

POSC 60: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Section 1002 (MWF 1:00), Wehr LS 111
H. R. Friman

Fall 2006

Office Hours: MWF 2-4, or by appt.
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OBJECTIVES: This course covers the basic problems and principles and the major themes, theories, and concepts of political science in the subfield of international politics. In its narrowest sense, international politics deals with relations between countries. The events of the past several years, however, suggest that we are living in a unique time of change and consistency. Among policy makers and scholars seeking to analyze and conduct international politics there is a sense that the old models for looking at the world may no longer be entirely valid. Yet, at the same time, it is not entirely clear what the new models will or should be.

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the international and domestic sources of cooperation and conflict found in the political-military and political-economic relations between countries. The course seeks to do so by introducing students to the major substantive and theoretical issues that characterize the field of International Relations. Students will explore core concepts and their interplay, and the application of prominent explanations, theories, and methodologies in the field. Through this exploration students will develop critical thinking skills and apply these skills in their written and oral work. Such an introduction will prove vital for those students interested in the continued study of international politics and for becoming an informed citizen in a world where international dynamics increasingly hold sway.

REQUIREMENTS: The successful completion of this course will require attention to both course readings and class lectures and discussions. Attendance is required and will be spot checked. Academic Dishonesty policies will conform to those described in the *2006/07 Undergraduate Bulletin* (all students will be bound by Arts and Sciences rules). Students will be expected to complete and think about all assigned readings before coming to class. Students are also encouraged to read newspapers and news magazines to be able to follow current international events with a level of depth and understanding greater than that obtainable from the talk shows of assorted cable news networks.

The course grade will be based primarily on two exams and two short papers (and, if necessary, reading quizzes). The direction of borderline grades will be based on class participation.

The midterm (30% of the grade) and final (30% of the grade) follow the same format: identification of key terms and short essays. Review sheets will be handed out one week in advance to help in preparation for the exams. To develop critical reading and writing skills, students will also be required to complete two critical review papers (4-5 pages, typed, double-spaced: 40% of the grade). For each paper, the student will write an essay that assesses an assigned article as follows: identify the article's primary argument (thesis); identify the fundamental assumptions and values upon which the author's argument is based; and comment critically (noting possible strengths and weaknesses) on how these assumptions and values have shaped the author's argument and conclusions.

GRADE SCALE: The scale is based on 1000 points total: 950-1000 (A), 900-49 (AB), 850-99 (B), 800-49 (BC), 750-99 (C), 700-49 (CD), 650-99 (D), 0-649 (F).

REQUIRED TEXTS: There are two required books for the course. The primary text is Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C Pevehouse, *International Relations*, 7th Edition (New York: Harper Collins,

2006). Other course readings are drawn from Richard Mansbach and Edward Rhodes, *Global Politics in a Changing World*, Third Edition (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006).

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

August 28,30, September 1,6,8: Parameters, Actors and the Study of International Politics

Read: Goldstein, Chapter 1 (focus on pages 3-24) and pages 52-53
 Krasner, Sovereignty, 13-20
 Rosenau, Turbulence, 20-25
 Mathews, Power Shift, 199-207

PART II: THE DYNAMICS OF POLITICAL-MILITARY RELATIONS

September 11,13,15,18,20,22: Realism and Theoretical Alternatives

Read: Goldstein, Chapter 2 and Chapter 3
 Wilmer, Women, the State and War, 413-23
 McRae, Human Security, 259-64
 Naim, The Five Wars, 264-71

September 25,27,29: War and Transformation

Read: Goldstein, 36-49 and Chapter 5
 Van Creveld, Transformation of War, 36-47
 Huntington, The Clash of Civilizations, 379-92

First Critical Review Paper = review the article by Rhodes (America's Crusade, 103-15). Paper is due in class on Friday, September 29.

October 2,4,6,9,11,13: WMD and Terrorism

Read: Goldstein, 231-249
 Betts, The New Threat of Mass Destruction, 74-82
 Keller, The Thinkable, 82-91
 Combs, An Idea Whose Time has Come, 59-61
 Economist, Martyrdom and Murder, 62-66
 Rotberg, Failed States in a World of Terror, 131-37
 Film: *The Battle of Algiers*

Midterm Exam = Monday, October 16

October 18,23,25,27,30,11/1,3,6: International Organization, Law and Transformation

Read: Goldstein, Chapter 7 (read on IO first)
 Weiss, The UN and Changing World Politics, 167-76
 Economist, The UN's Mission Impossible, 180-84
 Berkeley, The Longest War, 52-59
 Frank, Are Human Rights Universal, 235-43
 Kissinger, The Pitfalls, 249-53
 Documentaries: *Frontline: Ghosts of Rwanda*; HRW Darfur

PART III: POLITICAL ECONOMY

November 8,10,13,15,17: Trade, Money and Global and Regional Integration

Read: Goldstein, Chapter 8, Chapter 9, Chapter 10
Section on the EU in Mansbach: 191-96
Friedman and Ramonet, Dueling Globalizations, 449-58

Thanksgiving Break = November 22,26

November 20,27,29, December 1,4,6,8: Poverty and Development

Read: Goldstein, Chapter 12 and Chapter 13
United Nations, Human Development, 317-23
Economist, How to Make Aid Work, 349-55
IMF Makes a Push, 184-88
Economist, Africa's Women, 336-39
Economist, The Longest Journey, 276-80

Second Critical Review Paper: Review the article by Gilpin (The Challenge of Global Capitalism, 289-96). Paper is due in class on Monday, December 4.

FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 11: 1:00-3:00