Contact Details for Jimmy Koppen
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Office hours and location: every Thursday 12:00-1:00 PM
Dialogue Room 1
Vesalius College, level -1

Learning Objectives
After this course, students should be able
- to explain the key events in 20th century diplomacy
- to understand the background and evolution of international organizations like UN, NATO and EU
- to relate historical events to contemporary global problems and challenges
- to understand the different characteristics of the international system as we know it today.

Course Description
This course introduces students to the principal events, actors and dynamics that shaped the international system in the 20th century. The course takes off at the beginning of the First World War and ends at the falling of the Berlin Wall in 1989, although links to more recent events will be made. In order to understand the balances of power, we shall see how political life was organized in the world’s greatest nations. The course analyses international relations and diplomacy, and the causes of war and crisis.

Course Materials

Additional readings: TBA, on pointcarré
Course Assessment

The students will be evaluated on the basis of their performance as follows:

- Participation: 5%
- Term Paper: 25%
- Presentation: 10%
- Midterm examination: 30%
- Final examination: 30%

TOTAL: 100%

Further description of assessment activities:

Participation

Students are encouraged to participate in debate during class. Preferable the chapters in the textbook, and eventually additional texts, are read in advance.

Written presentation

Each student has to write an essay based on a question or a statement of his/her choice. The list with questions/paper topics will be handed out at the first class meeting. The essay expresses a personal opinion but is based on academic literature and other reliable sources.
- ca. 5000 words, excluding footnotes and bibliography
- Use footnotes and the Chicago manual of style (humanities style). Check the internet for examples
- Bibliography must consist out of a least 3 monographs and 2 articles or essays from a scientific journal. Articles from newspapers and journals (for example New York Times, Newsweek,…) may not be used as a source, only to illustrate your point of view.
- Please take care that your papers are written as if you were a historian or an academic, not a politician or a diplomat.
- The lecturer has the right to reject papers which are written in poor English or have an insufficient level of documentation. They will have to be re-written within two weeks after the original due date.

All papers must be emailed to jimmy.koppen@vub.ac.be. You will receive a confirmation.

Topics must be chosen by the end of week one: first come, first served.

Oral presentation:

Every student presents the highlights of his or her paper during an oral presentation in class. Make use of power point.
The date of the presentations will be announced during the second week. Every student has 15 minutes, followed by a discussion of 10 minutes with the audience.

A summary of 1 page will be distributed to the class at the moment of your presentation.

Both this summary as your power point presentation must be sent to jimmy.koppen@vub.ac.be the evening before.

Grading criteria:

The following criteria will be applied in assessing your written work, as well as your presentation in class:
- Discourse
- Use of academic and reliable sources
- Understanding of the concepts and theories developed in the course.

The students have the opportunity to discuss their papers/presentations at the lecturer’s office (date TBA)

Examinations:

Both midterm and final exams will consist out of multiple choice questions and 1 or 2 open questions, in which the student is expected to give the analysis of a key event in 20th century history.
The final exam only focuses on post-midterm material.

Due dates

Paper: the first Sunday after midterm exams, before midnight
Individual presentation: second class of week 8 to 13

Late papers will not be accepted unless you have a legitimate reason.

Academic Honesty Statement

Academic dishonesty is NOT tolerated in this course.

Academic honesty is not only an ethical issue but also the foundation of scholarship. Cheating and plagiarism are therefore serious breaches of academic integrity.

Following the College policy, cheating and plagiarism cases will be communicated in writing to the Associate Dean for Students and submitted to the Student Conduct Committee for disciplinary action.
If you refer to someone else’s work, appropriate references and citations must be provided. Grammar, spelling and punctuation count, so use the tools necessary to correct before handing in assignments.

**Grading Scale of Vesalius College**

Vesalius College grading policy, in line with Flemish Educational norms, is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Scale of 20</th>
<th>Scale of 100</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>17.0-20.0</td>
<td>85-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>16.1-16.9</td>
<td>81-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>15.3-16.0</td>
<td>77-80</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>14.5-15.2</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>13.7-14.4</td>
<td>69-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>13.1-13.6</td>
<td>66-68</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>12.3-13.0</td>
<td>62-65</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>10.0-10.6</td>
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