

## ATHENS TO AL-QAEDA: POLITICAL THEORY AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS (IR130)

**Course duration:** 54 hours lecture and class time (Over three weeks)

**LSE Teaching Department:** Department of International Relations

**Lead Faculty:** Professor Paul Kelly, Professor Katrin Flikschuh and Professor Chandran Kukathas

**Pre-requisites:** None

### Course Outline:

When is a terrorist attack an act of war? Is it the case that only states can exercise a right of war and if so why? Can you have a war on 'terror' or on 'crime'? What is the fundamental difference between state violence and non-state violence? Where does state power come from and is the state system the 'end of history'? From earliest times to the most contemporary 'threats' these questions have been posed and a variety of answers have been given. By examining the development of international political theory from the Ancient Greeks to the present this course will explore and criticise theories and arguments that have been offered to defend or challenge the power of political communities and explain the sources and varieties of conflict and cooperation that can occur within and beyond political communities. The course will examine the ideas of great political thinkers from Thucydides, Machiavelli and Hobbes to Kant, Hegel and Marx as well as the use to which these arguments have been put in the world of politics and international relations by contemporary thinkers. These thinkers and the concepts they identify and use will provide us with a window into the structures that shape much international politics such as state's rights and international humanitarian obligations; the nature and status of international law, and the prospects for global democracy and democratisation.

1. The authority of the political community (Polis, Empire or State).
2. What is the relationship between morality and reason of state?
3. Are there any International Laws?
4. How is war to be understood and when is recourse to war justified?
5. Are we at the end of the era of state sovereignty?

### Required Texts:

- Chris Brown, Terry Nardin and Nicholas Rengger eds. International Relations in Political Thought. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2002. (Recommended purchase). [JZ1305. I61]
- David Boucher and Paul Kelly eds. Political Thinkers. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2009. (Recommended purchase) [JA81. P76]

**Additional Texts:**

- Useful (but not required for purchase, are the following):
- C. Brown, Sovereignty, Rights and Justice, Cambridge, Polity, 2002. [JZ1305. B87]
- P. Kelly, Liberalism, Cambridge Polity Press, 2004, especially chapter 8. [JC574. K21]
- E. Keene, International Political Thought, Cambridge, Polity Press, 2005. [JZ1308. K21]
- D. Boucher, Political Theories of International Relations, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1998. [JZ1305. B.75]

There will be no-course pack, but a full course outline, class notes, lecture slides and additional readings will be available on the IR130 Moodle page.

**Course Structure:**

- Lectures – 12, 3 hour lectures
- Classes – 12, 1.5 hour classes

The course will have the following structure:

**Session 1: Introduction – The Polis at War – Thucydides and Classical Realism**

Required Class Reading:

- Selections in Brown, Nardin and Rengger, pp. 34-60.

**Session 2: The Emergence of Natural Law and the Law of Nations**

Required Class Reading:

- Selections in Brown, Nardin and Rengger, pp. 61-85, and 90-93.
- Boucher and Kelly, Political Thinkers, chaps. 3 and 4.

**Session 3: Just Wars, European Conquests and Slavery – Augustine to Vitoria**

Required Class Reading:

- Selections in Brown, Nardin and Rengger, pp. 119-135, 213-220 and 231-241.
- Boucher and Kelly, Political Thinkers, chap. 6 and 7.

#### **Session 4: Machiavelli – Reasons of State and the Art of War**

Required Class Reading:

- Selections in Brown, Nardin and Rengger, pp. 57-69.
- Boucher and Kelly, Political Thinkers, chap. 9.

#### **Session 5: Hobbes – the pure theory of Sovereignty**

Required Class Reading:

- Selections in Brown, Nardin and Rengger, pp. 335-41.
- Boucher and Kelly, Political Thinkers, chap. 10.

#### **Session 6: Natural Rights, Conquest and Colonial Expansion –Grotius, Pufendorf and Locke**

Required Class Reading:

- Selections in Brown, Nardin and Rengger, pp. 325-34, 341-48.
- Boucher and Kelly, Political Thinkers, chap. 12.

#### **Session 7: Commercial Society: Montesquieu, Hume and Smith**

Required Class Reading:

- Selections in Brown, Nardin and Rengger, pp. 399-414.
- Boucher and Kelly, Political Thinkers, chap. 13 & 14.

#### **Session 8: Rousseau, Autarchy, Independence and Republican Freedom**

Required Class Reading:

- Selections in Brown, Nardin and Rengger, pp. 416-427.
- Boucher and Kelly, Political Thinkers, chap. 15.

#### **Session 9: Kant, Liberalism and Global Peace**

Required Class Reading

- Selections in Brown, Nardin and Rengger, pp. 428-55.
- Boucher and Kelly, Political Thinkers, chap. 23.

## Session 10: Hegel, the Modern State and War

Required Class Reading:

- Selections in Brown, Nardin and Rengger, pp. 470-475.
- Boucher and Kelly, Political Thinkers, chap. 22.

## Session 11: Marx, - Capitalism and Globalisation and the overcoming of the State

Required Class Reading:

- Selections in Brown, Nardin and Rengger, pp. 572-74.
- Boucher and Kelly, Political Thinkers, chaps. 23 & 24.

## Session 12: The Law of Peoples: States and Globalism and non-state actors.

Required Class Reading:

- J. Rawls, The Law of Peoples. [JZ1242.R26]
- P. Kelly, Liberalism, Polity, 2004, Chap. 8. [JC574. K21]

## Session 13: Final Exam

A list of class topics and essay questions will be distributed at the beginning of the course.

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### Assessment:

- Final exam – 75%
- Essay – 25%
- Mid-session essay and 1 written examination - (2 Hour written exam, answer 2 questions from 12).  
Mid-session essay to be submitted by the end of the second week.

**Credit Transfer:** If you are hoping to earn credit by taking this course, please ensure that you confirm it is eligible for credit transfer well in advance of the start date. Please discuss this directly with your home institution or Study Abroad Advisor.

As a guide, our LSE Summer School courses are typically eligible for three credits within the US system and 7.5 ECTS in Europe. Different institutions and countries can, and will, vary. You will receive a digital transcript and a printed certificate following your successful completion of the course in order to make arrangements for transfer of credit.

If you have any queries, please direct them to [summer.school@lse.ac.uk](mailto:summer.school@lse.ac.uk)