

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences

History 404-European Diplomatic History

Fall 2006

Instructor: Dr. M. D. Fenyo

Office Hours: Monday- Friday or by appointment

Email: mfenyo@bowiestate.edu

Phone: 410-827-9314

Voicemail: 301-860-3607

Textbook: Rather than a single text, there is a bibliography of suggested titles. The one title I recommend for background information essential to this course is Geir Lundstead East, West, North, South; major developments in International Politics since 1945 (Oxford U. Press, latest edition).

All members of the class are expected to select at least three works, and report on each (the reports maybe in lieu of a test). I need to see a copy of at least one of the three works on the desk or in your hands.

There will be other required readings, including (but not limited to) a daily newspaper at least once a week. Supplementary readings will be assigned periodically.

Course Description:

This course seeks to survey those diplomatic, political and cultural forces which have shaped the history of Europe and international relations. It is assumed that these influences are dialectical, that European diplomacy has affected people around the globe, for better or for worse.

Goals of the Course:

1. To enhance critical and analytical thinking skills that are basic to all academic endeavors and life beyond classroom.
2. To enhance the use of logic and common sense.
3. To acquaint members of the class with a general outline of international relations.
4. To acquaint members of the class with a sense of world affairs.
5. To introduce members of the class to the varying ways in which historians perceive international relations.
6. To impart upon all members of the class an understanding and appreciation of the interaction between his/her life and the nation's past.
7. To enhance written communication skills and proper English usage by means of essays on tests and other written assignments.
8. To encourage all members of the class to participate in meaningful discussion, individually or in groups.

9. To enhance a sense of location in space through geography and time by an awareness of chronology.

Methods of Instruction:

Lectures and mini-lectures
Cooperative Learning
The use of audio-visual materials
Homework and in-class assignments
Guest presentations

Requirements:

Attendance in class is a basic requirement. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period, therefore it is also essential to attend and participate in a timely manner.

The above requirement is also applicable to the test periods. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP TESTS.** If the test or assignment was missed for legitimate reasons, such as a doctor's appointment, it will not be counted and the course grade will be based on the average of the remaining tests.

NO CELL PHONES PLEASE!

Testing:

There will be two in-class tests (usually one hour long) and a final examination. Each test is worth 20% of the overall grade, as is the final examination. The term paper counts for 40% of the overall grade. Each test and the final will have at least the following components: multiple choice questions and an essay question. Although the final examination will focus on the last segment of the course, it will repeat questions from test 1 and 2.

EACH TEST WILL BE "CLOSED BOOK" AND CLASS NOTES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

The following scale will be used in determining the course grade:

- A- 90-100 Superior
- B- 80-89 Good
- C- 70-79 Average
- D- 60-69 Below Average

A mathematical formula (linear regression) will be used to reward progress. In other words, if the performance on the final examination is superior to the performance on previous tests, the final grade for the course will be closer to the last grade. If on the other hand, there have been no improvements, the final grade will simply reflect the average of the grades obtained during the semester.

Term papers:

As regards the term paper, I am asking that everyone select a topic along the following guidelines: a theoretical issue, to be illustrated by a case study pertaining to the modern history (Europe and the world in the 19th, 20th or 21st century). The theoretical issues are taken from Vasquez, Classics of International Relations, and include:

The notion of a “just war”
War and the churches
The role of patriotism in international affairs
Do the ends justify the means?
Passive resistance to oppression or injustice
The responsibility of intellectuals
Building a world society
The national interest of the United States
National Security
Leaders learning from history
The role of gender
Propaganda as a weapon
The search for peace
Imperialism
Balance of power
Nuclear deterrence
Market economies
Socialist economies
Regional cooperation
International cooperation

Recommended readings: History 110

Anderson, Bonnie and Judith Zinsser, A History of Their Own (1988)
Apuleius, The Golden Ass