

International Strategy

Course Syllabus

Fall, International School
University of International Business and Economy

Instructor: DU Yang
Class Hours:

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D. Course Topics

Lecture 1: Introduction and Methodology

1. The study of ends and means
2. The study of the political actor as the central unit of analysis
3. Understanding the political actor's value system and preferences
4. An actor's interest will be influenced by the wider strategic environment
5. The actor is behaving rationally in pursuit of its aims

Lecture 2: SUN TZU

This session will center on a modern translation of an ancient text, Sun Tzu's Art of War (6th century B.C.), and will highlight contemporary issues, such as the relationship of theory to actual practice, of strategy to structure, and the use of modern resources. The comparison of three more literal translations from both Eastern and Western scholars to the primary text will underscore the range of interpretations of this classic strategy work. We will close the session with a discussion of Sun Tzu's thought as applied to various wars, including the War on Terror.

Lecture3: THUCYDIDES

In this session we will concentrate on the internal logic of Thucydides's classic history of the Peloponnesian War (431- 404 B.C.). Particular emphasis will be placed on certain events: the archaeology that opens the book; the crisis over Epidamnus; the debate at Sparta; the speeches of Pericles; the plague; the stasis at Corcyra; the Melian dialogue; Alcibiades and the Hermæ; and the Sicilian campaign. Certain themes also will be stressed: nature, history, the polis, culture and human disaster. The aim will be to explore the 'grand' aspect of grand strategy as in 'all-inclusive' or 'comprehensive', more than the aggregation of the decisions and actions of leaders.

Lecture 4: THE ROMANS

In this session we will consider the Roman Empire as a unipolar world, a power configuration not to be seen again until the United States emerged as the world's only super-power after the Cold War ended. We will explore the question of whether Roman hegemony reflected the existence of what we would now consider to be a grand strategy and if so what it was. Emphasis will be placed on the reasons the empire rose and fell, and why it lasted as long as it did. We will also consider what if anything the United States, in its own 'unipolar moment', might learn from the Roman precedent.

Lecture 5: MACHIAVELLI

In this session we will examine in its entirety *The Prince*, by Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527), with a dual focus. On the one hand will be Machiavelli's angle of vision: why he and his classic text are associated with the rise of modern politics and the rise of the modern nation-state. On the other hand will be the precise formula Machiavelli elaborates for statecraft and the ideas from which it derives. Particular emphasis will be placed upon Machiavelli's philosophy of history; the use of history by leaders; the role of fate, fortune and chance; and the relationship between individual leaders and their specific historical contexts.

Lecture 6: COMMERCE, WAR, AND CONSTITUTIONALISM

We will consider the relation between war, commerce and constitution-building. We will concentrate on late eighteenth and early nineteenth century thought about progress and the relation between commercial activity, security strategy, and the construction of republican constitutionalism. We will also begin to explore the legacy of such thought to the twentieth century by examining the constitutional documents of the League of Nations and the United Nations.

Lecture 7: GEOPOLITICS

By the end of the nineteenth century, the small archipelago of the United Kingdom—a multi-national “composite state”—dominated the world's industrial production, possessed unchallengeable naval power, and controlled one-quarter of the world's land surface. But as newer Great Powers emerged, Britain faced challenges in all corners of the globe: in the Mediterranean, Atlantic, and Pacific; scrambling for new holdings in Africa; using its critical Indian base as a platform for further imperial interventions while jealously guarding British supremacy on the subcontinent. This week's readings look at the complex relations between the British metropole and its diverse imperial holdings in the decades between the Crimean War and the First World War. Policy-makers had to treat the empire as an intricate ecology: actions taken in one colonial theater could prompt unexpected reverberations in distant hemispheres. Nor could those maintaining and expanding the “Pax Britannica” simply dictate policy to acquiescent possessions: colonial interests had to be balanced, local elites coopted, and the possibility of a new geopolitical structure, that of the “world state,” anxiously contemplated.

Lecture 8: COMMUNIST GRAND STRATEGY

This session focuses on the rise of Communism from the early twentieth century to World War II. We will emphasize in particular the political construction of the Soviet state as well as the revolutionary ideals of Communism and the global political strategy of the Communist International. We will examine the successes and failures of the efforts to put this strategy into practice both within the USSR and on the international scene, including Soviet strategy towards Nazi Germany and the upcoming war.

Lecture 9: the Grand Strategy of China

China's continuing rapid economic growth and expanding involvement in global affairs pose major

implications for the power structure of the international system. To more accurately and fully assess the significance of China's emergence for the United States and the global community, it is necessary to gain a more complete understanding of Chinese security thought and behavior. This study addresses such questions as: What are China's most fundamental national security objectives? How has the Chinese state employed force and diplomacy in the pursuit of these objectives over the centuries? What security strategy does China pursue today and how will it evolve in the future?

Lecture 10: the Grand strategy of United States

American grand strategy cannot be understood without a historical grounding. Prior to the Revolution, the defense of the colonies as a whole was left to the British crown, and the colonial militia handled local defense. Contention between the great powers (Spain, the Netherlands, France, and Great Britain) on the North American continent bred an enduring distaste among the colonists for international intervention in the Western hemisphere. Prerevolutionary warfare was endemic and nearly constant in North America, fostering on the one hand a familiarity with conflict, but on the other a distrust of standing forces that would condition American strategic thought for several centuries

Lecture 11: ONE ROAD ONE BELT

"One belt, one road" is a development strategy started by the Chinese government in 2013. It refers to the New Silk Road Economic Belt, which will link China with Europe through Central and Western Asia, and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, which will connect China with Southeast Asian countries, Africa and Europe. Neither the belt nor the road follows any clear line geographically speaking; they serve more as a roadmap for how China wants to further integrate itself into the world economy and strengthen its influence in these regions.

While relative region could gain better finance, strength infrastructure for development through cooperation, China expects to be beneficial from enhanced and integrated market for its infrastructure productivity and outward investment.

The planned actions include consultations with countries involved, construction of international economic cooperation corridors and ports, as well as infrastructure projects.

Lecture 12: International system and the changes

1. The International System according to Liberals
2. The International System according to Realists
3. The International System according to Racists
4. Basic norms of a balance-of-power system

Lecture 13: Final Exam