This course will introduce students to the study of comparative politics, international relations, and political theory by examining problems or antimonies thought to be central to those subfields of government since the Second World War. We will begin with comparative politics and the problem of revolution and stability, then turn to international relations and the problem of war and peace, and end with political theory and the problem of freedom and "totalitarianism." We will also consider one recent work in political economy. The course will attempt to familiarize students with some of the more important political events and processes of the modern era, as well as with the strengths and weaknesses of some of the more influential ways of interpreting and analyzing those events and processes. The course will focus largely on Europe, though this focus will be neither exclusive nor uncritical.

The readings will be basic, yet demanding. There are no prerequisites for this course, except a willingness to learn to read, write, and speak critically about political life beyond the United States. Course meetings will consist of mix of lecture and discussion. Students will be expected to keep up with the reading, attend class regularly, and participate actively in discussion. Attendance will be noted; significant (more than two or three) unexcused absences will result in a loss of course credit. Noteworthy contributions to discussion will result in extra credit.

There will be two midterms and a comprehensive, scheduled final examination. Grades will be assigned on an 100-point scale and weighted in the following manner: 1st midterm--25%; 2nd midterm--35%; final examination--40%.

The following books, available at The Skidmore Shop, contain most of the required readings. Discussion will be easier with the specific editions listed below, but if you already own a different edition, buying another is not necessary—with one exception. It would be best to purchase the 2nd edition of the Goldstone collection.


In addition to these books, multiple copies of other required readings, marked by asterisks (*) have been placed on reserve at the Library.
I. REVOLUTION AND STABILITY: EUROPEAN POLITICS AND THE MODERN WORLD

Tues., 25 January  Introduction  
No reading.

Thurs., 27 January  The Europe Question  

Tues., 1 February  Old Regime France  

Thurs., 3 February  The French Revolution  
*Wright, *France in Modern Times*, chs. 5-7, pp. 41-82.

Tues., 8 February  The Classic Analyses: Marx, Tocqueville, and Weber  

Thurs., 10 February  The Russian Revolution  
*Mary McAuley, Politics and the Soviet Union: An Introductory Analysis*, pp. 21-79.

Tues., 15 February  Contemporary Approaches: Modernization  

Thurs., 17 February  Contemporary Approaches: Structuralism & Neopatrimonialism  
Goldstone, *Revolutions*, chs. 3-4 (selections) and Introduction, pp. 64-99, 1-17.

Tues., 22 February  First Midterm Examination  
No reading assigned.

II. WAR AND PEACE: NATION-STATES AND WORLD POWER

Thurs., 24 February  Analyzing International Relations
Tues., 1 March            European Wars: A Leadership Model

Thurs., 3 March           European Wars: A Political-Economy Model

Tues., 8 March            Cold War and World Order

Thurs., 10 March          Almost the End: The View from the Top

--Spring Break!--

Tues., 22 March           Preserving the Peace, or the Dark at the End of the Tunnel?

Thurs., 24 March          Outside the (Western) World

Tues., 29 March           Regional Hegemony and the Multipolar World

Thurs., 31 March          Second Midterm Examination
No reading assigned.

III. FREEDOM AND TOTALITARIANISM: IDEOLOGIES AND THE WORLD OF CITIZENSHIP

Tues., 5 April            The Liberal Ideal of Freedom

Thurs., 7 April           Individuality, Society, and Progress

Tues., 12 April           Conservative and Socialist Reactions

Thurs., 14 April          The Sociology of the Modern State

Tues., 19 April  
**The Ultra-Modern State?**  

Thurs., 21 April  
**Humanity and Citizenship**  

Tues., 26 Apr.  
**Civilizing Society**  
Recommended: Goldstone, ch. 4 (selection) pp. 165-180.

Thurs., 28 Apr.  
**Politics and Conscience**  

Tues., 3 May  
**Review and Conclusions**  
No reading assigned.