

INTERNATIONAL HISTORY

Location: Jacobs University Bremen, Res. 4-52 (Conference Room)

Time: Thu., 9:45 am – 12.30 pm

Instructor: Dr. Julia Timpe (j.timpe@jacobs-university.de)

Brief Course Description

This course will introduce students to the field of international history and to the practices and methods of historical research. Thematically and chronologically, it will center around global war and peace-making in the twentieth century (with a glance at the nineteenth century), asking questions such as: How and why did war break out? How was peace (meant to be) achieved? In what ways did the wars shape the times of peace, and how did peace settlements contribute to further conflicts? What was the role of individuals and groups, ideologies and political agendas in these developments, and what were and are their cultural and social repercussions? The course will explore these and related questions through a close reading of academic literature and primary sources. The course will begin with an overview of (international) history as a discipline. After a very brief look at the international system in the nineteenth century, we will examine the genesis, course and aftermath of the two world wars and the Cold War.

Requirements & Grading

Readings, Discussions, Class Participation:

Students are expected to attend all class meetings and to complete the readings. The majority of readings will be provided on StudIP, the rest will be available online via the libraries of Jacobs University or Bremen University (see note in schedule below.) (It is strongly recommended that students bring printouts of the relevant texts to class.)

Presentation (with Response Paper):

For this assignment, students are asked to prepare a short presentation on a topic decided upon after consultation with the instructor (some suggestions for topics can be found throughout the class schedule below). The presentation should be ca. 15 minutes long and accompanied by a slide presentation and a handout, which should be no longer than one page, that includes the main points and a list of literature used for the presentation. As the class will be offered in a hybrid format in Fall 2021, the presentation shall be recorded and made available to the class on MS Teams by 9pm on Wednesday evening in the relevant week. Additionally, a (draft) version of the handout should be sent to the instructor no later than 24 hours before class starts.

Students are also asked to identify a short primary source related to their presentation which will be discussed in class together with the presentation. **One week after their presentation dates, students must submit a ca. 600-word-long reading response paper**, which either discusses one of the secondary readings that was used for the presentation or which examines the primary source chosen for this presentation. For some topics, (longer) group presentations might be possible; in this case, individual papers have to be submitted.

Book Review Paper:

This assignment consists of a paper that discusses the main arguments of a book and that critically evaluates the book's interpretations and findings. The paper should be ca. 1200 - 1500 words long. For this academic book review, students can choose one of the books indicated as possible options in the weekly schedule below. **The book review is due on the day a chapter from the book is discussed in class or the day for which the book is listed on the syllabus** [both electronically per email and as a hard copy]. Students who have reviewed a given book might also be asked to present a brief (3-5 mins) overview of the book in class.

Final Term Paper:

The final term paper will be an essay (ca. 5000 words long in 12-point font, double-spaced) that deals with a topic of international history in the 19th or 20th century. Students are encouraged to discuss their topic ideas with the course instructor during office hours and are expected to turn in a **brief outline/abstract that includes a clear research question and a preliminary bibliography, no later than December 16th, 2021** (= "Studienleistung"). The paper is due on March 1st, 2022 electronically [by email] and as hard copy [drop off in white mailbox in front of room 50a in Jacobs University's Res. IV building, or by postal mail to Julia Timpe, Jacobs University, Res. IV, Campus Ring 1, 28750 Bremen].

Overview Grading:

There are different assignments/grading components for students, depending on the CPs that they desire to attain for this module. **Students are expected to declare their choices (in re: to the specific assignments) until October 21nd.** (Please note that this notification to the instructor does not replace the registration with Uni Bremen's ZPA!)

For 9 CP (aka "large version"):

- Presentation with Response Paper OR a Book Review: 25 % (*Prüfungsleistung*)
- Proposal for Final Paper (obligatory, but not graded; *Studienleistung*)
- Final Paper: 75 % (*Prüfungsleistung*)

For 6 CP (aka "small version"):

- Presentation with Response Paper: 50 % (*Prüfungsleistung*)
- Book Review: 50 % (*Prüfungsleistung*)

Note on the Class Schedule:

Please note that this class will run from October 7 to December 16, 2021. In line with the academic calendar of Jacobs University, there will be no more meetings after Christmas/ in 2022. To compensate for our not meeting in 2022, two extra sessions are planned: an excursion to the *Denkort Bunker Valentin* in Bremen-Farge (planned for the end of November) and (an) extended meeting in week 10 and/or week 11.)

Contact Info:

If you have any questions or concerns about the class, please don't hesitate to come to my office hours (Fridays, 1.15 – 2.345 pm; in person in Res IV, Room 102 or via Teams); no appointment required. In most weeks, we could also meet directly after class- please email me for an appointment. Additionally, I will also offer some extra meetings on Teams by appointment – for available slots, please follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yyxnal8h> . For either quick questions or urgent concerns, you can also reach me by email: j.timpe@jacobs-university.de.

Weekly Schedule & Reading

Week 1 (Oct. 7): Introductory Meeting

Week 2 (Oct. 14): International History: Overview & Orientation

Reading:

1. William H. Sewell, Jr., "Theory, History, and Social Science", in idem, *Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2005), 1-21; here: 6-18.
2. Andrew J. Williams, Amelia Hadfield & J. Simon Rofe, *International History and International Relations* (London/New York: Routledge, 2012), 7-33.

Week 3 (Oct. 21): Introduction to Literature Search in History (tbd)

Today's class will be a workshop on academic research (in the field of history.) We will either meet at Uni Bremen's library or we will be joined (on Zoom) by Dr. Joachim Drews, historian & librarian at Bremen University's library, responsible for its history department. (mode of meeting tbd.) Dr. Drews will give us an introductory workshop on how to find academic literature on-site and online in Bremen.

Week 4 (Oct. 28): International Politics & Internationalism in the "long 19th century"

Reading:

1. Jürgen Osterhammel, *The Transformation of the World: A Global History of the Nineteenth Century* (Princeton: Princeton UP 2014) 392-402. [available as e-book @ JU!](#)
2. Jay Winter, *Dreams of Peace and Freedom: Utopian Moments in the Twentieth Century* (New Haven& London: Yale UP 2006, 11- 47. [available as e-book@ Uni Bremen!](#)
3. Paul. W. Schroeder, "International Politics, Peace, and War, 1815- 1914," in T.C.Blanning, *The Nineteenth Century: Europe 1789-1914* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2000), 158-209.

Potential Presentation Topics Week 4:

"Concert of Europe"/ 19th-Century Imperialism/ Hague Peace Conference(s)/ Second International

Week 5 (Nov. 4): Genesis of World War I

Reading:

1. Friedrich Kießling, "Unfought Wars: The Effect of Détente before World War I", in Holger Afflerbach and David Stevenson, eds., *An Improbable War? The Outbreak of World War I and European Political Culture before 1914* (New York/ Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2007), 183-199.
2. Michael Epkenhans, "Was a peaceful outcome thinkable? The Naval Race before 1914" in *ibid.*, 113-129.
3. Lynn Hunt et al, *The Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures – a Concise History* (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006), 851-863.

Potential Presentation Topics Week 5:

European Dynasties/ "**July Crisis**"/ Fischer Controversy-/US Entry to the War

Week 6 (Nov. 11): Post-WWI Peacemaking & Interwar Internationalism

Reading:

1. Zara Steiner, "The Geneva Dream: The League of Nations and Post-War Internationalism", in Zara Steiner, *The Lights that Failed: European International History 1919-1933* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), 349-386. ***BOOK REVIEW OPTION # 1**
2. Reading tba

***BOOK REVIEW OPTION # 2:** Jay Winter, *Dreams of Peace and Freedom: Utopian Moments in the Twentieth Century* (New Haven& London: Yale UP 2006). available as e-book@ Uni Bremen!

***BOOK REVIEW OPTION # 3:** Glenda Sluga, *Internationalism in the Age of Nationalism* (Philadelphia: University Pennsylvania Press, 2013). available as e-book @ JU!

Potential Presentation Topics Week 6:

The Russian Revolution & (the Paris Peace Conference)/ Content & Reception of Wilson's 14 Points/ League of Nations

Week 7 (Nov. 18): Road to WWII

Reading:

1. Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century* (New York: Vintage Books, 2000), 3-40. ***BOOK REVIEW OPTION # 4**
2. Glenda Sluga, "The Aftermath of War", in R.J.B. Bosworth, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Fascism* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2009), 70-87.
3. Gerhard L. Weinberg, "Foreign Policy in Peace and War," in Jane Caplan, ed., *Nazi Germany* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2008), 196-218.

Potential Presentation Topics Week 7:

International Repercussions of the Financial Crises of the 1920s/ Fascist Ideology and Propaganda/ Appeasement

Week 8 (Nov. 25): World War II (Planned: Excursion to Denkort Bunker Valentin; tbd.)

Reading:

1. J.M. Roberts, *Twentieth Century: The History of the World, 1901 to 2000* (New York: Penguin, 1999), 410-432.
2. P.M.H. Bell and Mark Gilbert, *The World Since 1945: An International History* (London et al: Bloomsbury 2017), 7-36.

***BOOK REVIEW OPTION # 5:** Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin* (New York: Basic Books 2010).

***BOOK REVIEW OPTION # 6:** Gerhard L. Weinberg, *A World at Arms: A Global History of World War II*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge, Cambridge UP, 2005).

***BOOK REVIEW OPTION # 7:** Akira Iriye, *Power and Culture: The Japanese-American War, 1941–1945* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1981).

Potential Presentation Topics Week 8:

The Nazi-Soviet Pact/ WWII Conferences

Week 9 (Dec. 2): International Responses to WWII and the Holocaust/Aftermath of WWII

Reading:

1. John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History* (New York: Penguin, 2005), 5-47.
***BOOK REVIEW OPTION # 8**
2. Mark Mazower, "The Strange Triumph of Human Rights, 1933-1950", *The Historical Journal*, Vol. 47, No. 2 (2004), 379-398. available via JSTOR or via author's website (www.mazower.com)

***BOOK REVIEW OPTION # 9:** Mark Mazower, *Governing the World: The History of an Idea* (London: Allen Lane, 2012).

Potential Presentation Topics Week 9:

Nuremberg Trials /United Nations (incl. Genocide Convention)/

Week 10 (Dec. 9): Road to World War III? (potentially extended session, tbc)

Reading:

1. Martin J. Sherwin, "The Atomic Bomb and the Origins of the Cold War" in Melvyn P. Leffler and David S. Painter, eds., *Origins of the Cold War: An International History*, 2nd ed. (New York/London: Routledge, 2007), 58-71.
2. David Holloway, "Stalin and the Bomb" in *ibid*, 72-90.
3. David Cortright, *Peace: A History of Movements and Ideas* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP 2008), 126- 154. ***BOOK REVIEW OPTION # 10**

Potential Presentation Topics Week 10:

NATO & Warsaw Pact/ Cuba Crisis /Space Race / Nuclear Deterrence

Week 11: (Dec. 16): Internationalism during the Cold War and Beyond & Concluding Meeting & FINAL PAPER PITCHES (potentially extended session, tbc)

Reading:

1. Antony Best, *International History of the Twentieth Century and Beyond*, 3rd ed. (London/ New York: Routledge, 2015), 333-360.
2. Odd Arne Westad, *The Cold War: A World History* (London: Allen Lane, 2017), 617 -629.
***BOOK REVIEW OPTION #11**
3. Howard L. Malchow, *History and International Relations* (London: Bloomsbury, 2016), 297-302.

Potential Presentation Topics Week 11:

The Anti-Nuclear Movement /The Non-Aligned Movement/ European Integration