INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND WORLD POLITICS

The Political Science Department's course in *Introduction to International Relations and World Politics* introduces methods for analyzing the relationships between groups that act on the world stage—nations, states, tribes, empires, etc. The goal of the course is to introduce the student to a set of themes and definitions that can be used to analyze and evaluate world political activity. Students are expected to master a series of arguments, learn how to apply these arguments to situations in world politics and, hopefully, develop a set of values and preferences that will guide thinking about the role of our community in international affairs.

Political Science 170 is divided into five sections and each of these sections is based on a question that is at the heart of the study of international relations. **Part I** looks at the variety of ways that theorists use to evaluate the world and asks what the factors are that push communities to take action and the conditions that bring them into conflict with one another. **Part II** uses these theoretical frameworks to evaluate policy-making in different situations and ask how policy comes about. **Part III** focuses on "hard power" theories of conflict and the tendency of the system to resort to war, and asks what it is about the human condition that leads so often to communal violence. **Part IV** examines the different ways that nations, states, and empires interact with one another from a "soft power" perspective, concentrating on topics such as economic power and globalization, and asks about theories of conflict resolution. **Part V** looks at the future of international relations and asks whether war or peace is the "natural state" of human kind.

Readings:

The following books will be used as texts:

- Thomas Friedman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, (Anchor, expanded edition)
- Readings from a "course book" (as indicated) distributed in Pol. Sci. office.
- Handouts distributed in class
- Reading a national newspaper (i.e. NY Times or Washington Post on-line) is required.

Grading:

Grades for the course will be based on a combination of two exams, three short written essays, a fourth (final) essay, a number (about 20) one-page un-graded "daily journal exercises," and class attendance/participation.

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st Exam</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>2nd Exam</td>
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<td>Essay #1, 2, 3</td>
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<td>Essay #4</td>
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<td>Daily &quot;journal&quot; exercises (20)</td>
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Attendance is required in all classes (including the two evening films); reading and journal assignments should be completed *before* coming to class; journal exercises are handed in on date listed on the journal assignment.

**NOTE:** The on-line MOODLE syllabus is considered the "official syllabus" for this course. Some assignments may change...please check this site regularly.
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND WORLD POLITICS

Jan 4 Wed  INTRODUCTION

PART I: WAR, PEACE, AND THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

International relations/world politics investigates the relationships between the world's politics. These relationships are influenced by a number of factors including the nature of economic systems, moral and cultural values, and the arrangement of domestic institutions. In this section, we look at the role of the nation-state and ask questions about the importance of other actors. What factors structure the interaction of nation-states? What assumptions do we bring to our evaluation of conflict and peace---its onset and resolution? Are there other forms of human organization that challenge or undercut the role of the modern nation-state?

Jan 6 Fri  THREAT OR OPPORTUNITY? OUR WORLD IN 2012

Goldstein, International Relations, Ch. 1, pp. 3-38

Jan 9 Mon  NATIONS, STATES, AND WORLD CONFLICT

Regular Session: (in our regular Classroom)

Mearsheimer, Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War (separate handout)

Jan 9 Mon  Evening

Evening Session: (6:55 p.m. in Boulou Auditorium)

FILM & SLIDES: The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich

Time Magazine, Articles, (Oct. 2, 1939)

Newsweek, Article, (Aug. 5, 1940)

Carletonian, Articles, 1939-40

Jan 11 Wed  LESSONS OF WAR

Essay #1 Due (complete the essay, then scan the following)

Hitler (separate handout)

Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War Ch. 2 ("Hitler's Attack on Russia")
Jan 13 Fri  
JUST AND UNJUST WARS: The Idealist Argument
- Thomas Aquinas, *Of War*, p. 1
- Wilson, *The World Must Be Made Safe for Democracy* and *The Fourteen Points*, p. 2
- Hedley Bull, *Recapturing the 'Just War'* (separate handout)
- Kagan, *The Peloponnesian War* (e-Reserve...for background only)

Jan 16 Mon  
THE REALIST POSITION
- Goldstein, *International Relations*, Ch 2, ("Realist Theories") pp. 43-77
- Thucydides, *The Melian Dialogue*, p. 6
- Machiavelli, *The Prince*, p. 9
- Hume, *Of the Balance of Power*, 12
- Hans Morgenthau, *A Realist Theory...*, p. 20
- Waltz, *The Anarchic Structure of World Politics*, p. 22

Jan 18 Wed  
THE LIBERAL RESTATEMENT
- Kant, *Morality, Politics, and the Perpetual Peace*, p. 28
- Moravcsik, *A Liberal Theory of International Relations*, p. 32
- Michael Doyle, *Liberalism and World Politics* (separate handout)

Jan 20 Fri  
SOME “RADICAL” CRITIQUES
- Goldstein, *International Relations*, Ch. 3 ("Social Theories") pp. 121-148
- Cohn, *Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals*, p. 57
- Gandhi, *Means and Ends* and *Passive Resistance*, p. 46
- Leo Tolstoy, *Address*, p. 43

PART II: WHEN OUGHT WE ACT

Foreign policies are the strategies used by governments to guide their acts in the international arena. These policies derive from a number of sources: the actions of state leaders, the influence of important bureaucracies and political groups, and the perceptions and fears of important community constituencies. In this section we ask which of these actors is most important? How does policy come about? What options are available to policy makers?

Jan 23 Mon  
AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY PERSPECTIVES

Jan 25 Wed  
(no class)

Jan 27 Fri  
CASE STUDY: CENTRAL AFRICA IN THE 1990’s (Note: Case study may change)
- Mankaus, *Key Decisions in the Somalia Intervention* (PEW case)

Jan 30 Mon  
THE MAKING OF FOREIGN POLICY
- Ausink, *Watershed in Rwanda* (Pew Case)
- Howard and Donnelly, *Human Rights and World Politics*, p. 38
Feb 1 Wed  DECISIONS TO INTERVENE

❖ Alan Kuperman, Rwanda in Retrospect (Moodle)
❖ Samantha Power, Bystander to Genocide (Moodle)

Feb 3 Fri  DECISIONS TO INTERVENE (2)

⇒ Essay #2 Due

Exam #1 Question distributed

Feb 6 Mon  Mid-Term Break

PART III: POWER, CONFLICT, AND WAR ("HARD POWER")

Disagreement and conflict are at the heart of international relations. States have different needs and goals, and these differences structure the interaction of governments with one another. In this section we ask how conflict comes about, how these conflicts tend to be resolved. How important is the use of violence and war in this conflict resolution? Why is war such a common feature of conflict resolution? Is it learned behavior? Or, is it endemic to the human condition?

Feb 8 Wed  POWER

❖ Goldstein, International Relations, Ch. 5 ("International Conflict") pp. 153-178
❖ Waltz, Explaining War, p. 70
❖ Hans Morgenthau, The Future of Diplomacy, p. 64

Feb 10 Fri  THE EXERCISE OF POWER

❖ Goldstein, International Relations, Ch. 5 ("International Conflict") pp. 179-189
❖ Waltz, Explaining War, p. 70
❖ Stuessinger, Why Nations Go To War, Ch. 6 ("Saddam Hussein's Two Wars") (handout)
❖ Diamond, The One-Hundred Hour War (PEW study)

⇒ EXAM #1 Due (8:30 a.m)

Feb 13 Mon  WAR AND THE BREAKDOWN OF THE SYSTEM (1) Systemic explanations

❖ Goldstein, International Relations, Ch. 6 ("Military and terrorism") pp. 195-227
❖ Hobbes, On the Natural Condition..., p. 78
❖ Freud, Thoughts on War and Death, p. 80
❖ Mead, War Is Only An Invention..., p. 83

Feb 13 Mon  (evening session)

Evening Session: (6:55 p.m.)

FILM: Lord of the Flies

Bouliou Auditorium
Feb 15 Wed  WAR AND THE BREAKDOWN OF THE SYSTEM (2) The Role of Human Nature
   ⊗ Hartsock, Masculinity, Heroism, and Making of War (e-Reserve and Moodle)
   ⊗ Tickner, A Critique of Morgenthau’s Principles of Political Realism, p. 53

   Essay #3 Distributed

Feb 17 Fri  WAR AND THE BREAKDOWN OF THE SYSTEM (3) State Structure Explanations
   ⊗ Waltz, Explaining War, p. 70 (again)

   Essay #3 Due

Feb 20 Mon  CAUSES OF WAR
   ⊗ Huntington, The Clash of Civilizations, p. 90 and Moodle
   ⊗ von Clausewitz, On the Nature of War, p. 67

   Exam #2 distributed

PART IV  THE SEARCH FOR ORDER AND STABILITY (“SOFT POWER”)

This section looks at the ways governments might use to short-circuit the
slide into violence and to bring about desired goals. These methods
include the formation of international regimes, the creation of military
balances, the development of economic orders, and the struggle to
achieve hegemonic position. Which are most effective? Which are most
commonly used? Which have the greatest chance to move our world
beyond the kinds of cataclysmic meltdowns that have characterized the
great 20th century confrontations?

Feb 22 Wed  ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND TRADE REGIMES
   ⊗ Goldstein, International Relations, Ch. 8 (“Int. Trade”) pp. 281-312
   ⊗ Krasner, The Accomplishments of International Political Economy, p. 99
   ⊗ Keohane, Institutional Theory and the Realist Challenge (separate handout)

Feb 24 Fri  ECONOMIC POWER AND POLITICAL POWER
   ⊗ Goldstein, International Relations, Ch. 9 (“Finance and Business”) pp. 319-347
   ⊗ Friedman, The Lexus and the Olive Tree, pp. xi-xxii, 1-100
   ⊗ Gilpin, No One Loves a Political Realist, p. 95

   → Exam #2 due

Feb 27 Mon  ECONOMIC CHANGE AND POLITICAL CONFLICT
   ⊗ Goldstein, International Relations, Ch. 10 (“Integration”) pp. 353-378
   ⊗ Friedman, The Lexus and the Olive Tree, pp. 101-142

Feb 29 Wed  ECONOMIC CHANGE AND POLITICAL CONFLICT (2)
   ⊗ Goldstein, International Relations, Ch. 12 (“The North-South Gap”) pp. 423-453
   ⊗ Friedman, The Lexus and the Olive Tree, pp. 167-247
Mar 2 Fri  THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMY

Goldstein, *International Relations*, Ch. 13 ("International Development") pp. 459-492
Friedman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, pp. 248-275
Wade, *Globalization and Its Limits*, p. 106
Barber, *Jihad vs. McWorld*, pp. pp. 3-32 (separate handout)

PART V  CONSIDERING THE FUTURE: Is War or Peace the Normal Condition?

Mar 5 Mon  EVALUATING DANGER AND THREAT

Organski, *The Power Transition*, p. 111
Kennedy, *Rise and Fall of the Great Powers* (Moodle)

Mar 7 Wed  EVALUATING DANGER AND THREAT (2)

Bull, *Does Order Exist in World Politics?* P. 125
Martin Jacques, *When China Rules the World*, Ch 1, 11, 12 (Moodle)

Mar 9 Fri  INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN A CHANGING WORLD

Goldstein, *International Relations*, Ch. 14 ("Postscript") pp. 499-500

→ Essay #4 Due in class

**NOTE:** All materials due in class on March 9.....nothing accepted after that date