The Remains of the Day and All Quiet on the Western Front: International Relations through Literature

Instructor: Jennifer A. Lind
Email: Ryan6lind@comcast.net
Modality: Remote learning
Quarter: Autumn
Start – end date: September 27 – November 15
Session day/time: Wednesday, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm CST
Course Code and Section: HUAS80048 23A1

Course Overview

What can The Remains of the Day and All Quiet on the Western Front teach us about international relations and our world order today? Nobel laureate Kazuo Ishiguro’s 1988 The Remains of the Day invites readers to consider both practical and theoretical issues of foreign policy and their global consequences. Set in 1956, the year of the Suez Crisis, an English butler reminisces on his pre-war devotion to aristocratic German sympathizers. These heartfelt reflections provide a framework for dialectical discussions on core international relations schools of thought such as idealism, realism, liberalism and nationalism.

Considered the greatest war novel of all time, Erich Maria Remarque’s 1929 All Quiet on the Western Front is a visceral depiction of the horror of WWI and presents a scathing critique of nationalism as an ideology used by those in power to galvanize and control a nation’s populace.

Combining these two intricate novels with E.H. Carr’s authoritative study on the collapse of the international system, The Twenty Years’ Crisis: 1919-1939, this course will provide a framework for understanding the complexity of global events and enhance a discussion on the past, present and future world order.

Note to students

Using fiction and nonfiction, this course aims to understand the competing ideals (the great isms!) and ideological struggles that continue to guide and constitute international relations in the 21st century. We will read approximately 75 pages each week.

Required texts.


Books can be purchased online through the [University of Chicago Bookstore](https://www.chicagobooth.edu/bookstore/).

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<td>Remarque</td>
<td>Chapters 1-5. Pages 3-74. Nationalism and Liberalism: Opposing World Views.</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
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<td>Chapters 6-8. Pages 75-146. Realism: Different Uniforms Against One Another</td>
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<td>Conclusion</td>
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Accessing remote courses

Remote courses are taught through our Canvas platform. Approximately two weeks before your class begins, we will add you to your canvas site using the email address you provided at the time of registration. An invitation will then be sent to that email. Click the “Get Started” button in the email to begin the Canvas login process. For step-by-step instructions, please visit https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts. Once you’ve created your Canvas account, you can access any Graham School canvas course for which you are registered at: https://canvas.uchicago.edu.

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For more information, please see this handout for students as well as the University’s Policy on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct and Policy on Title IX Sexual Harassment. You can also reach out directly for services and support from the Office for Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Support by emailing titleix@uchicago.edu.

If you, or another student you know, wishes to speak to a confidential resource who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact the Sexual Assault Dean on Call through the UChicago Safe App or at 773.834-HELP.

Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at zme1@uchicago.edu.