

POSC 60 (Sec. 1003) - Introduction to INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

T&Th 11-12:15

Lalumiere 216

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Office Hours: T&Th 3:30-5:00, Wednesday

11-12:30, or by appointment

Course Description:

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the basic theoretical tools used in the field of international relations and to apply these tools to different events and situations in the world today. We will use these tools as a class to seek to answer a number of questions including: How do nations interact? Why do wars occur? What is state power and how is it exercised? What international institutions are important and how do they interact with states? How is so-called “globalization” affecting these interactions? And, how has the international system changed since September 11th?

Course Requirements:

1) Early-term Exam (30%)

In the sixth week of the semester, there will be an early-term exam consisting of a number of short essays drawn from lectures, discussions, and readings.

2) Final Exam (40%)

Similar to the midterm, there will be a series of short essays that will a) allow you to demonstrate your mastery of the concepts learned since the previous exam, and b) provide an opportunity for you to demonstrate how you can *apply* the many concepts that you have learned over the entire semester.

3) IR Current “Challenge” Exercise (20%)

Each student will be assigned to a small group of 3 or 4 persons. I will give each group a specific international relations “challenge” issue. For example, I could give the example of caviar production in the Caspian Sea (but likely won’t!). The students will need to research their given topic, identify and explain the challenge, articulate how we can use the theories we have explored to understand it, and, where possible, explain how these approaches might be helpful for resolving the issue (or not). There will be a short oral presentation of 10 minutes and a written précis of the assignment due to me at the conclusion of the exercise. We will make a schedule of these activities in class and they will take place in the first three weeks of November.

5) Quizzes (10%)

First, a few words about “participation” generally: students are expected to attend classes and do the readings before class. In an abstract way, attendance does count because students who do not attend and read regularly will almost without exception do poorly. Because discussion is such a significant part of this class, it is important that you do the readings before class. To encourage this, there will be two short pop quizzes during the course of the semester that will cover the readings for that day. I also strongly encourage participation in broad class discussions and demand participation in our small group exercises. Grades that are “borderline” can be strongly affected by participation.

More generally, in terms of specific learning “objectives,” these various assignments and activities will be used to assess: (1) your knowledge of the central concepts, theories, and methodologies in the study of international politics; (2) your ability to apply these concepts, theories, and methodologies to real world situations; (3) your ability to write effectively about the various topics we explore; (4) your creative thinking skills and ability to understand and evaluate individual and social decision-making, and (5) the development of your views about how to improve society.

Texts/Readings:

- 1) There is one assigned text for this course, *International Relation Theory: Discipline and Diversity* (Oxford University Press, 2007) by Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki and Steve Smith, which is available at the bookstore and at a number of online booksellers. I call this text “DKS” throughout the syllabus to connote readings from it.
- 2) A number of compulsory readings, as noted on the syllabus with an asterisk, will be on the D2L electronic bulletin board for the class. You will be able to download any and all of these readings from any campus computer or a home computer with access to the internet in order to read these articles.
- 3) I reserve the right to add short readings if I come across something pertinent and interesting.

In order to put the ideas that we are exploring into a more useful context, I strongly encourage that you keep up on current events with a periodical with good international coverage such as the *New York Times* (free online www.nytimes.com or on Raynor Library’s site for premium content). We will be addressing themes and issues in this course that will be directly relevant to events happening in the world today. Other newspapers not based in the US also have good coverage and help us to understand other countries’ perspectives of the US and of international issues. The *Guardian* newspaper in the UK for example has excellent international news and is easily accessible at www.guardian.co.uk. Similarly the British weekly news magazine *The Economist* is an outstanding source of international news and commentary; some of their articles are available free on their website www.economist.com or the complete collection is in Raynor Library’s electronic journal catalog.

Class Schedule:

Part I: Theories and Concepts in International Relations

Weeks 1&2 – Introduction to International Relations, “Theory,” and Critical Thinking

8/28 Introductions to the class, IR, the class, the professor and your peers.

8/30 Early-term, in-class assignment.

9/4

Dunne, Kurki and Smith (DKS) – pp. 1-32 (Introduction and Chapter 1)

*Michael O’Hanlon and Kenneth Pollack, “A War We Just Might Win” from the *New York Times* (July 30, 2007)

9/6

DKS – pp. 34-50 (Chapter 2)

*Buddhika Jayamaha et al, “The War as We Saw It” from the *New York Times* (August 19, 2007)

Week 3 – Realism, Neorealism, and Power Politics

9/11

DKS – pp. 52-70 (Chapter 3)

*Hans Morgenthau, “Six Principles of Political Realism,” excerpt from *Politics Among Nations* (1978)

9/13

DKS – pp. 71-88 (Chapter 4)

*Robert Jervis, “The Compulsive Empire” (2003)

Week 4 – Liberalism

9/18

DKS – pp. 89-107 (Chapter 5)

*Michael Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics” from the *American Political Science Review* (1986)

9/20

DKS – pp. 109-126 (Chapter 6)

Week 5 – Critiques of IR Theory – Feminism, Constructivism, Marxism and Postmodernism

9/25

DKS – 185-201 (Chapter 10)

*Carol Cohn, “Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals,” from the *Journal of Women in Culture and Society* (Vol. 12, no. 4, 1987)

9/27

DKS pp. 148-184 (Chapters 8&9)

*Trevor Harrison, “Globalization and the trade in human body parts,” from the *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology*

Note: On this day, I will provide a short review for the midterm exam.

Week 6 – Cultural Approaches and Early-term Exam

10/2

*Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations” from *Foreign Affairs*

*Edward Said, “Clash of Ignorance” from *The Nation*

10/4 – Midterm Examination

Week 7 – Foreign Policy of States

10/9

*Barack Obama, “Renewing American Leadership” from *Foreign Affairs* (Spring 2007)

*Mitt Romney, “Rising to a New Generation of Global Challenges” from *Foreign Affairs* (Spring 2007)

10/11 –

*Rudolph Giuliani, “Toward a Realistic Peace” from *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 2007)

*John Edwards, “Reengaging with the World” from *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 2007)

Part II: War, Peace, and International Institutions

Weeks 8&9 - War & Conflict

10/16

*Thomas Friedman, “The Golden Arches Theory of Conflict Prevention,” excerpt from *Lexus and the Olive Tree*

10/18 – FALL BREAK – NO CLASS!

10/23

*John Mearsheimer, “Back to the Future”

10/25

*John Ikenberry, “American and the Ambivalence of Power” from *Current History*

*Max Boot, “The Liberal Empire Strikes Back” from *Current History*

Week 10 - September 11th and its Implications – and Reflections on Terrorism

10/30

*Peter Ford, “Why do they Hate Us?” from the *Christian Science Monitor*

*The Economist, “The Terror Next Time”

*Ivo Daalder and James M. Lindsay, “Nasty, Brutish, and Long: America’s War on Terrorism,” from *Current History*

11/1

*John Mearsheimer/Walt, “An Unnecessary War” from *Foreign Policy*

Week 11 – International Institutions, International Law, and Issues of Sovereignty

11/6

*Samantha Power, “Bystanders to Genocide” from *Atlantic Monthly*

11/8

*Thomas Weiss, “The Illusion of UN Security Council Reform” from *Washington Quarterly* (2003)

Week 12 – Integration and the European Union

11/13

*Reginald Dale, “The Search for a Common Foreign Policy,” from *Europe* (Summer 1999)

*Joseph Stiglitz, “The EU’s Global Mission” from www.project-syndicate.org (2006)

11/15

*Michael Shifter, “United States—Latin American Relations: Preparing for the Handover,” from *Current History*.

Week 13 – The Environment and Natural Resources

11/20

DKS pp. 247-265

*The Economist, “Canada’s Water: Hands Off”

11/22 – NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Part III: International Politics and the Global Economy

Week 14 – Introduction to Political Economy and Trade

11/27

*Stephen Krasner “State Power and the Structure of International Trade,” from *World Politics*

11/29

*Kenneth Scheve and Matthew Slaughter, “A New Deal for Globalization” from *Foreign Affairs*

Week 15 – Globalization and International Relations: The New Order?

12/4

*The Economist, “A cruel sea of capital”

*The Economist, “Catching the Tide: Why does so little capital flow from rich countries to poor,” (May 3, 2003 issue)

12/6

*James Galbraith, “The Crisis of Globalization,” from *Dissent* (Summer 1999)

*Sachs, Jeffrey, “Helping the World’s Poorest,” from the *Economist*

Final Examination – Monday, December 10th – 8-10am