

Political Science 145
The Politics of Global Problems
Winter 2007

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Course Overview

International relations (IR) is essentially the study of politics under anarchy, or the problem of international order. There are over six billion people in the world, organized into nearly 200 states. Most states have their own government, complete with an executive, legislative body, judiciary, military, and police force. Laws are written and for the most part upheld, the use of force is generally monopolized by the government, and there is something of an established hierarchy in the political sphere that maintains a common set of expectations and practices. The international arena, on the other hand, is a different ballgame. There is no central government, no international military, and no '911' that states can call when they are in trouble. With no central authority governing international politics, they are essentially anarchic. But this does not imply chaos. Though at times states 'bully' other states, states go to war over territory, ideology, or resources, and states neglect the interests and opinions of other states, there is a remarkable amount of order, or stability, in international politics. We see international organizations where states peacefully debate international issues (e.g. the UN); we see states banding together, offering each other security guarantees (e.g. NATO); and we see states agreeing on 'rules of the game' in security, economic and social matters – even in war (e.g. treatment of POWs, and the taboo against the use of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons).

This course examines the problems confronting political 'actors' (primarily states, but also individuals, corporations, international organizations, etc) in an anarchic international environment. Requiring no prior knowledge of IR, I will provide you with a basic vocabulary for IR, address major political issues of international importance, and outline theoretical frameworks used to make sense of them. After an introduction to historical trends and theories in IR, the course is broken into three sections – Politics and War, Institutions, and Global Issues.

Goals and Expectations

My goals for this course are threefold. First, I expect you to leave here equipped with the basic tools necessary to engage international political issues and debates both critically and intelligently. Second, I aim to prepare political science majors for future courses in IR. And third, I hope to instill in each of you a lifelong curiosity for international politics. I know it sounds cliché, but a knowledgeable mind is an empowered mind.

These are lofty goals, and they come with lofty expectations. But there is a tried-and-true recipe for success: prepare the readings before class, attend and participate regularly, and study hard for the quizzes and exams. I know you all have the ability to do well and I am available for help every step of the way.

Assignments and Grading

The course grade is broken down as follows:

Map Quiz	10%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm I	20%
Midterm II	20%
Final Exam	30%

Map Quiz: Before saying anything intelligent about international politics, we should make sure we know where the states are that conduct them. Therefore, there will be a map quiz at the beginning of class on Tuesday, January 16 asking you to identify 20 numbered states on a world map. I will hand out a 'review sheet' of 50 states on the second day of class (one week prior to the quiz).

Quizzes: There will be five unannounced quizzes over the course of the quarter gauging your understanding of the day's reading assignment. The lowest score will be dropped, with the remaining four each worth 5% of your final grade. Come to class prepared and on time, and this should be an easy 20% of your grade.

Midterms: There will be two midterm exams – Thursday, January 25 and Thursday, February 22 – covering the readings, lectures, and discussions from the first two sections of the course. The content and structure of the exam will be discussed in class.

Final Exam: The final exam will be administered on Wednesday, March 14 from 11:30-1:18. The final exam is comprehensive – everything from the course is fair game. Though it will emphasize the readings, lectures, and discussions from the last third of the course, it will contain questions drawn from the first two thirds as well. There will be an optional review session on the evening of the last day of class to help you prepare.

*** Please take note of the following **makeup policy**. Makeup exams and quizzes will only be given in cases in which you provide *prior notice* and *proper documentation* for your absence. Makeups will be composed of different questions and may be in a different format, sometimes making them more difficult. Please make an effort to attend everyday, even when you're feeling 'under the weather,' and I will do the same!

Grading Scale:

93-100% A	83-86% B	73-76% C	60-66% D
90-92% A-	80-82% B-	70-72% C-	<60% E
87-89% B+	77-79% C+	67-69% D+	

* Attendance, participation, and time spent in office hours will be taken into consideration for borderline grades (e.g. 89.5%).

Readings

There is one required book for this course:

* Shimko, Keith. *International Relations: Perspectives and Controversies*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005. ISBN 0-618-21548-4. Available at SBX.

* All other course readings are posted on Carmen. If you are unfamiliar with Carmen, please let me know. I highly encourage you to download and print all the articles from the course now in order to avoid last minute computer problems or glitches in the Carmen system (which are not unheard of). You can also access your current grade on Carmen throughout the quarter.

Academic Honesty

I expect all of the work you do in this course to be your own. I will tolerate absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation). I will report any cases of cheating or plagiarism to the university committee on academic misconduct, and they will be handled according to university policy.

Disability

If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact me to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office for Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so.

GEC Mandated Goals and Objectives for this Course

5. Diversity: International Issues

Goals/ Rationale:

Diversity: International Issues courses help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and the world.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students exhibit an understanding of political, economic, cultural, physical, and social differences among the nations of the world, including a specific examination of non-Western culture.

7. Social Science

Goals/Rationale:

Courses in social science help students understand human behavior and cognition, and the structures of human societies, cultures and institutions.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies.
2. Students comprehend human differences and similarities in various psychological, social, cultural, economic, geographic, and political contexts.
3. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

Class Schedule

Thurs, Jan 4: **Course Introduction**

Tues, Jan 9: **Change and Continuity in International History**

Shimko, Chapter 1, pp. 11-43

Thurs, Jan 11: **Contending Perspectives on International Politics**

Shimko, Chapter 2, pp. 44-70

Politics and War

Tues, Jan 16: **Power Politics**

*** *Map Quiz* ***

Shimko, Chapter 5, pp. 120-145

Thurs, Jan 18: **War and Democracy**

Shimko, Chapter 4, pp. 97-119

Tues, Jan 23: **Cultural and National Conflict**

Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, 72:3 (1993), pp. 22-49 (Carmen)

Thurs, Jan 25: **Midterm I**

Institutions

Tues, Jan 30: **International Law and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)**

Shimko, Chapter 9, pp. 221-244

Thurs, Feb 1: **Political: The United Nations**

Shimko, Chapter 10, pp. 245-268

Tues, Feb 6: **Political: Regional Integration and the European Union**

Reading TBA

Thurs, Feb 8: Economic: International Trade and the World Trade Organization

Shimko, Chapter 6, pp. 146-169

Tues, Feb 13: Economic: Development and Inequality

Shimko, Chapter 7, pp. 170-194

Thurs, Feb 15: Military: Alliances and Collective Security

Tertrais, Bruno, "The Changing Nature of Military Alliances," *The Washington Quarterly*, 27:2 (2004), pp. 135-150. (Carmen)

Tues, Feb 20: Military: Nuclear Proliferation

Shimko, Chapter 11, pp. 269-292

Thurs, Feb 22: Midterm II

Global Issues

Tues, Feb 27: Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society, and the Global Commons

Shimko, Chapter 13, pp. 317-346

Thurs, Mar 1: Terrorism and Human Rights

Shimko, Chapter 12, pp. 293-316

Tues, Mar 6: 'Failed' States and Nation Building

von Hippel, Karin, "Democracy by Force: A Renewed Commitment to Nation Building," *The Washington Quarterly*, 23:1 (2000), pp. 95-112. (Carmen)

Thurs, Mar 8: American Hegemony, Globalization, and the Future of Int'l Politics

Shimko, Chapter 8, pp. 195-220

*** Review Session Thursday Evening (time and place TBA) ***

Wednesday, March 14th: FINAL EXAM (comprehensive), 11:30-1:18