International History and Politics
Academic year 2010 - 2011

The Twenty Years’ Crisis

HP009 - Spring - Seminar - 6 ECTS
Tuesdays 16:15-18:00 (CV204)

Course Description

This seminar will consider some of the milestones of the interwar period (1919-1939). These have become the subjects of intense historiographical contention and they have served as the paradigms in terms of which the then newly-born study of international relations established itself. Students will be invited to choose their subjects of research but themes that may be raised include: the Peace Settlement after World War I; the question of reparations and international economic policy in the 1920s and then in the 1930s; the successes and failures of the League of Nations as an organisation and as a system; the rise of alternatives to bourgeois democracy; the travails of self-determination; and the origins of the Second World War.

PROFESSOR

André Liebich
Andre.liebich@graduateinstitute.ch
+41 22 908 58 72

Office hours:
Wednesdays 10:00-12:00
(CV316a)

ASSISTANT

Jaci Eisenberg
Jaci.eisenberg@graduateinstitute.ch
+41 22 908 58 03

Office hours:
Tuesdays 15:00-16:00 and
Wednesdays 16:15-17:15
(CV311)

Syllabus

The seminar will be structured in two parts. The first eight weeks will be devoted to discussion of topics as per the literature contained in the class reader and other optional readings from the class syllabus. Two students will accept responsibility for launching each week's discussion on the basis of the question suggested in the syllabus. In addition, each student will choose a country of "specialisation" and be prepared to regularly contribute information on that country to the general discussion. A bibliography covering some of the great powers will be distributed during the first week of class. Students may also opt for another country of their choice.

The last six weeks of the semester will be spent on oral presentation of the drafts of student papers. These papers will be on a specific topic chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. A discussion of preliminary paper proposals will be held early in the semester in a session devoted also to sources and research tools. Final papers are due by 7 June at the latest.

The breakdown of the evaluation is as follows: 30% for participation, 20% for the oral presentation, and 50% for the final paper.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 February</td>
<td>Learning to Study IR in the Interwar Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>The Post-War Settlement and the Versailles Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>The League of Nations and Internationalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 March</td>
<td>Economic Reconstruction and Economic Crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>Preliminary Paper Proposals and Research Tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 March</td>
<td>Challenges to Western Hegemony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 April</td>
<td>The Totalitarian Challenge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 April</td>
<td>The Origins of the Second World War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 April</td>
<td>Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 April</td>
<td><em>Easter break</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 May</td>
<td>Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 May</td>
<td>Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 May</td>
<td>Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 May</td>
<td>Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 May</td>
<td>Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 June</td>
<td>Final papers due by 18h sharp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Reading

   940.5 (093), HEIA 72749

   94, HEIA 7291/20/2

   327(035), HEIA 5757

   - Volume 1: The Twenties
     V 4 DIPL, BFLA 77424/1
   - Volume 2: The Thirties
     V 4 DIPL, BFLA 77424/2
   *Combined version printed in 1994: 327 (004), HEIA 6019*

   940.5, HEIA 15600(+1)

Gilbert, Martin. *A History of the Twentieth Century*.
   - Volume 1: 1900-1933
     94, HEIA 21223/1
   - Volume 2: 1933-1951
     94, HEIA 21223/2

   327(002), HEIA 16254

   94(031), HEIA 5988

   HEIBR 3614

   940.2 HOL, SESA 46848)

   Vaud library network.

   Vaud library network.


Interactive maps of interest:
http://www.the-map-as-history.com/demos/tome03/index.php
As well as several others here:
22 February   Learning to Study IR in the Interwar Period

Reading

327(001), HEIA 13873

Other Readings

327(002), HEIA 4253
Additional editions – 1978, 2001 – also available at the HEID library

327(001), HEIA 36594

930(082.2), HEIA 8761(+1)

920(42) CAR, HEIA 20081

327(001), HEIA 13873

P 4/135, HEID dépôt extérieur

341.123, HEIA 60942

920(494) RAP, HEIA 6910+1

930(082.2), HEIA 7950


Debate

Was the Versailles Settlement the best that could have been obtained under the circumstances?


Readings


Other Readings

Unavailable in Suisse romande library network.

940.5, HEIA 15246

94, HEIA 4387/12 bis

940.5, HEIA 72748

932(050), HEIA 65849/11

330.1, HEIA 8588

HEIBR 486

940.5, HEIA 25661

940.5, HEIA 8040

940.5, HEIA 49268
Debate

Could the League have succeeded if it had been given more support?


Readings


**Other Readings**

341.12(016), HEIA 9186

341.121, HEIA 72745

94, HEIA 4387/12 bis

Unavailable in Suisse romande library network.

341.121(043), HEIA 16195/1+2

BGE Tk 4216, Magasin 2


341.121, HEIA 15356

940, HEIA 33794

Versailles Treaty, 28 June 1919
Avalon Project: [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/versailles_menu.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/versailles_menu.asp)

341.121(045), HEIA 2337

Available online at two sites, but no stable link.

940.5, HEIA 72822
**Debate**

Was the Great Depression caused by politics or by economics?


940. HEIA 69470/2

**Readings**


330.8, HEIA 8043


940, HEIA 28954
Other Readings

330.8, HEIA 8041/3

HEIBR 2806

940, HEIA 27116

http://www.jstor.org/stable/2597621

330.8, HEIA 8043

940, HEIA 26873

940.5, HEIA 72751

VI 2 Grande-Bretagne ORDE, BFLA 69746

Accès restreint Campus UniGe

330.8 (4), HEIA 72750

Accès restreint Campus UniGe
Preliminary Paper proposals and Research Tools

Paper proposals

(1) Students are required to submit (to the Professor, teaching assistant, and classmates), by 15 March at 16h15 sharp (copies to be distributed in class), a one-page (approximately 500 words, 1.5 spacing, size 12 font) write-up of their proposed paper topic. This write-up will include:
   - A provisional title
   - A succinct paragraph explaining the topic (its interest and importance)
   - A paragraph addressing how the student will conduct their research. To wit:
     ➢ What sources will be consulted?
     ➢ What primary sources (eg. Archives, newspapers, official texts) will be sought?
   - A short bibliography (3-5 sources) the student has consulted on their topic

(2) Students should prepare a 5-6 minute presentation on their proposed paper topic for presentation in class on 22 March. The presentation should address:
   - An introduction of the topic. Please address here why this topic is of interest. The student should also address where this topic fits into the works they have seen (is it an oft-studied question? Never studied?)
   - An explanation of how the student will conduct their research (discuss sources).
   - At least one (or more) question(s) or difficulty(ies) regarding research for which the student believes group discussion could be of aid.
Successful presentations will focus, in as much as possible, on content not included in the paper proposals.

Research Tools

The teaching assistant will discuss research tools relevant to paper writing (this final paper, as well as other assignments) on four levels:

1. Within the Graduate Institute
   - Monographs and edited volumes
   - Pamphlets
   - In-house theses
   - Periodicals

2. Local archives and libraries of interest
   - Intelligent use of RERO
   - The UN and its many affiliated organisations (precursors, too!)
   - Private organisations (eg. The ICRC)
   - Repositories off the beaten path

3. Repositories abroad
   - How to find
   - Scouring resources intelligently

4. Online sources
   - Dealing with Wikipedia
   - Online repositories
   - Finding articles
   - Finding news sources
   - Finding dissertations

Students should come prepared with any questions they may have. Particularly pressing questions should be e-mailed to the teaching assistant in advance.
Challenges to Western Hegemony

29 March

Debate

What were the prospects for Western hegemony in the "Global South" during the interwar period?

Readings

932 HEIA 56960

325.8, HEIA 7565

940.5, HEIA 12671

940.5, HEIA 23446

Other Readings

330.8 (4), HEIA 72744

325.8 HEIA 9590

327.2(5), HEIA 44583 en séminaire

952, HEIA 8449

980, HEIA 592/11


05 April

The Totalitarian Challenge

Debate

Was the rise of totalitarianism due to the bankruptcy of liberal democracy?


940. HEIA 69470/2

Readings


940, HEIA 28954


940.5, HEIA 21100

Other Readings


321.6, HEIA 12259


940, HEIA 28585


324.2, HEIA 75195


956.94, HEIA 69151


321.6(4), HEIA 36588


940.5, HEIA 10004


324.2, HEIA 73274


Overy, R.J. *The Dictators: Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia.* New York: W.W. Norton, 2005. 321.6, HEIA 32742


12 April

The Origins of the Second World War

**Debate**

*Is there merit to the "Taylor thesis"?*


940. HEIA 69470/2

**Readings**


940.5, HEIA 23446


940.5, HEIA 23446


940.5, HEIA 23446


940.53, HEIA 5610


940.53, HEIA 8780


940.5, HEIA 23446

**Other Readings**


940.5, HEIA 37839


940.53, HEIA 55851


940.5, HEIA 32895


