

**MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
IR 320 - THE MODERN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM
INSTRUCTOR: DR. NURI YURDUSEV**

GENERAL INFORMATION

The basic purpose of this undergraduate course is to give the students a general understanding of the 'modern international system'. It takes the idea of an international system as the basic tool and first dwells on what it is and what it is not. To this end, the conceptual problem will be the first topic with which we shall be dealing. How a conception of international system can be constructed will be explained through different approaches.

In the second part of the course, the modern international system will be our focal point. To cope with the problems in understanding the modern international system, a civilisationally-based conception of universal history will be introduced and links between civilisations and international systems are to be discussed. After a brief overview of the pre-modern international systems, the historical development of the modern system will constitute the bulk of our discussion. How the system has become what it is now is, of course, a basic concern. The course will end with an analysis of the present state of the modern international system and of the problems and issues confronting it.

The course will be conducted on the basis of lecture and student participation. On the issues and problems of the modern international system we shall depend more on classroom discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to read the assigned readings for each subject. Students will be asked to sit on for a mid-term examination on the conceptual part of the course, or optionally to write an essay, consisting of about 10 pages, on any of the issues of the modern international system. Essays are due on the last day of classes. Both mid-term examination and the essay will constitute half of the final grade. The remaining half is to be counted for by the final examination.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE

- I. Introduction
- II. Conceptions of International System
 1. The idea of system (social system, political system, international system)
 2. Ahistorical conceptions (realist school and behaviouralist school)
 3. Historical conceptions (world-system school and the British school)
- III. History of the Modern International System
 1. The concept of universal history
 2. The concept of civilisation
 3. Civilisations and international systems
 4. Pre-modern international systems
 5. The Eurasian international system
 6. The modern international system
 - a) The origins and the emergence of the modern system
 - b) The growth of the modern system
 - c) The institutionalization and the globalization of the system
- IV. The Present State of the Modern International System
 1. Political organization
 2. Economic structure
 3. Cultural aspects
 4. Issues and problems of the modern system (the list is not exhaustive)
 - a) Identity
 - b) Legitimacy and participation
 - c) Justice and poverty
 - d) Unity versus plurality (cultural differentiation)
 - e) Racism
 - f) Human right and intervention
 - g) Environment and pollution
 - h) War and stability

READINGS

On the first part (conceptual)

- Bull, H., *The Anarchical Society* (London: Macmillan, 1977), ch.1 (esp. pp. 9-16).
- Bull, H., 'Society and Anarchy in International Relations', in H. Butterfield and M. Wight (eds.), *Diplomatic Investigations* (London: George Allen and Unwin, 1966).
- Bull, H. and Watson, A. (eds.), *The Expansion of International Society* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1984), Introduction.
- Kaplan, M. A., 'Some Problems of International Systems Research', in *International Political Communities: An Anthology* (Garden City, New York: Anchor Books, 1966).
- Lampert, D.E., et al., 'Is There an International System?', *International Studies Quarterly* (vol.22, no.1, 1978), pp.143-166.
- Little, R., 'The Systems Approach', in S. Smith (ed.), *International Relations: British and American Perspectives* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1985).
- Masters, R., 'World Politics as Primitive Political System', *World Politics* (vol.16, 1964), pp.595-615.
- Modelski, G., *Long Cycles in World Politics* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1987), ch.1.
- Nettl, P., 'The Concept of System in Political Science', *Political Studies* (vol.14, no.3, 1966), pp.305-338.
- Nicholson, M.B. and Reynolds, P.A., 'General Systems, the International System, and the Eastonian Analysis', *Political Studies* (vol.16, no.1, 1967), pp.12-31.
- Northedge, F.S., *The International Political System* (London: Faber and Faber, 1976), ch.1 (esp. pp.23-32).
- Wallerstein, I., 'World-Systems Analysis', in A. Giddens and J. Turner (eds.), *Social Theory Today* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1987).
- Wallerstein, I., *The Modern World System* (New York: Academic Press, 1974), Introduction and ch. 7.
- Waltz, K.N., *Theory of International Politics* (Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley, 1979), chs. 4-5.
- Watson, A., *The Evolution of International Society: A Comparative Historical Analysis* (London: Routledge, 1992), ch. 1.
- Wight, M., *Systems of States* (Leicester: Leicester University Press, 1977), ch. 1.
- Yurdusev, A.N., 'Level of Analysis and Unit of Analysis: A Case for Distinction', *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* (vol.22, no.1, Spring 1993), pp.77-88.
- Yurdusev, A.N., 'The Concept of International System as a Unit of Analysis', *METU Studies in Development* (vol.21, no.1, 1994), pp.143-174.
- Yurdusev, A.N., "'Uluslararası Ýliþkiler' Öncesi", in A. Eralp (der.) *Devlet, Sistem ve Kimlik: Uluslararası Ýliþkilerde Temel Yaklaþýmlar* (Ýstanbul: Ýletipim Yayýnlarý, 1996).

On the second part (historical)

- Acton, J., *Lectures on Modern History* (London: Macmillan, 1950), chs. 1,2,3.
- Acton, J., *Essays on Freedom and Power* (New York: Meridian Books, 1955), ch.5.
- Barracough, G., *History in a Changing World* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1950), chs.2,3,7,10,14.
- Bull, *The Anarchical Society*, chs.2,4 and parts 2,3..
- Bull and Watson (eds.), *The Expansion of International Society*, chs. 1, 3, 8, 14, 15, 16, 26, 27.
- Chay, J., *Culture and International Relations* (New York: Preager, 1990), ch.1.
- Forsyth, M., 'The Old European States-System: Gentz Versus Hauterive', *Historical Journal* (vol.23, no.3, 1980), pp.521-538.
- Gong, G.W., *The Standard of 'Civilization' in International Society* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1984), chs.2,4,6,7.
- Hinsley, F.H., *Power and the Pursuit of Peace* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1963), chs.8,9,10,11.
- Hinsley, F.H., 'The Rise and Fall of the Modern International System', *Review of International Studies* (vol.8, 1982), pp.1-8.
- Kedourie, E., *The Crossman Confessions and Other Essays in Politics, History and Religion* (London: Mansell Pub. Ltd., 1984), pp.97-131,219-226.
- Keens-Soper, M., 'The Practice of a States System', in M. Donelan (ed.), *The Reason of States* (London: George Allen and Unwin, 1978).
- Kohn, H., *The Idea of Nationalism* (New York: Macmillan, 1944), chs.1,4,5.
- Lewis, B., *Cultures in Conflict: Christians, Muslims and Jews in the Age of Discovery* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995), chs.1,2,3.
- McNeill, W.H., *A World History* (New York and London: Oxford University Press, 1967), chs. xix, xxiii, xxiv.
- Mayall, J., *Nationalism and International Society* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990), chs.2,3,4,5,6,7,8.
- Modelski, *Long Cycles in World Politics*, ch. 4.
- Modelski, G., 'Agraria and Industria: Two Models of the International System', in K.Knorr and S.Verba (eds.), *The International System: Theoretical Essays* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1961).
- Northedge, *The International Political System*, chs.2,3,4,5,6,7.
- Vincent, R.J., 'Race in International Relations', *International Affairs* (vol.4, no.1, 1982), pp.658-670.
- Wallerstein, I., *The Capitalist World-Economy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979), chs.1,2.
- Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, chs.6,7,8,9.
- Watson, A., *The Evolution of International Society*, chs.2-25.
- Wight, *Systems of States*, 2,3,4,5,6.
- Worsley, P., 'One World or Three: A Critique of the World-System Theory of Immanuel Wallerstein', *The Socialist Register*, 1980, pp.298-338.
- Yurdusev, A.N., *International Relations and the Philosophy of History: A Civilisational Approach* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, Forthcoming).
- Yurdusev, A.N., 'Laiklik ve Modern Uluslararası Sistem', *Liberal Düşünce* (cilt.1, sayı.1, kış 1996), ss.77-84.
- Zolberg, A.R., 'Origins of the Modern World System: A Missing Link', *World Politics* (vol.33, no.2, 1981), pp.253-281.