

POL 116: Introduction to International Politics

T/Th 2:00PM – 3:15PM, 109 Kirby

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Office Hours: W 10:00AM-12:00PM, or by previous appointment

Course Overview

The purpose of this course is to help students develop tools for understanding the complexities of the global (i.e. international) system. After an introductory look at some of the contrasting realities in global politics, the course will examine the international system as it exists in reality and as it is explained in theory. After an introduction, we will address six major areas of the study of global politics: 1) the paradigmatic theories scholars and policy analysts use to understand and craft global relations; 2) the nature and evolution of international conflict; 3) the organization of the global system, including both government and non-government actors; 4) the design and function of international political economy; and 5) the world's environmental capacities and limitations, and 6) the disparity of development among and within states.

Books and other readings

There is only one required book for this class (listed below). We will read the entirety of the text over the course of the semester, and directly discuss its content in class. In addition to this text, a number of book chapters and articles will be assigned to complement the day's theme or central polemic. We will use a significant part of each class for discussion (and not just lecture), so it is important to keep up with the reading assignments.

Required Text:

- Lamy, Steven, John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. 2013. Introduction to Global Politics. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780199934072

Other assigned readings are marked with an asterisk (*) and will be available electronically

Requirements and Grading

a) Participation	5%
b) Briefing paper	25%
c) First exam	20%
d) Second exam	20%
e) Final exam	30%

Participation (5%): Students are expected to attend and participate in all classes. I will subtract 1% from the final grade for each missed class (five missed class days=maximum class grade of 95%).

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Midterm Examinations (two; 20% each): The midterm examinations will be held in class on September 25 and October 30. They will be composed of multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay-style questions.

Briefing Paper (25%): Students are required to write a short briefing paper (5-6 pages, Times New Roman, double-spaced) based on a global issue/crisis. It will consist of four parts, each of which should examine the nature, scope, and significance of the issue from a Liberal, Realist, and Radical perspectives:

- (1) What is the nature/scope of the issue/crisis? Why is it significant? Be sure to include an evaluation at the individual, state, and system level of analysis.
- (2) What has been/is being done to address the issue/crisis by actors in international politics -- individuals, groups, states, international organizations, etc. -- and to what effect?
- (3) What could be done to address the issue? (You should evaluate and discuss at least three distinct policy proposals and assess their likely consequences.)
- (4) In your view, which particular policy proposal has the best chance of effectively addressing the issue/crisis? Why? Evaluate your preferred option in light of Liberal, Realist, and Radical approaches and levels of analysis.

The objective of the writing assignment is to apply theoretical knowledge to better understand an issue/conflict, what has been done, what might be done, and to ultimately make a reasoned, theoretically sound argument for what should be done. The paper is due in class on December 4.

Final Exam (30%): The final is cumulative, although it will emphasize ideas discussed in the third part of the course. Like the other tests, it is composed of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The exam is December 11, at 9:00 am.

Class Policies

Laptops and cell phones: Laptop computers, cell phones, tablets, and other electronic devices are **not** allowed during class sessions unless otherwise designated by the instructor. Violators will face grade penalties decided by the instructor.

Late policy: I will not accept late papers (so do not wait to the last minute to write it) and there will only be make-ups for the exams in extraordinary circumstances (and require doctor's excuses, death certificates, etc). Be forewarned: the make-up exam will be tougher than the original.

Cheating (including plagiarism): Cheating in any form will not be tolerated or accepted. If you are caught cheating, including plagiarizing, the minimum penalty is an "F" in the class. Other disciplinary action with the university is also a possibility.

Learning Assistance: If you have a disability that may require an accommodation for taking this course, please contact the Learning Assistance Center (758-5929) within the first two weeks of the semester. It is your responsibility to inform me about these needs.

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COURSE READINGS

I. THE STUDY OF WORLD POLITICS

8/26: Class introduction

8/28: **NO CLASS (APSA Conference)**

9/2: Global Politics and Research Approaches

- Text, Chapter 1

9/4: Globalization

- *Scheve, Kenneth F. and Matthew J. Slaughter, "A New Deal for Globalization," *Foreign Affairs* 86(4), Sept/Oct 2007, p34

II. THEORETICAL APPROACHES: REALISM, LIBERALISM, AND ALTERNATIVES

9/9: Realism

- Text, Chapter 3 (pp.69-83)

9/11: Liberalism

- Text, Chapter 3 (pp.83-99)

9/16: Alternatives: Marxism, Feminist Theory, and Constructivism

- Text, Chapter 4

9/18: Rising Powers

- *Nathan, Andrew, and Andrew Scobell, "How China Sees America: The Sum of Beijing's Fears," *Foreign Affairs* 91(5), Sept/Oct 2012, 32-47
- *Ikenberry, G. John, "The Rise of China and the Future of the West: Can the Liberal System Survive?" *Foreign Affairs* 87(1), Jan/Feb 2008, 23-37

9/23: Strategies of Foreign Policy

- Text, Chapter 5
- *Judis, John B., "Imperial Amnesia" *Foreign Policy* no. 143, 2004, 50-59

9/25: **TEST #1**

III. CONFLICT, MILITARY FORCE, AND SECURITY

9/30: From Westphalia to the War on Terrorism

- Text, Chapter 2

10/2: Nuclear Proliferation and the Cold War

- Text, Chapter 8

10/7: Nuclear Proliferation in the post-Cold War era

- *Waltz, Kenneth N., "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb: Nuclear Balancing Would Mean Stability," *Foreign Affairs* 91(4), July/August 2012, 2-5
- *Jervis, Robert, "Getting to Yes with Iran: The Challenges of Coercive Diplomacy," *Foreign Affairs* 92(1), Jan/Feb 2013, 105-115

10/9: Terrorism

- Text, Chapter 9
- *Mendelsohn, Barak, "ISIS' Gruesome Gamble," *Foreign Affairs*, August 14, 2014

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IV. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND LAW

10/14: International Law and the Origin of Supranational Organizations

- Text, Chapter 6

10/16: Challenges of Applying International Law

- *Slater, Jerome, "Tragic Choices in the War on Terrorism: Should We Try to Regulate and Control Torture?," *Political Science Quarterly* 121(2), summer 2006, 191-215
- *Haugen, Gary and Victor Boutros, "And Justice for All," *Foreign Affairs* 89(3), May/June 2010, 51-62

10/21: Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

- Text, Chapter 7

10/23: Human Rights and Security

- Text, Chapter 10 (pp310-327)
- *Horton, Alex, "Derailed on the Death Train," *Foreign Policy*, July 23, 2014

10/28: Human Security and the International Community

- Text, Chapter 10 (pp310-327)

10/30: **TEST #2**

V. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

11/4: Liberalism, Mercantilism, and Marxism

- Text, Chapter 11 (pp347-363)

11/6: Globalization

- Text, Chapter 11 (pp364-371)

11/11: Global Trade

- Text, Chapter 12

11/13: Poverty and Development

- Text, Chapter 13

11/18: IPE and Democracy

- *Inglehart, Ronald, and Christian Welzel, "How Development Leads to Democracy," *Foreign Affairs*, 88(2), March/April 2009, 33-48
- *Reich, Robert B., "How Capitalism is Killing Democracy," *Foreign Policy*, No. 162, Sept/Oct 2007, 38-42

VI. ENVIRONMENT, POPULATION, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

11/20: The Environment

- Text, Chapter 14 "Environmental Issues"

11/25: Population and Natural Resources

- *Garret Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science*, 162 (3859), December 13, 1968 (1243-1248)
- *Thomas L. Friedman, "The First Law of Petro politics," *Foreign Policy*, 154, May/June 2006 (28-39)

11/27: **NO CLASS, Thanksgiving break**

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VII. THE FUTURE OF WORLD POLITICS

12/2: The Post 9/11 Era and the Future

- *Huntington, Samuel P., “The Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs* 72(3), Summer 1993, 22-49
- *Leffler, Melvyn P., “9/11 in Retrospect: George W. Bush’s Grand Strategy, Reconsidered” *Foreign Affairs* 90(5), Sept/Oct 2011, 33-44
- *Friedberg, Aaron L., “Bucking Beijing: An Alternative US-China Policy” *Foreign Affairs* 91(5), Sept/Oct 2012, 48-58

12/4: Class review

- **PAPER DUE**

12/11 (During exam period): **9:00AM, TEST #3**