

Hist 205
Statecraft, Diplomacy, and War, 1618-1815
Fall 2015

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 3:35-4:25 pm
Dey Hall 203

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:15 am-1:15 pm, and by appointment

Course Description

The international system we inhabit today emerged in the wake of bloody religious warfare in 17th century Europe. From the outbreak of the Thirty Years' War to the end of the Napoleonic Wars at the Congress of Vienna, leaders struggled to reconcile their pursuit of the national interest with the desire for peace and stability in a rapidly-changing world.

This course examines the history of international relations from 1618 to 1815 and the ways in which diplomacy, military power, and revolutionary ideas allowed some states to rise and caused others to fall. It considers both how thinkers conceived of international affairs and the ways in which leaders and governments acted. Some of the key questions we will consider include: What goals did states pursue? Why did they go to war? How did they try to maintain peace? Which states succeeded and which failed, and why? How did the international system of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries evolve, and what were its legacies for the nineteenth and twentieth centuries?

Course Format

The course will be a combination of lecture and discussion. The lectures will provide a broad overview of the material, while the discussions will dissect the readings and consider ways of explaining and interpreting events and linking them to the major themes of the course. It is therefore essential that you prepare for every class and be ready to contribute to our discussions. You should do the assigned readings *before* class.

Readings

This course has one required textbook, available for sale at Student Stores:
Harold Nicolson, *The Congress of Vienna: A Study in Allied Unity*.

Students seeking a general narrative overview of the period to supplement the reading assignments may want to consult the following books, which are available on reserve at the Undergraduate Library:

Jeremy Black, *European International Relations, 1648-1815*
Mark Greengrass, *Christendom Destroyed: Europe 1517-1648*

Tim Blanning, *The Pursuit of Glory: Europe 1648-1815*.

Assignments

1. Map Quiz (5%)

Understanding of the basic geography of where things happened is a prerequisite for analyzing the broad events and themes of this class. The 10-minute map quiz will ask you to identify several places (e.g. cities, rivers, regions), drawn from a list distributed in advance, on a blank map. We will discuss the details in class. The quiz will take place **in class on Wednesday, September 2**.

2. Midterm Exam (25%)

The midterm exam will be held **in class on Wednesday, September 30**. It will consist of a few short IDs and one essay question.

3. Research Essay (25%)

For this assignment, you will write a 2,500-3,000 word (roughly 10-12 pages) research paper on some aspect of international history from the period 1618 to 1815. It is **due in hard copy at the beginning of class on Monday, November 2**. See below for further details.

4. Final Exam (35%)

The three-hour final exam will be cumulative and cover material from the entire semester. It will consist of several short IDs and two essay questions. It will be held on **Saturday, December 5 at 4 pm** in our regular classroom.

5. Attendance and Participation (10%)

It is essential that you do all of the reading every week and come to class ready to ask relevant questions and contribute to our discussions and debates. You will be evaluated on both the quantity and, more importantly, the quality of your contributions.

Students are required to attend all lectures and discussions. Absences will only be excused for valid reasons. A student must present his or her explanation for any absences in writing to the instructor in advance if the reasons for the absence could be foreseen, or as soon as possible thereafter if the reason for the absence could not be foreseen.

Unexcused absences will reduce a student's final grade in the course.

Research Essay

A list of possible essay questions will be distributed in class. You may choose a question from this list or pursue a topic of your own choosing, provided that it relates to the subject matter of the course. You may also wish to narrow down one of the suggested questions (e.g. by considering a shorter time period). If you decide to choose your own topic, I strongly encourage you to discuss it with me first to ensure that you're on the right track.

Students who have not had much practice writing history essays may wish to read Richard Marius, *A Short Guide to Writing about History*, which walks through the

process from start to finish. A copy has been placed on reserve in the Undergraduate Library.

Grades and Late Work

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

Excellent work:	A = 94-100	A- = 90-93	
Good work:	B+ = 87-89	B = 84-86	B- = 80-83
Acceptable work:	C+ = 77-79	C = 74-76	C- = 70-73
Marginal work:	D+ = 67-69	D = 64-66	
Unacceptable work:	F = 0-63		

Late work will be penalized by 1/3 of a grade per day. For example, an assignment that is submitted two days late and receives an B would be downgraded to a C+. Students who miss an exam without a valid excuse (e.g. serious illness, family emergency) will receive a zero on the exam.

Honor Code

As in every class at UNC, all students are expected to adhere to the University Honor Code, which will be strictly enforced. You must properly footnote all sources and quotations, both direct and indirect, in your essays. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. You may not collaborate with colleagues on the assignments. All work that you submit under your name must be entirely your own.

Penalties for violating the honor code are severe. First-time offenders commonly receive both a failing grade in the course and a suspension. Students should therefore familiarize themselves with the details of the University Honor Code at honor.unc.edu.

Electronics and Other Details

You may not use laptops or any other electronics in class. Recent studies have demonstrated that students who take notes by hand understand and retain the material better and perform better on assignments than their laptop-using peers. Cellphones must be switched to silent mode and put away for the duration of class. Students may not make audio or video recordings of the class except with the instructor's explicit permission.

It may be necessary to make changes to the syllabus, including assignment due dates and test dates (excluding the officially scheduled final examination), when unforeseen circumstances arise. These changes will be announced as early as possible so that students can adjust their schedules.

Course Schedule and Assigned Readings

Week 1

Aug. 19 – Introduction

Week 2

Aug. 24 – European Politics in the 16th and Early 17th Centuries

Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, 31-72.

Aug. 26 – The Origins of the Thirty Years' War

“Introduction,” in Hans Medick and Benjamin Marschke, eds., *Experiencing the Thirty Years War*, 1-14.

“1. The Religious Peace of Augsburg, 1555”

“2. The Declaratio Ferdinandea, 24 September 1555”

“3. The Donauwörth Incident, 1607”

“4. The Protestant Union, 1608”

“5. The Catholic League, 1609”

“10. The Character of Emperor Ferdinand II”

“11. The Defenestration of Prague, 23 May 1618,” in Peter H. Wilson, *The Thirty Years War: A Sourcebook*, 6-20 and 32-37.

Be sure to read the brief introductions to each section, which are included with these documents and provide useful context.

Week 3

Aug. 31 – The Course of the Thirty Years' War

The Political Testament of Cardinal Richelieu, ed. Henry Bertram Hill, 67-79, 94-102, and 118-124.

“The Peace of Prague, 1635”

“Skepticism about the Recent Peace of Prague, 1635”

“Perceptions of the Peace of Prague, 1635,” in Medick and Marschke, 163-69.

“23. Advice of Cardinal Richelieu of France (after September 6, 1634),” in Tryntje Helfferich, ed., *The Thirty Years War: A Documentary History*, 151-52.

“106. Minutes of the Council of the Realm, September-October 1635”

“112. Maximilian of Bavaria Reflects on the Course of the War, c. 1637,” in Wilson, 209-211, 219-222.

Sept. 2 – The Peace of Westphalia

Map quiz in class

“33. Imperial Instructions for the Peace Congress (October 16, 1645)”

“34. Letter of Cardinal Mazarin to the French Plenipotentiaries at Münster (January 20, 1646),” in Helfferich, 233-49.

Week 4

Sept. 7 – Labor Day

Sept. 9 – The Idea of Sovereignty

Dante Alighieri, extract from *Monarchy* (c. 1320)

Jean Bodin, extract from *Six Books of the Commonwealth* (1576), in Chris Brown, Terry Nardin, and Nicholas Rengger, eds., *International Relations in Political Thought*, 198-203 and 270-275.

Sept. 11 – The Ottoman Empire

Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922*, 2nd ed., 13-36.

Jeremy Black, *European International Relations 1648-1815*, 77-85.

Week 5

Sept. 14 – The Spanish Empire

Juan Reglá, “Spain and Her Empire,” *New Cambridge Modern History* [NCMH], Vol. V, 369-383.

Sept. 16 – The Rise of the Maritime Powers: England and the Dutch Republic

Maarten Prak, *The Dutch Republic in the Seventeenth Century*, 27-60 and 75-84.

Sept. 18 – Essay Research

Week 6

Sept. 21 – Louis XIV and *Gloire*

John Lynn, “A Quest for Glory: The Formation of Strategy under Louis XIV, 1661-1715,” in Williamson Murray, MacGregor Knox, and Alvin Bernstein, eds., *The Making of Strategy*, 178-204.

Louis XIV, “Reflections on the Craft of Kingship,” November 1679.

Sept. 23 – The Nine Years’ War, 1688-1697

Geoffrey Symcox, “Louis XIV and the Outbreak of the Nine Years War,” *Louis XIV and Europe*, ed. Ragnhild Hatton (London, 1976) 179-206.

Sept. 25 – Discussion

- Week 7
- Sept. 28 – The War of the Spanish Succession, 1702-1713
 AJ Veenendaal, “The War of the Spanish Succession in Europe,” *NCMH*, Vol. VI, 410-445.
- Sept. 30 – Midterm Exam
- Oct. 2 – Essay Research
- Week 8
- Oct. 5 – The Emergence of Russia
 Paul Bushkovitch, “Peter the Great and the Northern War,” *Cambridge History of Russia*, Vol. II, 489-503.
- Oct. 7 – The Balance of Power in Theory and Practice
 MS Anderson, “Eighteenth-Century Theories of the Balance of Power,” *Studies in Diplomatic History*, 183-198.
 François de Salignac de la Mothe Fénelon, extract from “On the Necessity of Forming Alliances” (1700), in Brown et al., eds., 301-06.
- Oct. 9 – Discussion
- Week 9
- Oct. 12 – Essay Research
- Oct. 14 – The Rise of Prussia and Frederick the Great
 “16. Frederick the Great Plans His Coup”
 “17. Frederick the Great as Others Saw Him (1751)”
 “18. Frederick the Great’s Political Testament (1752),” in CA Macartney, ed., *The Habsburg and Hohenzollern Dynasties in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*, 326-31 and 335-46.
- Oct. 16 – Fall Break
- Week 10
- Oct. 19 – The Diplomatic Revolution
 DB Horn, “The Diplomatic Revolution,” *NCMH* Vol. VII, 440-64.
- Oct. 21 – The Seven Years’ War in Eastern Europe
 HM Scott, *The Birth of a Great Power System 1740-1815*, 96-108.
 “360. Frederick’s address to his generals and staff officers, December 3, 1757”
 “361. Letter of Frederick the Great written toward the close of the Seven Years’ War, August 1762,” in James

Harvey Robinson, ed., *Readings in European History*, 322-325.

Oct. 23 – Discussion

Week 11

Oct. 26 – The Seven Years' War in Western Europe and Beyond

Fred Anderson, "The Peace of Paris," *The Making of Peace*, 101-130.

Oct. 28 – The Economics and Organization of State Power
Kennedy, 73-100.

John Brewer, *The Sinews of Power: War, Money, and the English State, 1688-1783*, 64-87.

Oct. 30 – Essay Research

Week 12

Nov. 2 – Partition Diplomacy in Eastern Europe

Paper due in class

Scott, 201-13.

Nov. 4 – Enlightenment Ideas and International Politics

Immanuel Kant, extract from *Perpetual Peace*, in Brown et al., eds., 432-50.

Nov. 6 – Discussion

Week 13

Nov. 9 – The American War of Independence

Scott, 222-236.

"383. How France became interested in the American Revolution," from the *Mémoires* of the Comte de Ségur, in Robinson, ed., 370-73.

Nov. 11 – Ottoman Decline

Quataert, 37-53.

Nov. 13 – Review

Week 14

Nov. 16 – France and the Warfare of Revolution

"404. The Declaration of Pillnitz, August 27, 1791"

"407. Letter of Louis XVI to the King of Prussia"

"409. The French Assembly declares war on Austria"

"411. The proclamation of the Duke of Brunswick, July 25, 1792"

"413. Proclamation to nations whose tyrants have been driven out by the French republican armies,

December 15, 1792,” in Robinson, ed., 432-33, 438-39, 440-41, 443-45, and 449-50.

“37. The Debate over the Declaration of War,” *The French Revolution: A Document Collection*, ed. Laura Mason and Tracey Rizzo, 159-65.

Nov. 18 – Napoleon Rampant

“426. Bonaparte’s own account of his *coup d’état* of Brumaire”

“430. Why the French people submitted to Bonaparte’s rule”

“431. Napoleon’s account of the internal situation of France in 1804”

“433. Napoleon’s proclamation to his soldiers after Austerlitz,” in Robinson, ed., 478-80, 490-94, and 496-97.

“49. Napoleon Bonaparte, *On Europe*,” in Rafe Blaufarb, *Napoleon: Symbol for an Age*, 140-42.

William Pitt the Younger on the security of Europe, in *The Foreign Policy of Victorian England 1815-1902*, ed. Kenneth Bourne, 197-198.

Nov. 20 – Discussion

Week 15

Nov. 23 – Napoleon in Retreat

Harold Nicolson, *The Congress of Vienna*, vii-118.

Nov. 25 and 27 – Thanksgiving Break

Week 16

Nov. 30 – The Congress of Vienna

Nicolson, 119-274.

Dec. 2 – Conclusions