

POL 2: INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT, ORDER AND JUSTICE

2020-2021

Paper Organiser:

Adam Branch
Department of Politics and International Studies
Email: arb209@cam.ac.uk

Lecturers:

Adam Branch (Michaelmas Term)
Department of Politics and International Studies
Ayşe Zarakol (Lent Term)
Department of Politics and International Studies

Time and Location:

Lectures will take the form of recorded videos, available online through the POL2 Moodle site. Each lecture will be posted by 10 am on Mondays and Wednesdays during Michaelmas and Lent Terms. The first lecture will be uploaded Monday, October 12th. There will be one recorded revision lecture during Easter Term, to be posted in the second week of Term.

Supervisors: Supervisions are arranged by Directors of Studies of each College. Below is a list of supervisors who have indicated that they may be available to take additional students; Directors of Studies who need more supervision capacity should contact them directly. An updated list is on the HSPS Part I Moodle Site.

Niyousha Bastani	nb557@cam.ac.uk
Stephanie Diepeveen	snd31@cam.ac.uk
Mehmet Erol	mee38@cam.ac.uk
Philipp Hirsch	pamh2@cam.ac.uk
Victoria Stewart Jolley	ves24@cam.ac.uk
Adham Khudaykulov	ayk24@cam.ac.uk
Lyn Kouadio	ljvk2@cam.ac.uk
Maeve McKowen	mm2143@cam.ac.uk
Josh Platzky Miller	jjpm2@cam.ac.uk
Liana Minkova	lgm27@cam.ac.uk
Engy Moussa	easmm2@cam.ac.uk
Tobias Mueller	tm498@cam.ac.uk
Anye Nyamnjoh	ann25@cam.ac.uk
Ola Osman	oo273@cam.ac.uk
Albert Park	ahp36@cam.ac.uk
Sharmila Parmanand	sap72@cam.ac.uk
Thomas Peak	tp354@cam.ac.uk
Carlyn Rogers	crr38@cam.ac.uk
Rebwar Salih	rrs38@cam.ac.uk
Arjun Sharath	ans56@cam.ac.uk
Ian Shields	ies25@cam.ac.uk
Mark Shirk	mas291@cam.ac.uk

Outline of Paper

Aims and Objectives

This class will introduce students to politics beyond the state. We will seek to understand the contemporary international political world as the product of intersecting forms of power, each of which has a distinct history and may require a distinct theoretical approach. The dominant traditions in the study of international politics in the West since the Second World War have emphasized the power of and relations among states – their conflicts and efforts at coordination. But, as new global political realities have emerged, new theoretical approaches have entered the debates on international politics to interpret these new realities and re-interpret dominant histories of international order.

Some of these approaches maintain that actors beyond the state – international organizations, social movements, multinational corporations, or terrorist groups – need to be foregrounded to understand international politics. Others argue that alternative logics – such as race, gender, or constructed civilizational divides – shape international politics and should not be ignored by focusing exclusively on inter-state interaction. Still others argue that giving priority to the Western nation-state obscures the very different visage that international politics may have from the standpoint of the non-Western world and occludes alternative possibilities of order and justice. Thus, the global study of international politics today requires attention to other forms and histories of international order, as well as a history of the state and how we understand it. At the same time, amidst the incontestable impact of global forces, some see a new resurgence of the state and breakdown of existing international order. This paper seeks to explore international politics but will leave open the questions of what issues matter, whose experiences should be the basis for theory, and what methodological tools we can use in this pursuit.

POL2: International Conflict, Order and Justice is thus structured around debates among scholars espousing different theoretical approaches as they make sense of a series of key topics in international politics. Students can expect to find that distinct approaches to international relations may sit uneasily with each other epistemologically or politically, tensions that should provoke further critical inquiry. Throughout all these texts, however, three primary themes will cut across the course as a whole. First, **conflict**. Under this theme, we will examine not only conflict among states but also violence by non-state actors and conflict that crosses the domestic-international divide, such as environmental violence or counterinsurgency. We will also look at systemic forms of international structural violence and repression, such as might exist along class, race, or gender lines, which may be embedded in the existing international system. This leads to the second theme: **order**. While order among states is a perennial concern for international politics, there is also the question of whose interests that order serves and at whose expense it is maintained. What is the character of international order – for example, is it hierarchical or anarchical – what are its origins, and how does it establish its legitimacy? And are there alternative ways to order the world? This points to the third theme: **justice**. Ethical questions such as just war or international economic inequality have long histories of engagement by scholars of politics beyond the state. This paper will also pay attention to the demands for international and global justice being made by a diversity of voices today both in the sphere of political practice and within the study of international politics itself.

Being an introduction, the paper is meant to whet students' appetites and help them decide, as they advance to Part II of the HSPS Tripos, what they wish to focus on – such as, for instance, international organizations, international law, gender, race, development, political theory, international sociology, international political economy, or a specific geographical region. The objective of the course is thus two-fold: to ensure that students have a firm foundation for future studies in international politics, and to equip students with the conceptual tools needed to critically interpret and to act in the contemporary world.

Structure of Paper

The paper has five modules, each of which explores a specific problem in contemporary international politics. For each problem, we trace its historical origins and development over time, asking how it arose. We also ask what theoretical tools can best help us to understand it, drawing in the process on a diverse set of theoretical traditions. Thus, each module has three dimensions: a current question, an historical inquiry, and a theoretical engagement. Of course, there will be some overlap among the different modules, and students may find that theoretical frameworks introduced in one module can work well for others, or that specific historical legacies arise throughout the course.

Michaelmas Term (Lecturer Adam Branch)

Lecture 1: The Space and Time of International Politics

Module I: The End of the Cold War and the Rise of Human Rights

Lecture 2: Exploring Colonial Legacies

Lecture 3: The 'Hot' Cold War, Decolonisation and Development

Lecture 4: Interpreting the End of the Cold War

Lecture 5: Histories of Human Rights

Lecture 6: The International Criminal Court: Enforcing Human Rights

Module II: 9/11 and the War on Terror

Lecture 7: Did 9/11 Change Everything?

Lecture 8: The Gender of 9/11

Lecture 9: The Law and Ethics of War I: Histories and Theory

Lecture 10: The Law and Ethics of War II: The Iraq Invasion

Lecture 11: Insurgency and Counterinsurgency, Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Module III: Climate Change and the Politics of the Anthropocene

Lecture 12: Global Climate Change: Origins and Impacts

Lecture 13: The Anthropocene: A New Epoch?

Lecture 14: Global Climate Governance and Sustainability

Lecture 15: Global Climate Justice

Lecture 16: Envisioning Planetary Futures and Pasts

Lent Term (Lecturer Ayşe Zarakol)

Lecture 17: Is the sky falling?

Module IV: Between Rising Powers and Populism: Rethinking the 'End' of the Liberal International Order

Lecture 18: What is 'the Liberal International Order'? Historical Overview

Lecture 19: How sustainable is/was the Liberal International Order? Predictions from IR theory

Lecture 20: Populism in the West: Trump, Brexit

Lecture 21: Merging waves of discontent: The role of Russia

Lecture 22: American Decline vs the Rise of China and the Global South

Module V: The End of the Nation State? Origins and Future of the Westphalian System

Lecture 23: International change – what is it?

Lecture 24: What is the Westphalian System? Historical Overview

Lecture 25: The nation-state & modern sovereignty

Lecture 26: Challenges to the Modern State, from above and below

Lecture 27: Westphalian Hierarchies

Lecture 28: Is it the end of world (as we know it)?

Readings

There are three categories of readings in the paper guide below. First, **Lecture Pre-Reading**: This is a piece that provides important background to the lecture; if students have time to read only one piece before the lecture, it should be this one. Second, **Core Readings**: Core Readings explore the key themes for each topic, and students can expect these pieces to be referred to during the lecture. Third, **Supplementary Readings**: Supplementary Readings are just that – supplementary. They are meant to be useful for writing supervision essays and preparing for the exam by focusing further on specific topics or aspects of topics.

It is not expected that students will read all the Supplementary Readings for the topics they are focusing on, but they should read all the Lecture Pre-Readings and Core Readings and a selection of Supplementary Reading for their chosen topics to be adequately prepared for the exam. Students should read Supplementary Readings that are of particular interest and relevance, as guided by the lectures, their supervisors, and their own concerns. Students may also find that reading additional chapters beyond what is assigned in the books on the reading list, or looking into other works by included authors, can be helpful in writing supervision essays or revising for the exam. Many of the readings can be found in the Library's POL2 Moodle site.

Teaching

The paper is taught through a combination of 28 lectures and six hours of supervision, plus a revision lecture and revision supervisions in Easter Term. Supervisions are organised by Directors of Study. Students should complete a piece of written work for each supervision; at least four of these pieces of work should be essays. Two of the supervisions set by supervisors can be alternative written work; this could be, for example, an exercise based on the reading. Details on question selection, length of essay, and style should be discussed with each student's specific supervisor. Students should have one or two revision supervisions in Easter Term. Lists of **sample essay questions** for supervisions are given at the end of each module.

Since there are five modules and six supervisions, we recommend having one supervision on each module and using one of the Lent Term supervisions to work on a cross-cutting question. In addition to the sample supervision essay questions included at the end of each module, there is a list of sample cross-cutting questions included at the end of the paper guide. There is also a sample exam at the end of the paper guide as a whole that can provide guidance on questions. Given the significant depth and breadth of the reading, viewing the lectures is essential for students to establish paths through the material.

Assessment

There will be a three-hour unseen examination in the Easter term, in which each student will be required to answer three questions, all given equal weight in marking. The exam will be divided into two sections. The first will comprise four cross-cutting questions pertaining to the paper as a whole, of which students select one to answer. The second section will comprise twelve questions, of which students select two. Among the twelve, there will be two or three questions associated with each module (although students may draw on any lecture/topic in answering any of the questions).

Previous years' exams for POL2 are available on the paper's Moodle site. Students should be aware, however, that the paper underwent considerable revision in previous years, as well as more minor reorganization for this year. Therefore, exams prior to that of 2018 may cover material that is not covered in POL2 this year. For this reason, the sample supervision questions, sample exam, and 2018-2020 exams should be the focus in revising for this year's exam.

MICHAELMAS TERM

Lecture 1: The Time and Space of International Politics

As this course begins, we are living through a global event that, it is said, will 'change everything'. But such announcements have been made before, even in recent memory: over the last decade, the widespread realization that we face runaway climate change, bringing with it wrenching upheaval; two decades ago, the spectacular and shocking violence of 9/11 and the explosion of a global War on Terror; three decades ago, the end of the Cold War and the announced 'end of history'; and in decades before that, the end of empire, the devastation of the Second World War, and the accompanying visions of the birth of new worlds. This introductory lecture raises questions around how we understand international politics – where we look, how we grasp difference over space and time – by considering how moments transformative for the political sensibility of one generation may become normal for the next, or even simply be forgotten.

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- Hannah Arendt, Prologue, *The Human Condition* (Chicago, 1958).

MODULE I: The End of the Cold War and the Rise of Human Rights

The end of the Cold War gave birth to a new vision of the possibilities of global order and justice, a form of justice that would be anchored in universal human rights and enforced by the international community. During the 1990s, this cosmopolitan vision of a humanitarian world order was ascendant and given apparent support by a series of humanitarian interventions, a new robust UN role in peacekeeping, and the development of the International Criminal Court. But it was also a time of grave concern over a world said to be unmoored from its previous foundations, a 'new world disorder' characterized by the atrocity of civil war, failed states, and humanitarian crisis. This Module looks to the colonial origins of these visions of universal humanitarian order, seeks alternatives to these visions in the history of anti-colonialism and decolonization in the post-WWII era, and explores the politics of post-Cold War projects of human rights enforcement, asking how the 1990s may still shape our world, and our understanding of the world, today.

Lecture 2: Exploring Colonial Legacies

Where do we begin a history of our international political present? In this lecture, we turn to the colonial past to locate legacies that can help historicize the world around us today. In particular, we focus on the ways that colonialism understood those subject to colonial rule, those whose land was taken, those who were enslaved, or, in certain cases, those who were subject to attempts at extermination. We also consider how colonialism brought with it wrenching ecological transformation, perhaps providing a pre-history to contemporary climate change. Central will be the relation between difference and violence – how violence is deployed against those defined as different, and how people subject to such violence have responded.

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- Tzvetan Todorov, *The Conquest of America: The Question of the Other* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1982), 'The Discovery of America', and Ch. 3, 'Love'. [A provocative study of the cognitive universe of the Spanish invaders of what would become the Americas.]

Core Reading:

- Jennifer Pitts, *A Turn to Empire: The Rise of Imperial Liberalism in Britain and France* (Princeton, 2005), Ch. 1, 5, 8. [An important text for placing Western political liberalism in its imperial context.]
- Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery* (UNC Press, 1944): Ch. 1 and 2. [The classic study of the relation between capitalism, the Atlantic slave trade and slavery in the Americas.]

Supplementary Reading:

- Susan Buck-Morss, *Hegel, Haiti and Universal History* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009). [How an engagement with the Haitian Revolution enables a reassessment of political theory and the writing of history.]
- Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 2000 [1955]). [Alongside Fanon's *Wretched of the Earth*, a key anti-colonial text that also helped set the stage for postcolonial thought.]
- Alfred W Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900* (Cambridge, 1986), Ch 7, 'The Fortunate Isles'. [A classic text on the 'Colombian Exchange' explores experiments in the 'Europeanization' of landscapes in the Atlantic archipelagos.]
- Lisa Lowe, *The Intimacies of Four Continents* (Duke University Press, 2015), Ch. 1 & 5 [An important recent book exploring the relationships between peoples of the four continents as they developed through broad networks of colonial trade and rule.]
- Charles W. Mills, 'Race and Global Justice', in Duncan Bell, ed., *Empire, Race and Global Justice* (Cambridge, 2019), ch. 4. [The political philosopher argues that 'we need to rethink and decolonize imperial liberalism, racial liberalism, so as to eliminate its distinctive white bias'. The rest of the essays in this excellent collection are also highly recommended.]
- Edward Said, *Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient* (New York: Vintage, 1978), Introduction. [*Orientalism*, although not easy or uncontroversial, has been a foundational book for scholarship on the politics and culture of colonialism and postcolonialism.]
- James Tully, 'Lineages of Contemporary Imperialism', in Duncan Kelly, ed., *The Historical Roots of British Imperial Thought* (Oxford UP, 2009). [Helpful introduction to the debates over the shifts in imperialism through the 20th century.]

Lecture 3: The 'Hot' Cold War, Decolonisation and Development

The traditional history of the Cold War has cast it as a bipolar struggle between the US and the USSR. However, if we consider the broader set of dynamics during that period – in particular decolonization, the changing role of the UN, and the emergence of 'development' – then new continuities may emerge with our present. Here we read both contemporary historians of the Cold War and also some of the key thinkers of that time, in particular those engaged in anti-colonial struggles. A focus on Africa provides a common regional frame.

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- Vijay Prashad, *The Darker Nations: A People's History of the Third World* (New Press, 2008), Introduction, Part 1: 'Bandung', 'Havana'. [An engaging work on the efforts by Third World political leaders and movements to develop alternative visions of world order.]

Core reading:

- Adom Getachew, *Worldmaking After Empire: The Rise and Fall of Self-Determination* (Princeton, 2019), Introduction, Ch. 1, 3. [A pathbreaking new work re-interpreting the worldmaking efforts of anti-colonial nationalism.]
- Siba N. Grovogui, *Sovereigns, Quasi Sovereigns, and Africans* (Minnesota, 1996), Ch. 1, 2. [Considers the always partial and qualified manner in which sovereignty was granted to Africans, with important lessons for international order and sovereignty today.]

Supplementary Reading:

- Frederick Cooper, *Africa in the World* (Harvard, 2014), Ch. 3. [Preeminent historian of Africa argues that the nation-state was only one of many possibilities at the time of decolonization.]
- Frantz Fanon, 'The Trials and Tribulations [Pitfalls] of National Consciousness', in *The Wretched of the Earth*, trans. C. Farrington (Grove Press, 1963). [A formative theorization of the political dilemmas of independence.]

- Branwen Gruffydd Jones, 'Anti-Racism and Emancipation in the Thought and Practice of Cabral, Neto, Mondlane, and Machel', in *International Relations and Non-Western Thought* (Routledge, 2011).
- Robert H Jackson, *Quasi-States: Sovereignty, International Relations and the Third World* (Cambridge, 1990), Ch. 1 and 2. [Influential argument about the limitations of sovereignty for postcolonial states.]
- Robin D.G. Kelley, *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination* (Beacon Press, 2003), "'This Battlefield Called Life": Black Feminist Dreams'. [Essential work for understanding histories and cultures of black feminism and internationalism.]
- Mark Mazower, *Governing the World: The History of an Idea, 1815 to the Present* (Penguin, 2012), Ch. 7-10. [A comprehensive, critical historical text placing the emergence and politics of the UN in both the context of the Cold War and decolonization.]
- Kwame Nkrumah, 'The Mechanisms of Neo-colonialism', in *Neo-Colonialism, the Last Stage of Imperialism* (London: Heinemann, 1965), pp. 1-12. [Nationalist leader, president of Ghana, extremely influential scholar describes how colonialism perpetuates itself even after formal independence for Africa.]
- Walter Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* (Howard UP, 1974), Ch. 1. [The foundational work by the Guyanese political economist on the destructive economic impact that colonialism had on Africa.]
- Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War* (Cambridge: CUP, 2005), Ch. 1-3. [Extremely useful critical history of the Cold War, putting the 'periphery' at the centre.]

Lecture 4: Interpreting the End of the Cold War

The end of the Cold War brought forth a broad array of universalist visions for the future of the world. Marked by the master-concept of 'globalization', some saw the dark sides of globalization as leading to new global disorder, while others saw globalization as promising a new era of perpetual peace. This lecture explores competing interpretations of the end of the Cold War and the visions for the world emerging at that moment.

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- Francis Fukuyama, 'The End of History?', *National Interest*, No. 16 (1989): 3-18. [An influential thesis claiming that the end of the Cold War has brought an end to alternatives to liberal, free-market democracy.]

Core Reading:

- Jarat Chopra and Thomas Weiss, 'Sovereignty Is No Longer Sacrosanct: Codifying Humanitarian Intervention', *Ethics and International Affairs* 6 (1992): 95-117. [A resounding call for a human rights world order to replace the Cold War.]
- Mary Kaldor, *New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era* (Polity Press, 2012 [1998]), Chapter 1. [It's bad, says the LSE professor, but there are also new opportunities for global civil society that have arisen in the midst of the expanding violent chaos.]

Supplementary reading:

- Eqbal Ahmad, 'The Cold War from the Standpoint of its Victims', Available online at <http://www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1/eqbalahmadcoldwar.html>. [Ahmad was a Pakistani political analyst and activist, as well as a prominent critic of US foreign policy.]
- Seyla Benhabib, 'Sexual Difference and Collective Identities: The New Global Constellation', *Signs* 24, no. 2 (1999): 335-61. [The Frankfurt School feminist political philosopher discusses gender and identity in political globalization.]

- Tony Blair, Prime Minister's speech, 'Doctrine of the International Community', 24 April 1999. <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/www.number10.gov.uk/Page1297> [A key declaration of the vision behind the 1990's 'international community'.]
- David Goldblatt, Jonathan Perraton, David Held, and Anthony McGrew, *Global Transformations: Politics, Economics and Culture* (Polity, 1999): Introduction and Conclusion. [A definitive, if soporific, account of the 1990s debates over political and economic globalization.]
- Gilbert Rist, *The History of Development: From Western Origins to Global Faith* (Zed Books, 2014), Ch. 4-6. [Places changing ideas around development in historical perspective.]
- Anne-Marie Slaughter, 'The Real New World Order', *Foreign Affairs* 1 September 1997. [An important argument for the idea that the state is disaggregating into global governance.]

Lecture 5: Histories of Human Rights

The end of the Cold War and the UN-authorized war against Iraq produced a new exuberance among lawyers, diplomats, and activists about the possibilities for human rights to be enforced around the world. Others, however, raised doubts and asked whether human rights would become another guise for unchecked Western power. This lecture explores the positions in this debate, with a look back to Arendt's critique of the very notion of human rights beyond the state.

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- Hannah Arendt, 'The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man', in *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (1968). [Classic text that still poses unresolved questions for the human rights agenda.]

Core reading:

- Michael Ignatieff, 'Human Rights as Politics', in *Human Rights as Politics and Idolatry* (2001). [Eloquent defense of human rights as a form of politics.]
- Makau wa Mutua, 'Savages, Victims, and Saviors: The Metaphor of Human Rights', *Harvard International Law Journal* 42, No. 1 (Winter 2001): only pp. 201-219. [Places contemporary international human rights discourse in the context of the colonial civilizing mission.]

Supplementary reading:

- Louis Henkin, 'Human Rights: Ideology and Aspiration, Reality and Prospect', in Samantha Power and Graham Alison, eds., *Realizing Human Rights: Moving from Inspiration to Impact* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2000). [A vision of the progressive realization of human rights by one of the fathers of the human rights movement.]
- David Kennedy, 'The International Human Rights Movement: Part of the Problem?', in *The Dark Sides of Virtue* (2004). [Prominent law professor raises a series of doubts about human rights' ability to be part of the solution.]
- Malcolm X, 'The Ballot or the Bullet', in *Malcolm X Speaks* (1965). [A vision of human rights as part of a practice of global solidarity.]
- Susanna Campbell, David Chandler, and Meera Sabaratnam, *A Liberal Peace? : The Problems and Practices of Peacebuilding* (Zed, 2011). [Great collection of essays on the rise of the 'liberal peace' and its transformations in the War on Terror.]
- Sally Engle Merry, *Human Rights and Gender Violence: Translating International Law into Local Justice* (University of Chicago Press, 2006), ch. 1 & 6. [Anthropologist explores the disjunctures between 'global' cultures of human rights and 'local' cultures of justice.]
- Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History* (Harvard, 2010): Ch. 5 and Epilogue. [Influential work providing a critical political history of human rights.]
- Aryeh Neier, *The International Human Rights Movement: A History* (Princeton: 2012), Ch. 12, 'Rights after 9/11'. [Founder of Human Rights Watch assesses the fate of human rights after 9/11.]

- Issa Shivji, *The Concept of Human Rights in Africa* (Codesria Book Series, 1989), pp. 59-92. [The preeminent Tanzanian legal scholar reconceptualizes human rights as responding to both domestic and international oppression.]

Lecture 6: The International Criminal Court: Enforcing Human Rights

Global criminal justice has been imagined as the pinnacle of the human rights world order, in which certain fundamental human rights can be enforced by international courts of law. Its proponents argue that international criminal trials can realize justice and peace; critics maintain that it will achieve neither. This lecture engages with the International Criminal Court (ICC), hailed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as representing ‘a fundamental break with history.’ What does the short history of the ICC reveal about the possibilities of global justice and human rights?

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- William Schabas, *Unimaginable Atrocities: Justice, Politics, and Rights at the War Crimes Tribunals* (Oxford UP, 2012), Introduction, Ch. 3, 7. [An engaging account of the development of international criminal law from a prominent scholar-practitioner.]

Core reading:

- Adam Branch, ‘Uganda’s Civil War and the Politics of ICC Intervention’, *Ethics & International Affairs* 21, No. 2 (2007). [Your faithful lecturer waxes critical about the possibility of the ICC realizing peace and justice in Uganda—or anywhere, really. See also his ‘Dominic Ongwen on Trial: The ICC’s African Dilemmas’, *IJTJ* (2017).]
- Leslie Vinjamuri, ‘Deterrence, Democracy, and the Pursuit of International Justice’, *Ethics and International Affairs* 24, No. 2 (2010): 191-211. [Careful critical examination of the different justifications used for international criminal trials.]

Supplementary reading:

- Payam Akhavan, ‘Beyond Impunity: Can International Criminal Justice Prevent Future Atrocities?’, *American Journal of International Law* 95, No. 1 (2001): 7-31. [A firm believer in the power of international trials to effect positive political change.]
- David Bosco, *Rough Justice: The International Criminal Court in a World of Power Politics* (Oxford UP, 2014), Introduction, Ch. 6. [A critical examination of the political pragmatism of the ICC. See also Chapter 1 for an explicit application of IR theory to the ICC.]
- Antonio Cassese, ‘On the Current Trends towards Criminal Prosecution and Punishment of Breaches of International Humanitarian Law’, *European Journal of International Law* 9 (1998), 2-17. [One of the founding figures in contemporary international criminal law discusses the transformations giving rise to the ICC.]
- Karen Engle, ‘A Genealogy of the Criminal Turn in Human Rights’, in *Anti-Impunity and the Human Rights Agenda*, edited by Karen Engle, Zinaida Miller and D.M. Davis (Cambridge, 2016). [Traces the origins of the turn to criminalization by the human rights industry.]
- Phil Clark, *Distant Justice: The Impact of the International Criminal Court on African Politics* (Cambridge, 2018), Ch. 1 and 3. [A recent effort to theorize the dilemmas of the ICC and chart possible realistic ways forward for the court.]
- Mahmood Mamdani, ‘Responsibility to Protect or Right to Punish?’, *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding* 4, No. 1 (2010): 53-67. [Ugandan scholar places the ICC in the context of destructive, coercive Western intervention in Africa.]
- Sarah Nouwen and W. Werner, ‘Doing Justice to the Political: The International Criminal Court in Uganda and Sudan’, *The European Journal of International Law* 21, No. 4, (2011). [Examines the problematic political logics inherent to supposedly apolitical ICC trials.]

- Kathryn Sikkink, *The Justice Cascade: How Human Rights Prosecutions Are Changing World Politics* (W.W. Norton, 2011), pp. 1-28, 162-188. [Strong proponent of the idea that international trials have led to a cascade of accountability mechanisms at different levels.]
- International Centre for Transitional Justice, 'Is the International Community Abandoning the Fight Against Impunity?', on-line debate, <https://www.ictj.org/debate/article/debate-whose-time-has-come> [Illuminating debate among top figures in the international criminal justice world – especially recommended are Ignatieff's interventions.]

SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTIONS: (Relevant lectures/topics are suggested for each question; students may, of course, draw on any lectures/topics in writing their essays.)

1. Are the political, economic, or epistemic legacies of colonialism the most entrenched? [Lecture 2, 5]
2. Does the state have a different history in the West and non-West? If so, how does that difference matter for our understanding of international politics? [Lecture 3, 6]
3. Did the end of the Cold War present a moment of political opportunity? If so, for whom? [Lecture 4, 5]
4. Can human rights avoid being politicized? Does it matter if they cannot? [Lecture 5]
5. Why has the ICC focused on Africa? [Lecture 6]

MODULE II: 9/11 and the War on Terror

The acts of violence of 11 September 2001 gave rise to a round of profound re-assessment by analysts of international politics. Some saw 9/11 as the opportunity to bring new order to the world, others saw it as proof of global disorder, and yet others saw it as entrenching the unequal power relations that had always been present, whether along the lines of colonialism, gender, class, or race. Terrorism was suddenly presented as the most threatening form of global violence, and a Global War on Terror was put forth as the answer to this global threat. The acts of 9/11 thus set in motion a long train of political violence – from the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq, to a flourishing of national ‘wars on terror’ globally, to a broad geography of drone strikes, proxy wars, and state surveillance and repression. With its promise of ‘infinite justice’, the defense of civilization, and a concern with ungoverned spaces and ‘weak’ and ‘failed’ states, the War on Terror built on many of the discourses and tools of the 1990s. In response, new efforts arose to restrict these wars on terror through international law, as did popular resistance against those wars. In this module, we look at these many forms of violence and projects of order and justice that emerged across the globe in the wake of 9/11, focusing on the politics and law of international violence.

Lecture 7: Did 9/11 Change Everything?

The violence of 9/11 and the US response shattered many of the images of post-Cold War globalization, stability and progress. Some argued that 9/11 proved conclusively that global politics was no longer the exclusive domain of states, but rather was defined by broad and conflicting cultural or religious identities. Others argued, conversely, that 9/11 in fact demonstrated the state’s continuing centrality to international politics, and that we need to look at the recent history of superpower politics and the Cold War itself to understand the attacks. Or, some maintained, by launching two invasions of foreign countries as well as a global ‘War on Terror’, the US embarked on a program to build a new empire.

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- Mahmood Mamdani, *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, the Cold War, and the Roots of Terror* (Random House, 2004), pp. 3-38. [Mamdani is a Ugandan political analyst and one of today’s most important public intellectuals; here he offers a critique of Huntington, arguing that terrorism must be seen in historical political perspective.]

Core Reading:

- Samuel P. Huntington, ‘The Clash of Civilizations?’, *Foreign Affairs* 72, No. 3 (1993). [This influential text frames post-Cold War world as a conflict between oppositional civilizations. Written before 9/11, it provided a key framework for understanding the event.]
- Meghana Nayak, ‘Orientalism and “saving” US Identity after 9/11’, *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 8, No. 1 (2006): 42-61. [Using Said’s framework, Nayak identifies post-9/11 US foreign policy as an ‘orientalizing’ project, premised on the violent establishment of ‘self’ versus a gendered and racialized ‘other’.]

Supplementary Reading:

- Alex Callinicos, ‘The Grand Strategy of the American Empire’, *International Socialism* 97, (Winter 2002): 3-38. [A Marxist international relations scholar builds the case for understanding – and opposing – the US as a not-so-benevolent imperialist.]
- Paul Gilroy, *After Empire: Melancholia or Convivial Culture?* (Routledge, 2004). [One of Britain’s most important contemporary intellectuals inquires into the meanings of Empire in the wake of 9/11].
- Michael Ignatieff, ‘The Burden’, *New York Times Magazine*, 5 January 2003; ‘Lesser Evils’, *New York Times Magazine*, 2 May 2004 [Ignatieff is a prominent political philosopher and past leader of the Canadian Liberal Party. Here he calls for a new US empire and political ethics for liberal democracies in response to 9/11.]

- Robert Jervis, 'Understanding the Bush Doctrine', *Political Science Quarterly* 118, No. 3 (2003): pp. 365-388. [Excellent analysis of the belief system behind the U.S. invasion of Iraq, by one of America's foremost international relations scholars.]
- Bonnie Mann, *Sovereign Masculinity: Gender Lessons from the War on Terror* (Oxford UP, 2014), pp. 1-14, 169-214. [Prominent feminist philosopher explores the role of masculinity in the post-9/11 world.]
- John Mearsheimer, 'Hans Morgenthau and the Iraq war: realism versus neo-conservatism', *OpenDemocracy.net*, 19 May 2005. https://www.opendemocracy.net/democracy-americanpower/morgenthau_2522.jsp [A US security scholar provides a trenchant critique of the neo-conservative response to 9/11 and the Iraq war.]
- Susan Sontag, Amitav Ghosh, and John Updike: 'The Talk of the Town', *The New Yorker*, 24 September 2001. www.newyorker.com/archive/2001/09/24/010924ta_talk_wtc
- Iris Marion Young, 'The Logic of Masculinist Protection: Reflections on the Current Security State', *Signs: Journal of Women, Culture and Society* 29, No. 2 (2003). [A preeminent philosopher explores the emergence of an order of 'masculinist protection'.]

Lecture 8: The Gender of 9/11

Some feminist theorists have argued that there is nothing new about 9/11 or the War on Terror: for these writers, both are part of a long history of violence against women, and so we need to look at these episodes through a gender lens to grasp their full meaning. Gender has typically been excluded from the study of international relations, however, which has traditionally considered it to belong to the domestic political realm, without relevance for the supposedly abstract and universal political logics of the international. These writers challenge this assumption, showing how gender shapes international order and how certain images of, and assumptions about, gender are built into the very way we think about international politics.

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- Catharine MacKinnon, 'Women's September 11th: Rethinking the International Law of Conflict', *Harvard International Law Journal* 47 (2006): 1-30. Also in MacKinnon, *Are Women Human? And Other International Dialogues* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2006), pp. 259-278. [Feminist political theorist, lawyer, and activist dramatically overturns assumptions about 9/11.]

Core Reading:

- Lila Abu-Lughod, 'Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others', *American Anthropologist* 104, No. 3 (2002): 783-790. [On the use of gender and racial images to justify supposedly humanitarian intervention. About Afghanistan, but illuminating for Iraq as well.]
- bell hooks, 'Feminism and Militarism: A Comment', *Women's Studies Quarterly* 23, No. 3/4 (1995): 58-64. [Theorist and activist discusses the relation between militarism and patriarchy and breaks down the supposed opposition between women and war, demonstrating the intersecting nature of different forms of power.]

Supplementary Reading:

- Karen Engle, "'Calling in the Troops'" *Harvard Human Rights Journal*, Vol. 20: 189-226 (2007). [Legal scholar critiques the apparent militarism espoused by MacKinnon and others in the name of women's protection.]
- Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases* (University of California Press, 1989; 2001), Ch. 1, 3, Conclusion. [Groundbreaking work in feminist international relations, setting the stage for much of the work that has followed.]
- Nadjie Al-Ali, 'Reconstructing Gender: Iraqi Women between Dictatorship, War, Sanctions and Occupation', *Third World Quarterly* 26, No. 4-5 (2005): 739-758. [What 'liberation' means to Iraqi

women – a lesson in why international politics cannot be understood without considering how politics looks from different standpoints.]

- Nivedita Menon, “Feminists and ‘Women’” in *Seeing Like a Feminist* (Penguin, 2012). [Prominent Indian feminist interrogates categories of gender, epistemology, and justice.]
- Charles W. Mills, ‘Revisionist Ontologies: Theorizing White Supremacy’, *Social and Economic Studies* 43, no. 3 (1994): 105-34. [Foremost political philosopher asks how to theorize global white supremacy, interesting as comparison to how global patriarchy is conceived and thinking about their intersection.]

Lecture 9: The Law and Ethics of War I: Histories and Theory

Political efforts to prevent and contain force through law have a long and contested history. Here, we focus on the international law of war – both *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello* – to explore its possibilities and limitations for dealing with the War on Terror and its aftermath. We look to different histories of international law and the place of the law of war within it.

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- Jean L Cohen, ‘Whose Sovereignty? Empire Versus International Law’, *Ethics & International Affairs* 18, no. 3 (2004): 1-24. [Theoretically sophisticated rethinking of the relation between international law and sovereignty for the post-9/11 order.]

Core Reading:

- Antony Anghie, ‘The Evolution of International Law: Colonial and Postcolonial Realities’, *Third World Quarterly* 27, No. 5 (2006): 739-753. [On the continuities in international law as an ‘othering’ process from the early colonial period to the war on terror.]
- Antonio Cassese, ‘States: Rise and Decline of the Primary Subjects of the International Community’, in in Fassbender and Peters (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of International Law* (2011). [One of the leading figures in contemporary international law explains his vision of ongoing transformations.]

Supplementary reading:

- Upendra Baxi, ‘What May the “Third World” Expect from International Law?’, *Third World Quarterly* (2006) 713-25. [Vision of an insurgent, plural international law for the ‘Third World’.]
- Seyla Benhabib (2012) ‘Carl Schmitt’s Critique of Kant: Sovereignty and international law’, *Political Theory* 40(6): 688–713. [A critical engagement with Carl Schmitt’s *Nomos of the Earth* and the latter’s anti-liberal international legal history and political theory.]
- John R. Bolton, ‘Is There Really “Law” in International Affairs?’, *Transnational Law and Contemporary Problems* (2000). [The current US National Security Adviser answers ‘no’.]
- Bardo Fassbender and Anne Peters, ‘Introduction: Towards a Global History of International Law’, in Fassbender and Peters (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of International Law* (2011). [A seminal edited volume casting international law within world history; all the essays are excellent.]
- Conway Henderson, *Understanding International Law* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), Ch. 1, 3, 4, 8. [An extremely useful overview of international law, of central importance for explaining key terms and concepts.]
- Robert Knox, ‘Strategy and Tactics’, *Finnish Yearbook of International Law*, 21 (2010): 193-229. [Compelling argument about the pitfalls and possibilities of using international law for emancipatory political ends.]
- Martti Koskenniemi, ‘Histories of International Law: Dealing with Eurocentrism’, *Rechtsgeschichte - Legal History* 2011, no. Rg 19 (2011): 152-76. [Koskenniemi, perhaps the foremost critical scholar of international law today, engages the question of Eurocentrism head-on.]
- William Scheuerman (2006), ‘Carl Schmitt and the Road to Abu Ghraib’, *Constellations*, 13: 108-124. [An effort to locate resources for thinking through international law post-9/11 in Carl Schmitt’s work.]

Lecture 10: The Law and Ethics of War II: The Iraq Invasion

Must war be legal for it to be just? Today, questions about the legitimacy and legality of the Iraq War continue to reverberate, as the recent Chilcot Report makes clear. This lecture looks to the debates that took place in the lead up and aftermath of the Iraq invasion, assessing the reasons given for the war against theories of just war and humanitarian intervention, including the debate over the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). We also include reading on the history of the war itself for background.

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- Michael Byers, *War Law* (Grove, 2005). [Comprehensive account of the law of war from the perspective of the aftermath of the US invasion of Iraq, with a focus on the UN Security Council.]

Core Reading:

- Laura Sjoberg, 'Why Just War Needs Feminism Now More than Ever', *International Politics* 45 (2008). [Critical reading of just war theory from a feminist perspective.]
- Sean D. Murphy, 'Assessing the Legality of Invading Iraq', *Georgetown Law Journal* 92: 173 (2004). [Detailed inquiry into the different possible legal bases for the invasion of Iraq.]

Supplementary reading:

- Alex J. Bellamy, *Just Wars: From Cicero to Iraq* (London: Polity, 2006), Ch. 7, 8. [Exploration of the legitimacy of the pre-emptive and preventive war, with immediate application to Iraq. See his *The Responsibility to Protect: A Defense* (Oxford UP, 2014) for precisely that.]
- Philip Cunliffe, *Critical Perspectives on the Responsibility to Protect: Interrogating Theory and Practice* (Routledge, 2011). [An incisive collection that seeks to lay bare some of the articles of faith around R2P.]
- Cynthia Enloe, *Nimo's War, Emma's War: Making Feminist Sense of the Iraq War* (University of California Press, 2010): Ch. 1, 4, Conclusion. [Brilliant weaving together of stories of women involved on many sides of the Iraq War with Enloe's always incisive and illuminating political analysis.]
- Kimberly Hutchings, 'Cosmopolitan Just War and Coloniality', Ch. 9 in Duncan Bell, ed., *Empire, Race and Global Justice* (Cambridge, 2019). [On the inability of just war theory to overcome its colonial legacies.]
- Kenneth Roth, 'Was the Iraq War a Humanitarian Intervention?' *Journal of Military Ethics* 5, No. 2 (2006): 84-92. [Careful analysis by the head of the international NGO Human Rights Watch. Answers the title question in the negative].
- Fernando R. Tesón, 'Ending Tyranny in Iraq'; Terry Nardin, 'Humanitarian Imperialism', *Ethics & International Affairs* 19, No. 2 (September 2005). [Debate over whether the 2003 Iraq War was a humanitarian intervention].

Lecture 11: Insurgency and Counterinsurgency, Terrorism and Counterterrorism

As the War on Terror has shifted from wars of occupation, concerned with counterinsurgency, to counterterrorism, concerned with and surveillance, policing, and 'countering violent extremism', many of the tactics and ideas that were developed as part of international counterterrorism have been brought into the domestic politics of Western states. As global and national politics come crashing together, the resulting dynamics raise difficult questions of sovereignty and strategy, of legitimacy and efficacy. Are we in an era of 'new' new wars, with terrorism and insurgency taking centre stage, requiring new forms of counterterrorism and counterinsurgency in response? Or are the forms of violence and counterviolence that have arisen since 9/11 all too familiar from previous periods, representing new justifications for essentially similar political dynamics?

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- Eqbal Ahmad, 'Revolutionary War and Counter-insurgency', *Journal of International Affairs* 25, No. 1 (1970): 1-47. Excerpted as 'Counterinsurgency' in *The Selected Writings of Eqbal Ahmad*, pp. 36-64. [Ahmad again, this time with a seminal analysis of the politics of counterinsurgency. From a different era, but equally illuminating for today.]

Core Reading:

- Hisham Aidi, *Rebel Music: Race, Empire, and the New Muslim Youth Culture* (Vintage, 2014), Prologue, Chapter 4, 9. [A globe-spanning look at the past and present of youth communities facing the War on Terror; these chapters focus on the UK. Good background on the social politics of Prevent in the UK.]
- Maria Ryan, "'War in countries we are not at war with": The "war on terror" on the periphery from Bush to Obama', *International Politics*, vol. 48 2-3 (2011): 364-389. [Looks to the War on Terror as transnational, merging international and domestic across many countries and regions.]

Supplementary Reading:

- Rita Abrahamsen, 'A Breeding Ground for Terrorists? Africa & Britain's "War on Terrorism"', *Review of African Political Economy* 31, No. 102 (2004): 677-684. [How Africa has been defined as a source of terrorism and how UK policy towards the continent has been shaped by that understanding.]
- Zygmunt Bauman, et al., 'After Snowden: Rethinking the impact of surveillance', *International Political Sociology* 8 (2014): 121-144. [A discussion of the ramifications of globalized surveillance for international politics, written by some of the most prominent contemporary international theorists.]
- David Cole, 'The Drone Presidency,' *New York Review of Books*, 18 August 2016. [Overview of the trajectory of drone warfare under Obama.]
- Faisal Devji, *The Terrorist in Search of Humanity: Militant Islam and Global Politics* (Hurst, 2010), Ch. 1. [A complex and iconoclastic account of terrorism and humanitarian politics.]
- David Kilcullen, 'Countering global insurgency', *Journal of Strategic Studies* 28, No. 4 (2005): 597-617. [Military analyst provides a highly influential account of the connections between local and global forms of insurgent violence and how to combat it. Look for resonances with the *The U.S. Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual*.]
- Karma Nabulsi, 'Don't Go to the Doctor', *London Review of Books*, Vol. 39 No. 10, 18 May 2017, <https://www.lrb.co.uk/v39/n10/karma-nabulsi/dont-go-to-the-doctor> [Oxford professor of politics looks at the Prevent policy.]
- Anthony Richards, 'From terrorism to "radicalization" to "extremism": counterterrorism imperative or loss of focus?', *International Affairs* 91, No. 2 (2015): 371-380. [Critical assessment of the UK government's Prevent agenda.]
- Leila Nadya Sadat, 'Extraordinary Rendition, Torture, and Other Nightmares from the War on Terror', *George Washington Law Review* 75, No. 5/6 (2007). [Examination of the international legal dimensions of so-called 'extraordinary rendition'.]
- Shoshana Zuboff, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism* (Public Affairs, 2019), Ch. 2-5, 18. [Compelling assessment of the politics and economics of blanketing digital surveillance.]

SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTIONS: (Relevant lectures/topics are suggested for each question; students may, of course, draw on any lectures/topics in writing their essays.)

1. Does cultural difference produce political violence? [Lecture 7]
2. Was the War on Terror a war for women or a war on women? Or neither? [Lecture 8]

3. '9/11 and the War on Terror are not proof of the continued importance of colonialism, but, rather, are proof of how much things have changed since colonialism'. Is this true? [Lectures 9, 11]
4. Is international law really law? [Lectures 9 and 10, Lecture 6 also relevant]
5. Was the Iraq War just? [Lecture 10]
6. Does foreign intervention always give rise to resistance? [Lecture 11]

Module III: Climate Change and the Politics of the Anthropocene

The past decade has seen climate change, global warming, and the devastation of the Anthropocene arise as an apparent new threat to order, in need of global climate governance. We have also seen the planet become the new ground for visions of universal justice, following on and in interaction with the humanity-centered visions of the post-Cold War era. In response, a raft of transformations are proposed – mitigation, adaptation, sustainability, geoengineering, carbon neutrality, degrowth, to global protest and extinction rebellion. As the human rights vision of the 1990s and the counterterrorism of the 2000s seem to recede, demands for a planetary politics are built on the new ground under our feet. This Module asks whether the Anthropocene indeed ‘changes everything’, requiring a rethinking of our foundational political, ethical, and ontological beliefs, or whether the legacies of past eras, from colonialism to the War on Terror, still shape the world and determine how we should think about our present and our future.

Lecture 12: Global Environmental Change: Origins and Impacts

How do we know that the global climate is changing, and what are the causes and consequences of that change? What is the place of science in deciding how to deal with climate change? And how do we understand contemporary climate change in the context of longer histories of anthropogenic regional and global environmental transformation? Here, we look at the history of our understanding of the planet’s climate, the emergence of Earth System science and the debates over the origins of the ongoing transformations. We also begin to explore the debates over the response, in particular around mitigation and adaptation.

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- IPCC, *Global Warming of 1.5 °C Special Report* (2018), <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/> [The ‘Summary for Policymakers’ is illuminating for how science and politics intersect. For more on the science, see the IPCC *Fifth Assessment Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2014*, especially the ‘Summary for Policymakers’: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/>]

Core Reading:

- Mike Hulme, *Why We Disagree about Climate Change* (Cambridge, 2009), Chapters 3 and 4. [Cambridge geographer on the way that debates over climate change rely on much deeper sets of assumptions and beliefs.]
- J.R. McNeill, *Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the Twentieth-Century World* (Norton, 2000): Ch.1, 7, 12. [A sweeping account of the regional and global environmental transformations of the 20th century, allowing climate change to be placed in a broader context.]

Supplementary Reading:

- Joshua Busby, ‘Warming World’, *Foreign Affairs* 97, no. 4 (Jul 2018): 49-55. [Recent assessment of the threats climate change poses to national and international security.]
- Paul Edwards, *A Vast Machine: Computer Models, Climate Data, and the Politics of Global Warming* (MIT Press, 2010), Ch. 1, 2, 10, 15. [Groundbreaking and definitive work on the history of the science of climate change. If you read this, you will know more than the person you are arguing with.]
- Elizabeth Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* (Picador, 2015), Ch. 1, 5 [Compelling book detailing the contemporary species extinctions driven by human activity.]
- Andreas Malm, *Fossil Capital: The Rise of Steam Power and the Roots of Global Warming* (Verso, 2016): Ch. 1, 12, 14-16. [On the historical and present co-dependence of fossil fuels and global capitalism, with a trenchant chapter on ‘China as the Chimney of the World’.]
- Joseph Masco, ‘The Age of Fallout’, *History of the Present*, vol. 5, no. 2, 2015, pp. 137–168. [The ability to see the planet as a planet is a Cold War creation, he argues, and our imagination of climate change bears its traces but also goes beyond it.]

- Vandana Shiva, *Making Peace with the Earth* (London: Pluto, 2013), Ch. 1, 4, 9. [The eco-feminist theorist and activist discusses contemporary environmental and political crisis.]
- John Urry, 'The Problem of Energy', *Theory, Culture & Society* 2014, Vol. 31 (5): 3-20. [How does attention to the materiality of energy help us to re-think our political present? The rest of the special issue is very useful as well.]

Lecture 13: The Anthropocene: A New Epoch?

Over the last several years, the idea of the Anthropocene has gone from a niche concern to the mainstream, employed even by the IPCC to characterize our present. Proposed first as a new geological epoch in which humanity has become the dominant force shaping the planet, the concept has provoked wide-ranging debates across the social sciences and humanities as well. We ask about the historical processes that have produced the Anthropocene, but also whether the concept is the most appropriate way of characterizing the present or whether it occludes the real agents that have led us to a planet in crisis.

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- Will Steffen, Wendy Broadgate, Lisa Deutsch, Owen Gaffney, and Cornelia Ludwig, 'The Trajectory of the Anthropocene: The Great Acceleration', *The Anthropocene Review* 2, no. 1 (April 2015): 81–98. [Key piece from Earth System Science perspective on the foundation of the environmental crisis in the 'great acceleration'.]

Core reading:

- Heather Davis and Zoe Todd, 'On the Importance of a Date, Or, Decolonizing the Anthropocene', *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies* (2017): 16(4), 761-80. [Builds on Indigenous knowledge and experience to argue for 1610 as the start of the Anthropocene as part of a project of decolonization.]
- Jean-Baptiste Fressoz and Christophe Bonneuil, *The Shock of the Anthropocene: The Earth, History and Us* (Verso, 2016), Ch. 1-5. [A wide ranging critique of the 'dominant narrative' of the Anthropocene.]

Supplementary reading:

- Ian Angus, *Facing the Anthropocene: Fossil Capitalism and the Crisis of the Earth System* (Monthly Review Press, 2016), ch. 1-4, 6, 10, 11. [An ecosocialist interpretation of and programme for the Anthropocene, with an excellent account of Earth System Science.]
- Claire Colebrook, 'We have always been post-Anthropocene' and Stacy Alaimo, 'Your shell on acid', in R. Grusin, ed., *Anthropocene Feminism* (University of Minnesota, 2017). [A collection of theoretically sophisticated pieces on the engagement of feminist and queer scholarship with the Anthropocene concept.]
- Ecomodernist Manifesto (2015) available at <http://www.ecomodernism.org/manifesto-english> [Is the problem too much modernity, or not enough? See also the publications of the Breakthrough Institute: <https://thebreakthrough.org/journal/>]
- Donna Haraway and Anna Tsing, 'Reflections on the Plantationocene', June 2019, available at https://edgeeffects.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PlantationoceneReflections_Haraway_Tsing.pdf [A foremost philosopher of science and anthropologist debate what name to give to our current era.]
- Dipesh Chakrabarty, 'Climate and Capital', *Critical Inquiry* 41, No. 1 (2014): 1-23. [One of a series of provocative essays by the postcolonial historian, best known for his *Provincializing Europe*.]
- Jeremy Davies, *The Birth of the Anthropocene* (University of California, 2016), ch. 1. [Good overall introduction to the dominant debates around the topic, with a focus on geology rather than Earth System Science.]

- Janae Davis, Alex Moulton, Levi Van Sant, Brian Williams, 'Anthropocene, Capitalocene, ... Plantationocene?: A Manifesto for Ecological Justice in an Age of Global Crises', *Geography Compass* (2019). [Interrogates the idea of the plantationocene, tying our planetary ecological moment into the history of racial slavery and capitalism.]
- Amitav Ghosh, *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable* (University of Chicago Press, 2016), chapter 2. [An effort to foreground Asia's place within the Anthropocene while maintaining a commitment to histories of colonialism and empire.]
- Clive Hamilton, *Defiant Earth: The Fate of Humans in the Anthropocene* (Polity, 2017), Chapters 1 and 3. [Combative book on the importance of taking the science of the Anthropocene seriously.]
- Jason W. Moore, *Anthropocene or Capitalocene? Nature, History, and the Crisis of Capitalism* (Oakland, PM Press: 2016): Introduction, Chapter 2. [A pithy account of the sprawling argument he makes in *Capitalism in the Web of Life*.]

Lecture 14: Global Climate Governance and Sustainability

If we are in a radically different world today, then how should global politics adjust to that new world? Many have argued that we need new global political institutions to deal with this new global challenge, or a repurposing of our existing institutions. In this lecture, we explore some proposals around a 'planetary politics', with a particular focus on the question of sustainable development. Even as the Sustainable Development Goals have become central to government planning and to the work of international organizations and NGOs, it is not clear how these goals translate into practice. Moreover, what sustainability itself means has been subject to question – what is being sustained, on what scale, and to the benefit of whom? How did development come to encompass such a wide agenda? And what new forms of power are emerging through sustainable development?

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- Jeffrey Sachs, *The Age of Sustainable Development* (Columbia University Press, 2015), Ch. 1, 6, 14. [A preeminent development economist brings the planet back in to global poverty.]

Core Reading:

- Anil Agarwal and Sunita Narain, *Global Warming in an Unequal World: A Case of Environmental Colonialism* (Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi 1991). Available online. [Perhaps the earliest statement of the idea of 'common and differentiated responsibilities.']
- Anthony Burke, Stefanie Fishel, Audra Mitchell, Simon Dalby, and Daniel J. Levine, 'Planet Politics: A Manifesto from the End of IR', *Millennium*, vol. 44, no. 3 (2016), 499-523. [How must international organizations and the study of international politics change in the face of climate change?]

Supplementary Reading:

- Iris Borowy, 'Sustainable Development and the United Nations', in *Routledge Handbook of the History of Sustainability*, ed. by Jeremy Caradonna, (Routledge, 2018). [On the role of the UN in giving rise to the sustainable development agenda.]
- John Dryzek and Jonathan Pickering, *The Politics of the Anthropocene* (Oxford University Press, 2018), ch 1, 3. [An exploration of the international institutional developments needed to govern for the Anthropocene; see also the work of Frank Biermann on Earth System Governance.]
- Robert Falkner, 'The Paris Agreement and the new logic of international climate politics', *International Affairs*, Volume 92, Issue 5, September 2016, Pages 1107–1125. [LSE professor explores the changes in global climate governance with the Paris Agreement.]
- Jason Hickel and Giorgos Kallis, 'Is Green Growth Possible?', *New Political Economy* (2019). [Two theorists of 'degrowth' argue that Green Growth is an oxymoron.]
- Mike Hulme, *Why We Disagree about Climate Change* (Cambridge, 2009), Chapters 8 and 9 and pp. 322-333, 359-364. [More from this crucial text.]

- Stephen Macekura, *Of Limits and Growth: The Rise of Global Sustainable Development in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge, 2016), Introduction, Ch. 7. [Traces the history of sustainable development to the 1970s, illuminating the forms of knowledge and power with which it is imbricated.]
- Ian Scoones, 'The Politics of Sustainability and Development', *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 41 (2016): 293-319. [Excellent overview of the consolidation and politics of sustainable development.]
- Kalpana Wilson, 'Re-centring "Race" in Development: Population Policies and Global Capital Accumulation in the Era of the SDGs', *Globalizations*, 14:3 (2017), 432-449. [Argues that the SDGs embody a gendered, racialized regime of coercion, in support of capital.]

Lecture 15: Global Climate Justice

While some call for top-down global institutional development as the answer to climate change, others have called for a focus on bottom-up approaches, in particular transnational popular movements to force the radical change that neither the existing political or economic establishments will allow. This lecture looks to different forms of transnational environmental and climate struggles across the globe, asking about the coherence among them as well as their political possibilities. We also situate these movements in the history of transnational struggle, seeking common lineages and common dilemmas across space and time.

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- *This is not a Drill: An Extinction Rebellion Handbook* (Penguin, 2019), Pages 1-13 and Chapters 1, 3, 7, 11, 14, 28. [You've seen their protests, now read their book.]

Core Reading:

- Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything* (Penguin, 2015), Introduction, Ch. 1, 13. [Gripping account of the political struggles around climate change, from the deniers, to the techno-optimists, to the communities seeking solutions on their own terms.]
- *Climate Futures: Reimagining Global Climate Justice*, ed. Kum-Kum Bhavani et al. (Zed Books, 2019): contributions by Chakrabarty (ch. 3), Malm and Warlenius (ch. 4), Appadurai (ch. 5), MacGregor (ch. 7), Clark and Gunaratnam (ch. 9), and Pellow (ch. 16). [Recent collection of short pieces on key aspects of debates around global climate justice.]

Supplementary Reading:

- Joan Martinez-Alier, Leah Temper, Daniela Del Bene, Arnim Scheidel (2016), 'Is there a global environmental justice movement?', *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, vol. 43, pp. 731–755. [A comprehensive mapping and analysis of environmental justice struggles globally.]
- Bruno Latour, *Down to Earth: Politics in the New Climatic Regime* (Polity Press, 2018), sections 1-10. [A slightly more accessible text by a challenging but important writer on the relation between science and politics amidst climate change.]
- Patrick Bond (2011), 'Carbon Capital's Trial, the Kyoto Protocol's Demise, and Openings for Climate Justice', *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, 22:4, 3-17. [The South African political economist looks to 'knowledge production and resistance formation against hegemonic climate policy making.']
- S.M. Borrás, 'La Vía Campesina and its global campaign for agrarian reform', *Journal of Agrarian Change*, vol. 8, no. 2–3 (2008): 258–289. [A political economist examines one of the most prominent peasant social movements for lessons about global struggle.]
- Arturo Escobar, 'Sustainability: Design for the pluriverse', *Development* (2011). [Counter-hegemonic globalization against global coloniality – a vision of new networked struggles.]
- Eric Swyngedouw (2010), 'Apocalypse Forever? Post-Political Populism and the Spectre of Climate Change', *Theory, Culture and Society* 27(2-3): 213-232. [On the pitfalls of an environmental politics.]

- Craig M. Kauffman, & Pamela L. Martin, 'Scaling up buen vivir: Globalizing local environmental governance from Ecuador', *Global Environmental Politics* 14, No. 1 (2014): 40-58. [Thinking through the implications of indigenous Andean concepts of development for global political economy.]

Lecture 16: Envisioning Planetary Futures and Pasts

In responding to the invitation of the Anthropocene, a wide range of experimental, analytical, and speculative texts have been produced on how to live and act meaningfully amidst today's radical novelty and uncertainty. Speculative fiction has also gained a new prominence, charting new ways of exploring the political possibilities of the present and our imaginable – or unimaginable – future worlds. Here, we look to different visions of a transformed practice for a planetary future, from the social sciences, to classic science fiction, to manifestos for humanity.

Lecture Pre-Reading:

- Kyle P Whyte, 'Indigenous Science (fiction) for the Anthropocene: Ancestral Dystopias and Fantasies of Climate Change Crises', *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* 1, no. 1-2 (2018): 224-42. [Indigenous scholar explores the ways that the present time may already be dystopian for indigenous communities.]
- Roy Scranton, 'Learning How to Die in the Anthropocene', *New York Times* online, 10 November 2013, at: <https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/11/10/learning-how-to-die-in-the-anthropocene/>

Core Reading:

- Amitav Ghosh, *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable* (University of Chicago Press, 2016), chapters 1 and 3. [Brilliant work by the novelist and essayist, seeking out new foundations for politics in the Anthropocene.]
- Donna Haraway, *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Cthulucene* (Duke, 2016), Introduction, Ch. 2, 3, 4. [The prominent philosopher of science offers novel ways of thinking with the planet today.]

Supplementary Reading:

- Alondra Nelson, 'Future Texts', Introduction to 'Afrofuturism', special issue of *Social Text* vol. 20, no. 2 (2002). [How ideas of race both constrain and open possibilities for imagining the future.]
- Marisol de la Cadena and Mario Blaser (eds.), *A World of Many Worlds* (Duke, 2018), Introduction, Chapter 3 by Isabelle Stengers, and Chapter 6 by Eduardo Viveiros de Castro and Déborah Danowski. [A call for a politics commensurate to the pluriverse that is being revealed.]
- Dipesh Chakrabarty, 'Planetary Crises and the Difficulty of Being Modern', *Millennium*, 46:3 (2018), 259–282. [A essay responding to Latour, placing the development of the Anthropocene in postcolonial history. Should be read together with his seminal 2009 'The Climate of History: Four Theses' in *Critical Inquiry*.]
- Ulrich Beck, "How Climate Change Might Save the World", *Development and Society*, vol. 43, no. 2, 2014, pp. 169–183. [That's right – maybe it's not so bad after all.]
- J.K. Gibson-Graham (2011) 'A feminist project of belonging for the Anthropocene', *Gender, Place & Culture*, 18(1), 1-21. [Explores a series of 'adventures in living' that can point to modes of political and ethical practice in the Anthropocene.]
- Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins* (Duke University Press, 2015). [Anthropological guide to living in the midst of our damaged planet.]
- Geoff Mann and Joel Wainwright, *Climate Leviathan: A Political Theory of Our Planetary Future* (Verso, 2018). [Read this for the argument that 'the result [of climate change] will be a capitalist planetary sovereignty, a terrifying eventuality'.]

- Paul Kingsnorth and Dougald Hine, *Uncivilization: The Dark Mountain Manifesto* (2014) available at <https://dark-mountain.net/about/manifesto/> See also the associated fiction.
- Mike Davis, 'Who Will Build the Ark?', *New Left Review* 61, January-February 2010 [Polymath writer on hope and despair in the face of climate change.]

More (?) Fictional – good reading for the winter break!

- N.K. Jemisin, *The Fifth Season*, Volume I of the *Broken Earth* Trilogy (2015). [Epic vision of a future Earth of radical geological and social instability.]
- Octavia Butler, *Parable of the Sower* (1993). [Forging community in the midst of climate breakdown and racialized state violence.]
- Margaret Atwood, *Oryx and Crake* (2003), Vol I of the *MaddAddam* trilogy. [Genetic engineering, pharmaceuticals, capitalism, and climate change come crashing together.]
- Kim Stanley Robinson, *Red Mars* (1992), Book I of the *Mars* Trilogy. [California science fiction writer explores what it means to create a livable planet. See also his 'Remarks on Utopia in the Age of Climate Change', *Utopian Studies* vol 27, no 1 (2016).]
- Cormac McCarthy, *The Road* (2006). [Father and son wander through a devastated landscape. The movie is even less upbeat.]
- Nnedi Okorafor, *Lagoon* (2016). [Contact with extra-terrestrials in Lagos has dramatic consequences in this Afrofuturist novel.]

SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTIONS: (Relevant lectures/topics are suggested for each question; students may, of course, draw on any lectures/topics in writing their essays.)

1. Does the science of global climate change point towards a specific political programme? [Lecture 12, 14, 15]
2. Does it matter politically when the Anthropocene began? [Lecture 13]
3. Are existing institutions of international politics adequate to dealing with the Anthropocene? [Lecture 13, 14]
4. Is sustainable development an oxymoron? [Lecture 14]
5. Can there be a global climate justice? [Lecture 15]
6. "We're doomed. Now what?" (Roy Scranton) Is this the question we need to ask ourselves today? If so, what is the answer? [Lecture 16]

LENT TERM

Lecture 17: Is the sky falling? (This lecture is an introduction to both modules of Lent Term.)

Many observers think that we are at a critical juncture in international politics but disagree as to the causes. Some argue that the main driver of change is a power transition between the US and China, others argue that the Liberal International Order is no longer sustainable, yet others point to larger changes, e.g. climatological, economic or demographic trends. The COVID19 pandemic has only added to this view. This lecture reviews these arguments and explains the logic of the upcoming modules.

The readings below are recent examples of arguments aimed at a more general audience about the way the world is headed.

Pre-Reading:

- Freeland, Chrystia (2015) The Disintegration of the World. *The Atlantic*. May. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/05/the-disintegration-of-the-world/389534/>

Core Reading:

- Runciman, David (2016) Is this how democracy ends? *London Review of Books* 38.23. <https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v38/n23/david-runciman/is-this-how-democracy-ends>
- Chakraborty, Aditya (2016) Interview - Wolfgang Streeck: the German economist calling time on capitalism. *The Guardian*, Dec 9. <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/dec/09/wolfgang-streeck-the-german-economist-calling-time-on-capitalism>
- Haass, Richard N. (2018) Liberal World Order, R.I.P. *Foreign Affairs*. March 21. <https://www.cfr.org/article/liberal-world-order-rip>
- Wright, Thomas (2018) The Return to Great-Power Rivalry Was Inevitable. *The Atlantic*. Sep 12 <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/09/liberal-international-order-free-world-trump-authoritarianism/569881/>
- Fukuyama, Francis (2020) The Pandemic and Political Order. *Foreign Affairs*. July/August. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2020-06-09/pandemic-and-political-order>

Supplementary Reading:

- Acharya, Amitav (2018) *The End of American World Order*. Polity Press.
- Runciman, David (2018) *How Democracy Ends*. Profile Books.
- Wallace-Wells, David (2019) *The Uninhabitable Earth: A Story of the Future*. Allen Lane.
- Wallerstein, Immanuel, Randall Collins, Michael Mann, Georgi Derluguian and Craig Calhoun (2013) *Does Capitalism Have a Future?* Oxford University Press.
- Žižek, Slavoj (2011) *Living in the End Times*. London: Verso.

Module IV - Between Rising Powers and Populism: Rethinking the 'End' of the Liberal International Order

Module IV focuses on the Liberal International Order. From 2016 to 2020, many considered the biggest challenge in international politics to be the erosion of the Liberal International Order. In this module we will first learn about the Liberal International Order. Did it even exist? Is it really in decline? If so, can it be salvaged? Should it be? This discussion will also introduce you to some of the main schools of thought in international relations.

Lecture 18: What is 'the Liberal International Order'? Historical Overview

Most observers take the existence of the Liberal International Order for granted and worry about its decline. In this lecture we consider whether the Liberal International Order has really existed by reviewing its (attributed) history and evolution from the nineteenth century onwards, as well as the theoretical arguments for (or against) its presence.

Pre-Reading:

- Mazarr, Michael J. (2018) 'The Real History of the Liberal Order: Neither Myth Nor Accident', *Foreign Affairs*. August 7. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2018-08-07/real-history-liberal-order>

Core Reading:

- Deudney, Daniel and G. John Ikenberry (1999) The Nature and Sources of Liberal International Order. *Review of International Studies* 25.2: 179-196.
- Reus-Smit, Christian (2013) The liberal international order reconsidered. In *After Liberalism?: The Future of Liberalism in International Relations*. Edited by Rebekka Friedman, Kevork Oskanian and Ramon Pacheco Pardo. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, UK: Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 167-186.
- Fiertos, Orfeo (2018) The syncopated history of the liberal international order. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 21.1: 20-28.

Supplementary Reading:

- Deudney, Daniel and John G. Ikenberry (2012) Democratic Internationalism: An American Grand Strategy for a Post-exceptionalist Era. Working Paper. NY: Council on Foreign Relations. https://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/IIGG_WorkingPaper11_Deudney_Ikenberry.pdf
- Ikenberry, John G. (2000) *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars*. Princeton University Press.
- Glaser, Charles L. (2019) A Flawed Framework: Why the Liberal International Order Concept Is Misguided. *International Security* 43.4: 51-87.

Lecture 19: How sustainable is/was the Liberal International Order? Predictions from IR theory

Until recently, one group of scholars (liberal internationalists) were very optimistic about the future of the Liberal International Order and its ability to survive beyond American hegemony. In this lecture we focus on their arguments but also look at their critics (realists and constructivists) and see if anybody successfully anticipated the issues of our moment.

Pre-Reading:

- Jahn, Beate (2018) Liberal Internationalism: historical trajectory and current prospects. *International Affairs* 94.1: 43-61.

Core Reading:

- Keohane, Robert O. (1984) *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton University Press.
- Mearsheimer, John J. (1990) Back to the Future: Instability in Europe after the Cold War. *International Security* 15.1: 5-56.
- Ikenberry, John G. (2008) The Rise of China and the Future of the West: Can the Liberal System Survive? *Foreign Affairs* 87.1: 23-37.

Supplementary Reading:

- Kupchan, Charles (2012) *No One's World: The West, the Rising Rest, and the Coming Global Turn*. Oxford University Press.
- Roger C. Altman (2013) The Fall and Rise of the West. *Foreign Affairs*, January/February. [Argues that the West will emerge stronger from the Financial Crisis.]
- Buzan, Barry and George Lawson (2015) *The Global Transformation*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 9. [Overviews of post-Western world scenarios]
- Mearsheimer, John J. (2018) *The Great Delusion: Liberal Dreams and International Realities*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Lecture 20: Populism in the West: Trump, Brexit

Some argue that the main challenge to the Liberal International Order is from within, from forces in the West such as Trump or Brexiters. In this lecture we consider the impact of Western populism on the liberal international order. If the LIO was so great, why is there so much resentment within?

Pre-Reading:

- Mead, Walter R (2011) The Tea Party and American Foreign Policy: What Populism Means for Globalism. *Foreign Affairs* 90.2: 28-44.

Core Reading:

- Mudde, Cas (2004) The Populist Zeitgeist. *Government and Opposition* 39.4: 541–563.
- Spruyt, Bram, Gil Keppens, and Filip Van Droogenbroeck (2016) Who supports populism and what attracts people to it? *Political Research Quarterly* 69.2: 335-346.
- Moffitt, Benjamin (2016) *The Global Rise of Populism: Performance, Political Style, and Representation*. Stanford University Press.
- Brubaker, Rogers (2017) Why populism? *Theory and Society* 46.5: 357-385.

Supplementary Reading:

- Cramer Walsh, Katherine (2016) *The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker*. University of Chicago Press.
- Mudde, Cas (2016) Europe's Populist Surge. *Foreign Affairs* 95.6: 25-30.
- Gidron, N., & Hall, P. A. (2017) The politics of social status: Economic and cultural roots of the populist right. *The British Journal of Sociology* 68: S57-S84.
- Börzel, Tanja and Thomas Risse (2018) From the euro to the Schengen crises: European integration theories, politicization, and identity politics. *Journal of European Public Policy* 25.1: 83-108.
- Norris, Pippa (2019) *Cultural Backlash: Trump, Brexit, and Authoritarian Populism*. Cambridge University Press.
- Pettifor, Ann (2016) Brexit and its Consequences. *Globalizations* 14.1: 127-132.

Lecture 21: Merging waves of discontent; The role of Russia

This lecture considers the links between the political developments outside of the West and the populist movements within the West. Much is made of the fact that Russia acts as a conduit between these two blocks. Is this true and if so, what is Russia after?

Pre-Reading:

- Mishra, Pankaj (2016) Welcome to the age of anger. *The Guardian*. December 8. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/dec/08/welcome-age-anger-brexittump> [A stock-taking essay of our times]

Core Reading:

- Colgan, Jeff D., and Robert O. Keohane (2017) The Liberal Order Is Rigged: Fix It Now or Watch It Wither. *Foreign Affairs* 96: 36-44.
- Adler-Nissen, Rebecca and Ayse Zarakol [2021] Struggles for Recognition: The Liberal International Order and the Merger of its Discontents. *International Organization*. https://www.academia.edu/43486389/Struggles_for_Recognition_The_Liberal_International_Order_and_the_Merger_of_its_Discontents
- Kurowska, Xymena and Anatoly Reshetnikov (2018) Neutrollization: Industrialized trolling as a pro-Kremlin strategy of desecuritization. *Security Dialogue* 49.5: 345-363.

Supplementary Reading:

- Porter, Patrick (2020) *The False Promise of Liberal Order: Nostalgia, Delusion and the Rise of Trump*. Polity Press.
- Mishra, Pankaj (2018) *Age of Anger: A History of the Present*. Penguin.
- Tsygankov, Andrei P. (2014) *Russia and the West from Alexander to Putin: Honor In International Relations*. Cambridge University Press.
- Klapsis, Antonis (2015) *An Unholy Alliance: The European Far Right and Putin's Russia*. Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies.
- Laruelle, Marlene. (2018) *Russian and American Far Right Connections: Confluence, Not Influence*. PONARS Policy Memo No.516. IERES, George Washington University.
- Prashad, Vijay, ed. (2018) *Strongmen: Trump/Modi/Erdoğan/Duterte/Putin*. OR Books.
- Tsygankov, Andrei P. (2019) *Russia's Foreign Policy: Change and Continuity in National Identity*. Fifth Edition. Rowman & Littlefield.

Lecture 22: American Decline vs. Rise of China & the Global South

Is the Liberal International Order in decline because of the decline of the US and/or the Rise of China and/or the Global South? This lecture focuses mainly on American decline debates and what China's rise implies for the international order, bridging the discussion into the next module.

Pre-Reading:

- Cox, Michael (2005) Empire by Denial: The Strange Case of the United States, *International Affairs* 81.1: 15-30.

Core Reading:

- Walt, Stephen (2020) How to Ruin a Superpower. *Foreign Policy* July 23. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/07/23/how-to-ruin-a-superpower/>
- Buzan, Barry (2010) China in international society: Is 'peaceful rise' possible? *The Chinese Journal of International Politics* 3.1:5-36.

- Layne, Christopher (2012) This Time It's Real: The End of Unipolarity and the Pax Americana. *International Studies Quarterly* 56.1: 203-13.
- Tang, Shiping (2018) China and the Future of International Order(s) *Ethics & International Affairs* 31.1: 31-43.

Supplementary Reading:

- Kang, David C. (2003) Getting Asia Wrong: The Need for New Analytical Frameworks. *International Security* 27.4 (2003): 57-85.
- Levy, Jack S. and William R. Thompson (2006) Hegemonic Threats and Great Power Balancing in Europe, 1495 – 1999. *Security Studies* 14.1: 1-33. [In addition to its own substantive contribution, the article provides a good overview of balance-of-power theory].
- Lake, David (2006) American Hegemony and the Future of East–West Relations. *International Studies Perspectives* 7: 23-30.
- Chase-Dunn, Christopher (2010) Adam Smith in Beijing: A World-Systems Perspective [Review Essay] *Historical Materialism* 18: 39-51. [A World-Systems take on the rise of China]
- Kang, David C. (2007) *China Rising: Peace, Power, and Order in East Asia*. Columbia University Press. [Arguing that the rise of China is not a threat to global order].
- Ruchir Sharma (2012) Broken BRICs: Why the Rest Stopped Rising? *Foreign Affairs*, November/December. Also see “The Rise of the Rest” Collection from *Foreign Affairs*. [Argues that the BRICs are no longer rising.]
- Acharya, Amitav (2017) After Liberal Hegemony: The Advent of a Multiplex World Order. *Ethics & International Affairs* 31.3: 271-85.
- Owen, J. M. (2019) Ikenberry, international relations theory, and the rise of China. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 21.1: 55–62.
- Cox, Michael (2001) Whatever Happened to American Decline? International Relations and the New United States Hegemony. *New Political Economy* 6.3: 311-340.

SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTIONS: (Relevant lectures/topics are suggested for each question; students may, of course, draw on any lectures/topics in writing their essays.)

1. Was there ever a liberal international order? (Lecture 18)
2. What did the liberal internationalists get wrong about our current moment? What was their biggest blind spot? (Lecture 19)
3. Must populism be anti-internationalist? (Lecture 20)
4. Is Russia the greatest threat to the stability of the liberal international order? (Lecture 21)
5. Which one is a greater threat to the stability of the liberal international order? US decline or rise of China? (Lecture 22)

Module V: The End of the Nation State? Origins and Future of the Westphalian System

Module V considers the possibility that the ongoing challenges we face have deeper roots than just the decline of liberal international rules and institutions. Are the challenges systemic? Could the Westphalian system be under threat? Will the nation state survive as the primary unit of political organisation? Is Western dominance coming to an end?

Lecture 23: International change – what is it?

This lecture reviews different understandings of the international system and systemic change.

Pre-Reading:

- Waltz, Kenneth (1979) *Theory of International Politics*. Waveland Press. Chapter 5.

Core Reading:

- Wallerstein, Immanuel (1976) A World-System Perspective on the Social Sciences. *The British Journal of Sociology* 27(3): 343 – 352.
- Waltz, Kenneth (1979) *Theory of International Politics*. Waveland Press. Chs 3-6.
- Buzan, Barry and George Lawson (2013) The global transformation: the nineteenth century and the making of modern international relations. *International Studies Quarterly* 57(3): 620-634.

Supplementary Reading:

- Buzan, Barry and George Lawson (2015) *The Global Transformation: History, Modernity and the Making of International Relations*. Cambridge University Press.
- Frank, Andre Gunder (1998) *ReOrient: Global Economy in the Asian Age*. University of California Press.
- Tang, Shiping (2016) Order: A Conceptual Analysis. *Chinese Political Science Review* 1.1: 30-46.
- Meyer, John W. and Ronald L. Jepperson (2000) The 'Actors' of Modern Society: The Cultural Construction of Social Agency. *Sociological Theory* 18.1: 100-120.

Lecture 24: What is the Westphalian System? Historical Overview

The modern international system is often referred to as the Westphalian system, in reference to the Westphalian arrangement of 1648, which is thought to have given birth to the modern sovereignty principle. The actual evolution of "Westphalian" sovereignty is a more complicated and gradual story. In this lecture, we review the historical development and expansion of the Westphalian order from Medieval Europe to the present.

Pre-Reading:

- Buzan, Barry and George Lawson (2014) Rethinking benchmark dates in international relations. *European Journal of International Relations* 20(2): 437-462.

Core Reading:

- Ruggie, John Gerard (1993) Territoriality and Beyond: Problematizing Modernity in International Relations. *International Organization* 47: 139-174.
- Osiander, Andreas (2001) Sovereignty, international relations and the Westphalian Myth. *International Organization* 55(2): 251–287.

Supplementary Reading:

- Bukovansky, Mlada, 'The altered state and the state of nature—the French Revolution and international politics,' *Review of International Studies* 25 (1999): 197-216. [This article

argues that the French Revolution fundamentally altered the organising principles of the international order.]

- Blaney, David L. and Naeem Inayatullah (2002) 'The Westphalian Deferral'. *International Studies Review* 2(2): 29-64. [This article argues that the Westphalian system did not solve the problem of difference in the international order but merely transformed it.]
- Reus-Smit, Christian (2011). Struggles for individual rights and the expansion of the international system. *International Organization* 65 (2) 207-242
- de Carvalho, Benjamin, Halvard Leira and John M. Hobson (2011) 'The Big Bangs of IR: The Myths That Your Teachers Still Tell You about 1648 and 1919', *Millennium* 39(3): 735-758 [This article challenges the notion that international relations as we know them emerged through the peace of Westphalia.]

Lecture 25: The nation-state & modern sovereignty

What does modern sovereignty entail, exactly? And why is it attached to the nation-state and not to other forms of political authority? In this lecture, we discuss definitions of modern sovereignty and consider the systemic implications of arranging international politics around this principle.

Pre-Reading:

- Weber, Max (1919) Politics as a Vocation (Lecture). <http://anthroposlab.net/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Weber-Politics-as-a-Vocation.pdf> [Origin of the most commonly used definition of a state]

Core Reading:

- Krasner, Stephen (1999) *Sovereignty: Organized Hypocrisy*. Princeton University Press. Read Chapter 1: "Sovereignty and Its Discontents". [Overview of the different definitions of sovereignty and the ways they are violated]
- Tilly, Charles (1985) War Making and State Making as Organized Crime. In *Bringing the State Back In* edited by Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- The Jens Bartelson article in the 'Forum: In the Beginning There was No Word (for it): Terms, Concepts, and Early Sovereignty', *International Studies Review* 20.3: 489-519. [The rest of the forum should be considered supplementary reading].

Supplementary Reading:

- Gellner, Ernest (1980) *Nations and Nationalism*. Cornell University Press. [Classic text linking the emergence of nationalism to the industrial revolution.]
- Tilly, Charles (1992) *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990–1992*. Wiley- Blackwell. [Book version of the "states make war, war makes states" argument].
- Biersteker, Thomas (2002) State, Sovereignty and Territory, in Walter Carlsnaes et al., editors, *Handbook of International Relations*. London: Sage, pp. 157-176. [Primer on IR understandings of sovereignty.]
- Anderson, Benedict (2006) *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Verso. [Classic text on understanding nation as an imagined political community].
- Bartelson, Jens (2009) *Visions of World Community*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Esp. Chapters 3 and 4. [Explains the processes by which the nation-state were constructed]
- Benton, Laura (2010) *A Search for Sovereignty*. Cambridge University Press. [Explains the rise of territoriality as a feature of sovereignty]
- Branch, Jordan (2012) "Colonial Reflection" and Territoriality: The Peripheral Origins of Sovereign Statehood. *European Journal of International Relations* 18.2: 277-97. [This article

argues that the modern states system resulted from interactions between Europe and the rest of the world.]

Lecture 26: Challenges to the Modern State, from above and below

This lecture considers the forces that undermine the nation-state principle: such as globalisation, regionalism, alternative approaches to sovereignty (e.g. Islamic state). Is the nation-state withering away?

Pre-Reading:

- Bartlett, Jamie (2018) Return of the city-state. *Aeon*. <https://aeon.co/essays/the-end-of-a-world-of-nation-states-may-be-upon-us>

Core Reading:

- Strange, Susan (1995) The Defective State. *Daedalus* 124.2 (What Future for the State?): 55-74.
- Devji, Faisal (2015) ISIS: Haunted by Sovereignty. *Spiked*. December.
- Brown, Wendy (2010) *Walled States, Waning Sovereignty*. Zone Books. Read the Preface to the New Edition.
- Krastev, Ivan and Mark Leonard (2020) *Europe's pandemic politics: How the virus has changed the public's worldview*. ECFR publication (24 June). https://www.ecfr.eu/publications/summary/europes_pandemic_politics_how_the_virus_ha_s_changed_the_publics_worldview

Supplementary Reading:

- Habermas, Jürgen (1999) The European Nation-State and the Pressures of Globalization. *New Left Review* 235: 46. [Classic article by a leading philosopher on the pressures of globalisation].
- Zarakol, Ayşe (2011) What Makes Terrorism Modern? Terrorism, Legitimacy, and the International System. *Review of International Studies* 37.5: 2311-36. [An argument as to why some types of terrorism challenge modern notions of sovereignty and others do not].
- Mann, Michael (1997) Has globalization ended the rise and rise of the nation-state? *Review of International Political Economy* 4.3: 472-96. [Classic article by a leading sociologist on the pressures of globalisation].
- Brown, Wendy (2010) *Walled States, Waning Sovereignty*. Zone Books.

Lecture 27: Westphalian Hierarchies

One of the main structural features of the 'Westphalian system' has been the hierarchies between the West and the non-West. In this lecture we review how these hierarchies emerged and why they have been so durable.

Pre-Reading:

- Goldstone, Jack (2000) The Rise of the West or Not? A Revision to Socio-Economic History. *Sociological Theory* 18.2: 175-94.

Core Reading:

- Hobson, John M and Jason C. Sharman (2005) The Enduring Place of Hierarchy in World Politics: Tracing the Social Logics of Hierarchy and Social Change. *European Journal of International Relations* 11.1: 63-98.

- Salmon, Andrew (2020) Why East beat West on Covid-19. *Asia Times*. May 15. <https://asiatimes.com/2020/05/why-east-beat-west-on-covid-19/>
- Fang, Richard (2020) Will pandemic end Asia's fascination with the West? *La Croix International* May 11. <https://international.la-croix.com/news/world/will-pandemic-end-asias-fascination-with-the-west/12343#>

Supplementary Reading:

- Bilgin, Pinar and Adam David Morton. 2002. Historicising representations of 'failed states': Beyond the cold-war annexation of the social sciences? *Third World Quarterly* 23.1: 55-80.
- Goldstone, Jack A. (1987) Cultural Orthodoxy, Risk, and Innovation: The Divergence of East and West in the Early Modern World. *Sociological Theory* 5.2: 119-35.
- Edward Keene (2013) International Hierarchy and the Origins of the Modern Practice of Intervention. *Review of International Studies* 39.5: 1077-90.
- Pomeranz, Keith. 2009. *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*. Princeton University Press.
- Lustick, Ian (1997). The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Powers: Political "Backwardness" in Historical Perspective. *International Organization* 51.4: 653- 683. [Argues that Western intervention is an obstacle to political development in the Middle East in the Tillyian sense]
- Zarakol, Ayşe (2014) What made the modern world hang together: Socialisation or stigmatization? *International Theory* 6.2: 311-332.
- Zarakol, Ayşe (2011) *After Defeat: How the East Learned to Live with the West*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 2. [Explaining the emergence of social hierarchies in the international system].
- Zarakol, Ayşe, ed. (2018) *Hierarchies in World Politics*. Cambridge University Press.
- Mamdani, Mahmood (2010) Responsibility to Protect or Right to Punish? *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding* 4.1: 53-67. [A critical perspective on R2P]
- Dunne, Tim (2013) 'Internationalism and Interventionism' in Tim Dunne and Trine Flockhart, eds. *Liberal World Orders*. British Academy Scholarship Online. [Primer on interventionism as an approach.]
- Gong, Gerrit W. (1984) *The Standard of 'Civilization' in International Society*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Buzan, Barry and George Lawson (2013) The global transformation: the nineteenth century and the making of modern international relations. *International Studies Quarterly* 57(3): 620-634.

Lecture 28: Is it the end of world (as we know it)?

This lecture recaps the lessons from the modules of the Lent Term and raises some new questions about climate, technological and financial change, as well as the impact of these changes on international relations.

Pre-Reading:

- Parker, Geoffrey (2014) Lessons from the Little Ice Age. *The New York Times*. March 22. https://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/23/opinion/sunday/lessons-from-the-little-ice-age.html?_r=0

Core Reading:

- Immanuel Wallerstein (2002) The Eagle Has Crash Landed. *Foreign Policy* 131: 60-68.
- Mitchell, Timothy (2011) *Carbon Democracy: Political Power in the Age of Oil*. London: Verso. Introduction & Conclusion.

- Zuboff, Shoshana (2014) Obama, Merkel, and the Bridge to an Information Civilization. *Frankfurter Allgemeine* January 17. <https://www.faz.net/aktuell/feuilleton/nsa-obama-merkel-and-the-bridge-to-an-information-civilization-12756148.html>
- Tooze, Adam (2019) Everything You Know About Global Order Is Wrong. *Foreign Policy*. January 30. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/01/30/everything-you-know-about-global-order-is-wrong/>

Supplementary Reading:

- Harrison, Mark (2013) *Contagion: How Commerce Has Spread Disease*. Yale University Press.
- Abu-Lughod, Janet (1989) *Before European Hegemony*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Parker, Geoffrey (2013) *Global Crisis: War, Climate Change and Catastrophe in the Seventeenth Century*. Yale University Press.
- Zuboff, Shoshana (2015) Big Other: Surveillance Capitalism and the Prospects of an Information Civilization. *Journal of Information Technology* (2015) 30, 75–89.
- Harvey, David (2015) *Seventeen Contradictions and the End of Capitalism*. London: Profile Books. [Primer on the arguments for the end of capitalism]
- Tooze, Adam. (2018) *Crashed: How a Decade of Financial Crises Changed the World*. Penguin.
- Zarakol, Ayşe [2021] *Before Defeat: Rethinking the Decline of the East and the Future of the West* (Cambridge University Press). Introduction & Conclusion will be uploaded to Moodle.

SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTIONS: (Relevant lectures/topics are suggested for each question; students may, of course, draw on any lectures/topics in writing their essays.)

1. What is the best way to define ‘international systems’ and ‘systemic change’? (Lecture 23, 28)
2. What is the ‘Westphalian system’? (Lecture 24, 25)
3. Is the nation-state the best way to organize politics? (Lecture 25, 26)
4. What is the greater threat to the nation-state: economic globalisation or Islamic terrorism? (Lecture 25, 27)
5. Why have the Westphalian hierarchies proven so durable? Has the pandemic changed this dynamic? (Lecture 26)

Sample Cross-Cutting Questions:

1. Does international law shape the behavior of states?
2. Have we moved from a period of optimism about global progress to one of pessimism?
3. Have non-state actors become more important than states in international politics?
4. Are there certain aspects of international politics that can be understood without attention to gender?
5. Is the distinction between domestic and international politics still useful in today's era of globalization?
6. Is the legacy of colonialism more important in terms of its impact on domestic politics or international politics?
7. Are we seeing a new global politics emerging today?
8. Does the international economy operate independently of international politics?
9. Will violence always be part of international politics, even if its precise form changes over time?
10. Is it the end of the world (as we know it)? Why or why not?

SAMPLE EXAM

A) Cross-Cutting Questions

Each student must answer ONE of these questions. Material can be drawn from any of the modules.

- 1) Did the end of the Cold War, 9/11, or climate change “change everything” in international politics?
- 2) Does imperialism still shape our political world today?
- 3) Should morality play a role in international politics?
- 4) Is there a period from the past that serves as an analogue for the state of international politics today?

B) Module-Specific Questions

Each student must answer TWO of these questions.

- 1) Does the history of human rights determine their politics today?
- 2) Has the UN been a help or hindrance to decolonization?
- 3) Is international law gendered?
- 4) Does military intervention have to be authorized by the United Nations Security Council in order to be legitimate?
- 5) Does the War on Terror still shape the present political world?
- 6) Is the Anthropocene a misnomer?
- 7) Is disagreement about climate change an obstacle to solving it?
- 8) If there is a liberal international order, what is the greatest threat to it?
- 9) Will the rise of China and other non-Western countries lead to the creation of a more egalitarian international order?
- 10) Does the rise of populism today carry with it a specific international political agenda?
- 11) Did the attainment of formal sovereignty fundamentally change Third World states’ status in international order?
- 12) Is sovereignty on the wane today?