Martin Beisswenger (martin.beisswenger@gmail.com)

International Relations in the Twentieth Century
Course description:
This course examines the international relations of Europe, Russia (the Soviet Union) and the United States in the twentieth century. It focuses on the main foreign policy events, such as World War I, the Paris Peace Conference, the establishment of the League of Nations, the Munich Agreement, World War II, the Yalta Conference, the establishment of the United Nations, the Cold War, and the emergence of the European Union. The course explores how states used different means to achieve their foreign policy goals and how these means changed over time.

We will also pay attention to the biographies of the political and diplomatic actors and try to determine to what degree their personalities and individual decisions (rather than political circumstances) shaped and determined international relations. While the lectures will present a general outline of the main foreign policy events of the twentieth century, in seminars we will discuss the various and often conflicting interpretations of these events by historians.

Course aims and learning objectives:
• to introduce students to the international history of twentieth-century Europe and the world
• to gain knowledge about the main trends in twentieth-century international relations, important foreign policy events and international institutions
• to familiarize students with key historiographical debates about twentieth-century international history
• to develop skills in close reading, critical evaluation and analysis of primary documents and relevant secondary literature
• to enable students further to explore the topic of twentieth-century international history and to relate it to their own research interests
• to enhance students’ foreign language skills and apply them to individual research and presentations

Assignments, tests and grades:
In order to receive a passing grade in this course you will have to:
• participate regularly in class discussions,
• do all the required readings,
• write one book review (2-3 pages) on a monograph of your choice (and in consultation with the instructor) related to the topic of our course,
• pass a final test (“zachet”).

Participation in class and the book review will count for 30% of your final grade each, while the final test determines the remaining 40% of your grade.

Attendance:
This is a lecture and discussion course. You will be expected to have done the reading assignments and participate in class discussions. Attendance is mandatory, and you must be on time and prepared. You can have two unexcused absence throughout the course. More absences may lower your course grade. More than four unexcused absences may result in a failing grade for the course. Arriving more than 15 minutes late in class counts as an unexcused absence as well. It is your responsibility to make up missed work, or to meet with the instructor to go over lectures or assignments that were covered while you were absent.

Academic Integrity:
As in all university courses, students are required to maintain the personal integrity of their work at all times. In this class, any instances of major plagiarism on any assignment may result in a failing grade in the course and in referral to the Faculty’s Dean’s Office. Plagiarism includes submitting a paper written or significantly revised by someone else, lifting ideas or words from sources without giving credit, quoting without the use of quotation marks, or any other borrowing of materials or
writing skills without appropriate acknowledgement. Please come and see me if you are ever unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or how to avoid it. See also: http://www.hse.ru/org/hse/antiplagiat_info/plagiat

Course program:
WEEK ONE: Introduction [Lecture 1]
WEEK TWO: World War I and the Search for Peace [L2]
WEEK THREE: The Paris Peace Conference and the Treaty of Versailles [Seminar 1]
WEEK FOUR: The League of Nations [S2]
WEEK FIVE: International Relations in the 1920s [L3]
WEEK SIX: The Treaty of Rapallo [S3]
WEEK SEVEN: International Relations in the 1930s [L4]
WEEK EIGHT: The Munich Agreement [S4]
WEEK NINE: World War II and After [L5]
WEEK TEN: The Yalta Conference [S5]
WEEK ELEVEN: The United Nations [S6]
WEEK TWELVE: The Cold War [L6]
WEEK THIRTEEN: The Vienna Summit [S7]
WEEK FOURTEEN: The Non-European World: Latin America and the Middle East [L7]
WEEK FIFTEEN: The Camp David Accords [S8]
WEEK SIXTEEN: The End of the Cold War [L8]
WEEK SEVENTEEN: The Geneva Summit [S9]
WEEK EIGHTEEN: The Unification of Europe and the World [L9]
WEEK NINTEEN: The European Union in International Relations [S10]
WEEK TWENTY: International Relations at the End of the Twentieth and in the Twenty-First Centuries [L10]

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WEEK ONE: Introduction
Readings:

WEEK TWO: World War I and the Search for Peace
Readings:

WEEK THREE: The Paris Peace Conference and the Treaty of Versailles
Readings:

WEEK FOUR: The League of Nations
Readings:

WEEK FIVE: International Relations in the 1920s
Readings:
Keylor: 96-129 (ch.3: “The Western World in the Twenties: The Era of Illusions”)
WEEK SIX: The Treaty of Rapallo
Readings:

WEEK SEVEN: International Relations in the 1930s
Readings:

WEEK EIGHT: The Munich Agreement
Readings:

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Readings:

WEEK FIFTEEN: The Camp David Accords
Readings:

WEEK SIXTEEN: The End of the Cold War
Readings:
Keylor: 451-470 (ch.16: “Moscow, Washington, and the End of the Soviet Empire”)

**WEEK SEVENTEEN: The Geneva Summit**
Readings:

**WEEK EIGHTEEN: The Unification of Europe and the World**
Readings:

**WEEK NINETEEN: The European Union in International Relations**
Readings:

**WEEK TWENTY: International Relations at the End of the Twentieth and in the Twenty-First Centuries (Conclusion)**
Readings:
Keylor: 561-592 (ch.22: “From the Old to the New Century”).

**Recommended literature:**

