

Political Science 145 – The Politics of Global Problems

Spring Quarter 2006

T R 10:30-12:18

Instructor: Ms. Amanda K. Metskas

Office Hours: W 9:00-11:00 and by appointment in 2086 Derby Hall

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Objectives

We all hear about and are impacted in some way by international relations. Maybe you have a friend stationed in Iraq. Maybe you are an international student. Maybe your car was assembled in another country. Maybe you have traveled abroad. Maybe you hear about civil wars, elections, and peacekeeping on TV and are curious about what is happening. The purpose of this course is both to discuss international events, and to provide theories and concepts to help explain them. Current and historical events will be used as examples to help explain theories. The theories then become tools to help understand and explain other events.

Readings

Goldstein, Joshua S. *International Relations, Brief Third Edition*. New York: Longman. 2005.

Snow, Donald M. *Cases in International Relations: Portraits of the Future*. New York: Longman. 2003.

These books should be available at SBX, The OSU Barnes & Noble, and many other campus area bookstores. They will also be on reserve at the main library.

Grading

30% - Final Exam

20% - Midterm Exam

40% - 4 small papers at 10% each

10% - Discussion attendance and participation.

Requirements

This course has a midterm, a final, and several short writing assignments. In addition to completing these assignments, students are expected to attend and participate in discussions and lectures having completed the reading assignments for the week.

Exams

The midterm covers material from the first half of the course and contains multiple choice questions and short answer essays. The final exam contains multiple choice and short answer essays covering the second half of the course.

Writing Assignments

Every week I will hand out two possible paper topics. They ask you to take material from the reading and analyze it, or relate it to either a historical or current event that we read about. The papers only need to be 2 double-spaced pages. Over the course of the quarter you need to write 4 of these short papers. You may choose to write one extra paper to replace your lowest paper grade. There are only 8 paper topic weeks in the quarter. It is to your advantage to get an early start on these so they don't all pile up at the end of the quarter.

Extra Credit

There may be the opportunity for students to earn extra credit through participation in experiments in the political science department. More details about this opportunity if it is available will be presented in class.

Class Structure

This class will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Typically we will have discussion for the first half of the class on Tuesdays. That discussion will revolve around the papers that were due for that class session. The remainder of Tuesday's session will be lecture introducing the material for that week. Thursday sessions will typically be lecture with opportunities for class participation.

Class Attendance and Participation

There are 8 sessions during the quarter that will be discussion format for at least half of the class period. They are labeled in bold on the syllabus. This is where the 10% participation grade comes from. Each of those days is worth 1.25 points – .75 for attendance, and .50 for contributing a thought to the discussion. If you are terrified of speaking in class you are encouraged to discuss the material with me in office hours to make up participation points.

Course Policies and Pet Peeves

Late Work

Papers are due in class on the day listed on the syllabus. I will accept papers up to one class period after they are due. If you turn in the paper on the day it is due, but after class time you will lose 1/3 letter grade. If you turn in the paper the day after it is due you will lose 2/3 letter grade. If you turn in the paper at the time of the next class you will lose 1 letter grade.

Papers that are not turned in during class should be turned in via email as an attachment in either Microsoft Word, Rich Text Format, or PDF. I cannot open documents in Word Perfect or Works format. If you use one of those programs, save your document as a “.rtf” file or convert it to a PDF.

Make-up exams will only be available with written documentation of medical or family emergency.

Academic Misconduct

This may sound like common sense, in fact, I hope it does: All students are expected to follow the rules on academic misconduct in the Student Handbook. Specifically, work that students turn in is expected to be their own. Sources used in writing assignments must be cited appropriately. More detailed citation and paper writing guidelines will be handed out with the first paper assignment. Any cases of plagiarism on a paper or cheating on an exam will be reported to the committee on Academic Misconduct. I take this very seriously. Basically, if you aren't doing your own work you are not getting the education you are paying for, and are wasting your time as well as mine.

Disability Statement

Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss his or her specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at (614) 292-3307, or visit 150 Pomerene Hall, to document a disability and coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Email

Unless you tell me otherwise, I am going to assume that your name.#@osu.edu email address listed on the class roster is an email address that is functional and that you check. Periodically I may send things out to the class via email. If that is not a functional address for you, please give me an email address that will work for you. Also, please ensure that you remove me from any spam filters that you may have set up on your email.

Pet Peeves

Please turn off your cell phone ringer. I understand we all forget from time to time, but try to remember. Above all, do not answer your phone in class. If you are expecting an emergency call (i.e. a loved one is in surgery at the hospital) leave your phone on vibrate, and take it outside of the classroom to answer.

Do not read the newspaper during class. If you aren't going to pay attention, for my peace of mind at least make it less obvious.

Food and drink is acceptable as long as it is not out of hand and distracting to those around you. Example: a muffin – okay. Eggplant parmesan – out of hand.

GEC Objectives

Ohio State University has several objectives for students taking GEC courses. The objectives for this course according to the University are:

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.

Schedule

Week 1 – Introduction to International Relations and Course Organization

March 28 – Introduction to the Course

March 30– What is International Relations?

- Goldstein Chapter 1 pgs. 1-43

Week 2 – Realism and Power Politics

April 4

- Goldstein Chapter 2 pgs. 45-75

April 6

Week 3 – Conflict and Weapons of Mass Destruction

April 11

- **Discussion of the Rise of China**
- **1st paper option due**
- Snow Chapter 1 pgs. 3-17
- Goldstein Chapter 4 pgs. 121-171

April 13

Week 4 – Liberalism and Foreign Policy Decision Making

April 18

- **Discussion of Kashmir**
- **2nd paper option due**
- Snow Chapter 12 pgs. 203-218.
- Goldstein Chapter 3 pgs. 77 -118

April 20

Week 5 – Feminism, Constructivism and Post-Modernism

April 25

- **Discussion of Camp David I and II**
- **3rd paper option due**
- Snow Chapter 6 pgs. 89-106
- No Goldstein reading this week.

April 27 – **MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 6 – Trade and Political Economy

May 2

- **Discussion of NGOs**
- **4th paper option due**
- Snow Chapter 2 pgs. 19-50
- Goldstein Chapter 5 pgs. 174-230

May 4

Week 7 – North-South Relations

May 9

- **Discussion of Globalization's Impact on Indonesia**
- **5th paper option due**
- Snow Chapter 9 pgs. 144-159.
- Goldstein Chapter 7 pgs. 284-315 (stop at Revolution heading)

May 11

Week 8 – More North-South Relations

May 16

- **Discussion of the African AIDS pandemic**
- **6th paper option due**
- Snow Chapter 15 pgs. 257-272
- Goldstein Chapter 7 pgs. 315-346

May 18

Week 9 – International Law and the United Nations

May 23

- **Discussion of WTO and Free Trade**
- **7th paper option due**
- Snow Chapter 8 pgs. 127-142
- Goldstein Chapter 6 pgs. 231-280.

May 25

Week 10 – Environment and Technology

May 30

- **Discussion of War Crimes Tribunals**
- **8th paper option due**
- Snow Chapter 4 pgs. 53-70
- Goldstein Chapter 8 pgs. 350-383

June 1

- Snow Chapter 13 pgs. 223-237

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, June 6 from 9:30-11:18 a.m.

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