The demise of the Soviet Union marked the end of the bipolar power structure that had dominated international politics and stood as the focus of much of international relations scholarship for 40 years. The decade that followed witnessed a sharp increase then subsidence in ethnic conflict, the emergence of the United States as seemingly unrivaled hegemon, an extraordinary economic expansion and push toward globalization, and the increasing importance of trans-national issues such as the global environment, migration, technology and health. Events fueled a debate among scholars over which approaches to understanding and explaining global politics were most useful in this new era. The debate was far resolved when the attacks of September 11th, 2001 occurred. Since then we have witnessed two unusual wars, the first against the quasi-state of Taliban-ruled Afghanistan and the second a preventative, regime-change-centered war in Iraq (which currently rages). Already in flux, international relations scholarship now stands at a crossroads. What are the important issues of this nascent century? How useful are our existing theories for understanding current issues and events? How radically must we rethink key concepts in global politics such as war, power, security, deterrence, sovereignty, interdependence and imperialism? Will states be supplanted as the primary actors by trans-national agents or supra-national entities? How useful are our existing international institutions for promoting peace, cooperation and prosperity?

This course is a broad introductory survey that is designed to acquaint students with theories, concepts and events of world politics. During the course students will gain some familiarity with the major sub-fields of international relations including security studies, foreign policy analysis, and political economy. We will also examine some current trends and issues that make the times we live in so interesting (alluding to that old likely misattributed Chinese curse) and try to assess which theories generates the best understanding the post-9/11 world. The background provided by this course should prepare students for (or perhaps entice them into pursuing) future coursework in these areas or, failing that, simply make them more attentive to international events and better consumers of world news.

Course Materials to Purchase

Text and Readers


Cases:


Other Materials:

Some of the readings are freely available on-line in full text form.

Benjamin Barber's *Jihad vs. McWorld* in *The Atlantic Monthly* (March 1992) Vol. 269, No. 3, pp. 53-65 is available at:


Samuel Huntington's *The Clash of Civilizations* in *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993) Vol. 72, No. 3, pp. 22- 50 is available at:

http://www.alanuat.com/sup/economics/intsc/klash.html or

http://www.landau.edu/atannebaum/Tannebaum%20courses%20folder/POLS%20103%20World%20Politics/103_huntington_clash_of_civilizations_full_text.htm

A substantial portion of the additional readings which are listed in the outline are available on-line in full text from through JSTOR at:

http://www.jstor.org/geo-bin/jstor/genresearch

This is a very useful resource to which our library subscribes. It is available via the on-campus network or by using the Carleton proxy for any off campus individuals. Readings available through this service are indicated by the (J) symbol following the article citation information. You can find a reading by looking up the author and a few title key words. Readings not available through JSTOR are on reserve in Gould Library (L). I have tried to minimize these for your convenience and will not place paper copies of on-line content on reserve. You will need to search through J-Stor for articles relevant to your short paper topic.

One additional Resource that you will need to consult when you prepare your Case Study response is Lexis-Nexis a full-text, on-line news archive to which our library subscribes.

http://www.lexisnexis.com/universe
## Course Requirements and Grading Options

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**Points to Grade conversion:**

- **A**: 940+, **A-**: 939 to 900, **B+**: 899 to 870, **B**: 869 to 830, **B-**: 829 to 800, **C+**: 799 to 770, **C**: 769 to 730, **C-**: 729 to 700, **D+**: 699 to 670, **D**: 669 to 630, **D-**: 629 to 600, **F**: 599 or less.
Description of Components

Participation: Fridays throughout the semester will be devoted to the analysis of either the current issues articles in the World Politics reader or to the relevant case study.

There will be no lecture on these days. Students will be expected to have completed the readings and be prepared to generate course content that day through their informed discussion. As part of your participation grade you will be asked to write in-class quick response 5-minute essays of not more than one, lined notepad page at the beginning of each Friday session. These essays will be collected but not graded. Your engagement in the Nations Simulation will also be considered a participation component.

Case Study Analysis: Over the term we will read and discuss four cases. Each student must submit ONE Case Study Analysis during the term on the case of their choosing. I strongly suggest you know that leaving this assignment until the last case will make for a hectic end-of-term so select your case wisely. At least one week prior to the two case discussion days I will provide a short list of questions related to the case that will be designed to encourage students to critically integrate the theoretical concepts discussed in class with real-world events described in the case. There will be some choice regarding the questions to which you will be asked to respond. Each question will involve some degree of independent research outside the class material using an on-line news source (Lexis-Nexis). This paper of not more than 5 pages (typed, double spaced, 12pt font with reasonable margins) will be due at the beginning of class on the day of the appropriate case discussion.

Short Paper: This 5 page paper (typed, double spaced, 12 point font reasonable margins) will consist of a review of 4–5 academic articles on a topic of the student’s choosing using J-STOR to identify a viable topic and some core articles. Some examples are (but not necessarily suggestions for) possible topics include: Environmental scarcity and conflict, Ethnic conflict, European integration, Refugees, Nuclear Proliferation, AIDS or other global health issues, as well as deeper research into any of the areas that we touch on in the course. A simple list of the articles you plan to review will be due on due at the beginning of class May 2nd the full paper will be due Monday May 19th at the beginning of class.

Movie Review: We have tentatively scheduled Movie Night for Thursday May 8th (probably after 7:00). The Movie will be selected by class vote from a list prepared by the instructor. As this evening time will substitute for the missed class on Wednesday April 2nd, all students will expected to attend the showing (snacks will be provided as an added inducement) and play a part in our post-movie discussion. However, I am aware that some students may have scheduling conflicts. These students should feel free to rent and watch the movie at their convenience after consulting me as to the reason for their absence. Your brief (2-3 page) review of the movie (and the case) can be submitted at any time before the end of class on June 4th. I strongly suggest completing it earlier however, as the end of the semester will likely be a busy time for us all. The topic of your review is open. You can address anything you found interesting about the movie and case that relates to international relations. Obviously, the best reviews will consciously refer to theoretical approaches, key concepts or other course topics and will conspicuously refer to course literature (and provide the customary citations).

Major Paper: Do you already have a particular interest that you might like to explore further within the context of this class? For students who like to work independently, a term paper option is provided as an alternative to the case study and short paper. This research paper of roughly 15 pages (typed, double spaced 12 point font with reasonable margins) can be undertaken only with regular consultation with the instructor on topic, source selection etc. Generally, only more senior students should consider this option. The Major Paper is due by the end of class Friday June 4th, no extensions until June 9th will be allowed under any circumstances.

Simulation: One week of class will be devoted to the Nations Simulation exercise. The class will be divided into 7 groups of 6 or so individuals and assigned to particular countries. Active engagement will be considered as part of the participation grade.

Final Exam: Will take place on Monday June 9 from 3:30 to 6:00 PM. The exam will be comprehensive, in-class, and closed book. It will be comprised of two sections. The first will consist of six, short-answer (identify and explain the significance of type) questions from which students will select and respond to three (150 points total). The second section will provide three questions from which you will choose one for a longer essay response (150 points)

Notice on Late Papers:

All late papers will be penalized 10 points per day (or any part of a day) to a maximum of 50% of the available points for that project. If the syllabus indicates a paper must be handed in at the beginning of class and you hand it in after class a late penalty will be applied. Notice, however, that no matter how late something is, it is ALWAYS worth submitting.
May 28  W  North South Relations
   Vasquez Chapter 9
   World Politics Reader Unit 7
   [52 pages]

May 30  F  Case Study: Sweating the Swoosh

June 2  M  Trans-National Problems, State actors and Beyond
   Goldstein Chapter 7
   World Politics Reader Unit 5
   [88 pages]

June 4  W  WP Reader Discussion (Unit 9 Middle East and Africa)

June 9  M  FINAL EXAM 3:30 to 6:00