-59; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 4</u> (May 26)	Korean War. Confrontation and Coexistence. NATO. East European Integration. (McWilliams, p. 59-93; Mingst, p. 17-54; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 5</u> (May 27)	Cuban Missile Crisis. Nationalism and the End of Colonialism. Decolonization in Asia. Indochina. (McWilliams, p. 93-124; assigned readings)

Week 2

<u>Unit 6</u> (May 30)	Decolonization in Africa. The Middle East: the Arab-Israeli Conflict. (McWilliams, p. 125-170; Mingst, p. 55-82; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 7</u> (May 31)	The Shifting Sands of Global Power. The Communist World after Stalin. The Sino-Soviet Split. (McWilliams, p. 171-200; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 8</u> (June 1)	The War in Indochina. Détente and the End of Bipolarity. The United States and China. (McWilliams, p. 201 -242; Mingst, p. 83-99; assigned readings)

Week 3

- Unit 9** The Third World. Problems of Economic Development. North versus South. The Agrarian Dilemma.
(June 6) (McWilliams, p. 243-265; assigned readings)
- Unit 10** Africa. Political Instability. Foreign Intervention. The Call for Democracy. Apartheid in South Africa.
(June 7) (McWilliams, p. 266 -310; Mingst, p. 101-135; assigned readings)
- Unit 11** *MIDTERM EXAM
(June 8)
- Unit 12** Latin America. The Colonial Heritage. Military and Civilian Rule. Mexico. Central America
(June 9) (McWilliams, p. 311-354; assigned readings)

Week 4

- Unit 13** The People's Republic of China. Mao Zedong. Deng Xiaoping. Taiwan. Hong Kong.
(June 13) (McWilliams, p. 355-378; Mingst, p. 137-157; assigned readings)
- Unit 14** The Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia. India. Pakistan. Bangladesh. Southeast Asia. The Philippines.
(June 14) (McWilliams, p. 379-408; assigned readings)
- Unit 15** Transition to a New Era. Political Islam and the Middle East. Iran. Middle East Terrorism. The Gulf War.
(June 15) (McWilliams, p. 409-439; Mingst, p. 159-195; assigned readings)
- Unit 16** Japan, Korea, and East Asian Economic Development. The Four Tigers of Asia.
(June 16) (McWilliams, p. 440-465; assigned readings)

Week 5

- Unit 17** The Globalization of the Economy. The European Union. NAFTA. OPEC. Global Environmentalism.
(June 20) (McWilliams, p. 466-494; Mingst, p. 197-231; assigned readings)
- Unit 18** Gorbachev's *Perestroika*. The Nationality Question. The End of the Soviet Union. Yeltsin. Putin.
(June 21) (McWilliams, p. 495- 521; assigned readings)
- Unit 19** The Soviet Union's Retreat from Empire. The Afghan Crisis. Poland . German Reunification. Yugoslavia.
(June 22) (McWilliams, p. 522- 563; Mingst, p. 233-272; assigned readings)
- *FINAL PAPER, *PORTFOLIO
- Unit 20** The Nuclear Arms Race and Nuclear Disarmament. Epilogue: the End of the post-War Age.
(June 23) (McWilliams, p. 564-602; Mingst, p. 273-314; assigned readings)
- *FINAL EXAM

Course requirements:

Two in-class Exams (midterm exam and final exam).

A Final Paper (with a Portfolio).

A Presentation

Regular attendance and participation in class.

Exams: Midterm and final exams have the same format. The exam has two parts of equal value. The first part is an essay, the student will choose one theme out of three proposed, and will write a well organized essay. The second part of the exam is made of ten terms to be concisely identified.

Final paper: The final paper (five to eight typed pages) will be on any topic of the student's choice related to the class program. The topic should be focused and worthy of investigation. **Portfolio:** In order to produce their final papers, students will keep a portfolio of research materials during the semester. The portfolio will be shared with, and evaluated by the instructor. The production of the final paper is a work in progress during the semester. The portfolio and the paper project are progressive steps toward completion of the final paper.

Presentation: Students are encouraged to give a short individual or team presentation on a specific topic of their choice related to the class program. The presentation will be well organized, concise, and include (when opportune) audiovisual and electronic materials. An individual written (three pages) presentation in substitution of the oral presentation is accepted.

Final paper format:

Cover page:

title, student's name, course name, instructor's name, semester, year.

Text pages:

a well organized research paper with an introduction, a body with critical analyses and evidence presented, and conclusion.

Additional materials (when appropriate) - charts, maps, photos, other materials.

Bibliography pages, listing the journal articles and electronic references.

Grading:

The final grade will be computed as follows: midterm exam, 30%; final exam, 30%; final paper, 30%; portfolio, presentation, and other assignments, 10%. Absences, lateness, and missed deadlines will lower the final grade. Improvement over the semester will be rewarded. Letter grades correspond to the numerical scale:

A to A- = 100% to 90%. B+ to B- = 89% to 80%. C+ to C- = 79% to 70%. D+ to D- = 69% to 60%. F = <60%.

Papers retrieval:

All papers are retrievable from the instructor's office up to the end of the following semester. Students can have their papers mailed to them by giving the instructor a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Library sessions:

The class will meet sometimes in the library to receive instruction on electronic tools and sources. Individual assistance will be provided to the students for their research. To be announced.

Journals:

International Affairs, Current History, The Economist.

Data bases:

JSTOR, EBSCO, UNBIS-United Nations.

Recommended films:

Some class viewing may be scheduled during the semester. To be announced.

Guest speakers:

Guest speakers expert in the fields related to the program may be invited during the semester. To be announced.

Field trips:

Field trips may be scheduled during the semester in connection with ongoing cultural events of interest in Rome. To be announced.

This syllabus is on line: www.gabrielesimoncini.it