

**POSC 2601-101**  
**International Politics**  
**Spring 2010**

Instructor: Mark Armstrong  
Classroom: Engineering 198  
Class Meeting time: M, W, F, 10-10:50  
Office: Wehr Physics 402

Office Hours: M, W, 11-1, 4-5, or by  
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This course covers the basic problems and principles as well as the major themes, theories and concepts of political science in the subfield of international relations. As such it presents a brief overview of many of the key issues of international politics. The course is not intended as a comprehensive analysis of international politics. Rather it provides an introduction to the study of international relations. In doing this, the course stresses the two main intellectual emphases of international relations – international security (or questions of war and peace) and international political economy (or questions of international economics.) These two broad areas of substantive interest will make up the main body of the course. Before tackling these there is an overview of the major theoretical approaches to the study of international relations – realism, liberalism and constructivism, along with other theoretical concepts that drive the study of international politics such as questions of power and decision-making. Finally, towards the end of the semester we will look at some of the substantive issues that dominate current concerns in international relations such as the environment and the role of the United States in the world today.

This division of the course, however, does not mean that we will ignore real world examples throughout the course to illustrate theoretical points. Indeed, one of the primary goals of this course is to enable students to comprehend world events in a more coherent manner. Thus, when we discuss the theoretical aspects of the course one of the main elements of the class will be to understand how the theories relate to what is going on in the world today. To this end we will also be reading a number of case studies that are intended to provide a basis for class discussions and debates, but also more broadly to present examples of how theoretical principles are relevant to actual events in international politics. Equally, as will become clear during the course, the traditional division of international relations into the relatively self-contained areas of specialization (international security and international political economy) is increasingly being questioned by international relations scholars and one of the key questions to keep in mind during this course is the way in which apparently different issues might (or might not) relate to one another.

The ultimate goals of this course are typical for an introductory course: For those who are interested in focusing on international politics during their time at Marquette, the course provides a basis for this study. You will be introduced to the basic concepts, terms and issues that are at the core of international politics. For those students for whom this may be the only international relations that they take, you should come away from the course with a clearer idea of what the study of international politics entails. More

importantly, you should be able to read about international events in the news and have a clearer understanding of what is happening, why it might be occurring and why the people involved are doing what they are doing. As noted above, we will not cover every issue in international politics; however, the tools that you will acquire in this course should enable you to think about issues that we have not studied and to be able to place them in relevant theoretical and practical frameworks.

### **Books to be purchased:**

The following books/readings are required for the course. The textbook and the packet of case studies are available at Bookmarq:

1. W. Raymond Duncan, Barbara Jancar-Webster, and Bob Switky, *World Politics in the 21st Century*, 3rd Ed. (Pearson/Longman) – This is the basic textbook for the course. (Referred to in the syllabus as *World Politics*.)

2. Book of case studies for International Relations – This is the packet put out by the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service. These cases are intended both as examples that should help you understand the theoretical points being made and also as a basis for class discussions so you should be sure to have read the relevant case **before** coming to class as it is possible that you will be called on to discuss various aspects of the case study. This book can also be ordered directly from the publisher by going to <http://www.GUISD.org> and searching for CB 342. (NB: Note that there is more than one case book with my name on it – so make sure you get the correct one if you are ordering it online.)

3. There are also some readings that are available online. Some of these are available through the library. Others can be accessed directly through other websites. I have noted in the syllabus below where you can find the particular readings, and will link to those available online on the course webpage on D2L.

Additionally, students are expected to be reasonably conversant with current events in international politics. To this end you should read a reliable newspaper that covers world events in a detailed way. For the purposes of this course I recommend reading one of the major US newspapers that cover international events in a serious manner – *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Times*, *Los Angeles Times* or the *Christian Science Monitor*, for example, although it is entirely permissible to substitute another serious newspaper that covers global events (however, you should note the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, as good as it may be, does not fulfill this requirement.) I strongly encourage you to read international news sources – there are many of these available online and they will, in many cases, give you a different view of international events from that which we see in the US media

One final word on the readings: I have tried as far as possible to strike a reasonable balance when assigning these readings. Some of the articles are long; others are difficult to read. I have tried to keep to a minimum the number of readings that are

especially complicated or are particularly lengthy. However, there are certain concepts with which an educated student of international relations should be conversant and I would not be doing my job adequately were I not to ask you to read about them. That said, if you are having a hard time understanding a particular assignment please don't give up - talk to me about it (either via email or during my office hours) and I will gladly spend some additional time on it in class. You may not believe it, but even many seasoned scholars of international relations have to read articles 2, 3 or more times before they can fully grasp some of the ideas being expressed, so you are not alone.

### **Structure of the classes:**

Most of the instruction in this course will be lectures. However, we will diverge from this format on a fairly frequent basis to include discussions, simulations, and in-class exercises. If you have questions please do not hesitate to bring them to my attention, and if you feel that the class could benefit from discussing a topic in more detail please let me know and I will fit it into the schedule.

It is a university requirement that you attend class. That said, I will not be taking a regular roll in class (I may do so occasionally.) However, you (or your parents) are paying for your education and it is up to you to decide how to best receive value for your money. It is also undeniable that the students who do best in class are those who attend lectures on a regular basis. I will cover material in the lectures that is not mentioned in the readings so that even doing all the readings does not substitute for the information that is learned in class-time. It is my experience that students who miss classes have a hard time doing well in the course.

One final note with regard to classes: You should treat these in as professional a manner as possible. Please treat your fellow students with respect. Please remain silent when someone else (either the instructor or a fellow student) in class is talking. I do not mind students with drinks (coffee, soda, water) or small snacks in class, but please do not bring 'meals' into class with you. Also, before class begins you should turn off cell-phones and other electronic devices that might disturb the class (for example, mute the volume if you are using a laptop computer.) Part of the goal of a university education is to prepare you for your later careers and you should behave in the classroom the same way you would behave in a business meeting.

### **Course Requirements and Grading:**

There are five basic requirements for this course:

1. **Two quizzes:** There will be two in-class quizzes. These will cover material from the readings and from the lectures. These will be held on scheduled dates in the syllabus - there will be no "pop-quizzes." (10 points each; total of 20 points.)
2. **Mid-term exam:** This will consist of both short essay questions (asking you to write a brief paragraph defining a concept and discussing how it relates to the study of international politics) and a longer essay in response to a particular question. (20 points.)
3. **A final exam.** The final exam will be similar in format to the mid-term. (30

points)

4. **Review/evaluation of newspaper articles:** You will be asked to write a short essay (approximately 5 pages) evaluating the arguments presented in a newspaper or magazine about an international event. You will be asked to find TWO newspaper editorials or magazine articles and to compare and discuss the arguments that they present. More details about this assignment will be distributed in class. (20 points)

5. **Participation in in-class exercises, discussions and simulations:** Students are expected to be active participants in the classroom. This is especially important when we have discussions or exercises in the class. (10 points)

NB: A note on academic honesty – all written work that you turn in for this course must be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and any other form of cheating will not be tolerated and violators will be reported to the Dean. Students should be familiar with the University’s statement of academic standards which is available online:

<http://www.marquette.edu/academics/regulations/acaddishonesty.html>

It is entirely appropriate to cite another author’s work, to present quotations from that work, or to summarize it; however, if you do so, you must give that author credit by using a commonly approved form of citation.

### **Schedule of Classes:**

Jan 20: **Introduction to the Course (Organizational Issues)**

Jan 22: **Simulation – The Game of Nations**

Read: Michael Herzig and David Skidmore. 1995. “Nations: A Simulation Game in International Politics” *International Relations, CB 342* (Georgetown University School of Foreign Service: Institute for the Study of Diplomacy)

Jan 25: **Simulation – The Game of Nations**

Jan 27: **Simulation – The Game of Nations**

Jan 29: **Simulation – The Game of Nations**

Feb 1: **What is the Role of Theory in International Relations?**

Read: *World Politics*, Chapter 1, pp. 1-28

Feb 3: **Realism: Power and Anarchy**

Read: Thucydides. *History of the Peloponnesian War*, selections and analysis (Available online at <http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/GREECE/MELIAN.HTM>)

Feb 5: **Realism and Neorealism**

Read: *World Politics*, pp 34-39; 47-50

Feb 8: **Liberalism: Commerce and Democracy**

Read: *World Politics*, pp 40-41; 52-55

Feb 10: **Liberalism and International Institutions**

Read: Woodrow Wilson. 1918. "The Fourteen Points" Speech to Congress, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1918 (Available online at [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/wilson14.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/wilson14.asp))

Feb 12: **Constructivism**

Read: *World Politics*, 59-63

Feb 15: **Levels of Analysis in International Relations**

Read: *World Politics*, Chapter 3

Feb 17: **Simulation**

Read: Handout

Feb 19: **Game Theory and International Politics**

Read: Leeson, Peter T. 2007. "Pirational Choice: The Economics of Infamous Pirate Practices" (Unpublished manuscript available online at [http://www.peterleeson.com/Pirational\\_Choice.pdf](http://www.peterleeson.com/Pirational_Choice.pdf))

Feb 22: **Foreign Policy Making**

Read: *World Politics*, Chapter 5

Feb 24: **Power in International Politics**

Read: *World Politics*, Chapter 4

Feb 26: **Geography and International Politics**

Read: *World Politics*, Chapter 8

**Mar 1: International Organizations in World Politics**

Read: *World Politics*, Chapter 6

**Mar 3: International Organization and Global Governance**

Read: Curtis Martin. “Going to the United Nations: George W. Bush and Iraq”  
*International Relations, CB 342* (Georgetown University School of Foreign  
Service: Institute for the Study of Diplomacy)

**Mar 5: Non-governmental Organizations**

Read: *World Politics*, Chapter 7

**Mar 8: First Quiz; Discussion of paper assignment**

Read: George Orwell. 1946. “*Politics and the English Language*” (available at  
<http://www.ourcivilisation.com/decline/orwell1.htm>)

**Mar 10: Mid-term Exam**

**Mar 12: War and Peace in International Relations: The Causes of War**

Read: *World Politics*, Chapter 10, pp. 345-365; 373-378

**Mar 15: No Class – Spring Break**

**Mar 17: No Class – Spring Break**

**Mar 19: No Class – Spring Break**

**Mar 22: War and Peace in International Relations: The Causes of War**

**Mar 24: Nuclear Weapons**

Read: Dinshaw Mistry. 2000. “India's Nuclear Tests: The Consequences for  
International Security” *International Relations, CB 342* (Georgetown University  
School of Foreign Service: Institute for the Study of Diplomacy)

**Mar 26: Internal Conflicts**

Read: *World Politics*, Chapter 9

**Mar 29: Ethnic Conflict**

Read: Lake, David A and Donald Rothchild, 1996, "Containing Fear: The Origins and Management of Ethnic Conflict" *International Security*, Vol. 21, No. 2, 41-75 (Available online through the university library.)

**Mar 31: Resolving Internal and Ethnic Conflict**

Read: Steven Lamy. "The Dutch in Srebrenica: A Noble Mission Fails" *International Relations*, CB 342 (Georgetown University School of Foreign Service: Institute for the Study of Diplomacy)

**Apr 2: No Class – Easter Break**

**Apr 5: No Class – Easter Break**

**Apr 7: Terrorism – What is it?**

Read: *World Politics*, Chapter 10, pp 365-375; 382-384 and 266-270

**Apr 9: Terrorism – What are its causes?**

Read: *World Politics*, pp. 307-309

Samuel P Huntington, 1993, "The Clash of Civilizations" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 72, No. 3, Summer 1993, pp. 22-49 (Available online through the university library.)

**Apr 12: Terrorism – How to fight back?**

Read: *World Politics*, pp. 29-33

**Apr 14: Introduction to International Political Economy**

Read: *World Politics*, Chapter 12

**Apr 16: Introduction to International Political Economy**

**Apr 19: The North-South Divide and International Development**

Read: *World Politics*, Chapter 13

**Apr 21: Debt Forgiveness and Economic Development**

Read: Jeanne Hey. “The Rocky Road toward Debt Forgiveness” *International Relations, CB 342* (Georgetown University School of Foreign Service: Institute for the Study of Diplomacy)

**Apr 23: Globalization**

Read: Robert O Keohane and Joseph S Nye, 2000. “Globalization: What’s New? What’s Not? (And So What?)”, *Foreign Policy*, No. 118, Spring 2000 (Available online through the university library.)

**Apr 26: Globalization**

Read: Benjamin R Barber, 1992, “Jihad Vs. McWorld” *The Atlantic*, Vol. 269, No. 3, March 1992 (Available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/199203/barber>)

**Apr 28: Ethics and International Politics**

Read: Gregory Treverton and Pamela Varle. “The United States and South Africa: The 1985 Sanctions Debate” *International Relations, CB 342* (Georgetown University School of Foreign Service: Institute for the Study of Diplomacy)

**Apr 30: Human Rights**

Read: *World Politics*, Chapter 11

**May 3: The Environment in International Politics**

Read: *World Politics*, 42-46, 56-59 and Chapter 14

**May 5: Debate on Globalization**

Read: Michael Clancy. 2000. “Sweating the Swoosh: Nike, the Globalization of Sneakers, and the Question of Sweatshop Labor” *International Relations, CB 342* (Georgetown University School of Foreign Service: Institute for the Study of Diplomacy)

**May 7: Course Review**

**May 11: Final Exam – 1pm-3pm, Engineering 198**