

Political Science 145: The Politics of Global Problems

Winter 2006

Instructor: Jon Myers <myers.620@osu.edu>

Office hours: Mondays 3:30-5:30pm and by appt., 2120 Derby Hall (292-2881)

Course Description. Global problem solving is always a timely subject. This introduction to world politics has two broad objectives. The first is to give you analytical tools necessary for understanding and explaining world politics. The second is to increase your familiarity with some of the most pressing issues in international affairs. We will start by identifying the key actors in the international system and outlining major theories of international relations. Next we will turn to history to identify enduring patterns in global politics. We will then explore major issue areas including international security and economics. Finally we will take a glimpse at competing visions of the future of world politics.

Course Requirements. You must attend every class session and complete the assigned readings beforehand. You should keep yourself aware of current events in international politics. Closed-book exams will test material from both readings and class sessions. The course will be a mix of lecture and discussion, and participation is strongly encouraged. Failure to attend will lower your final grade, while consistent attendance and quality participation may boost it. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Two midterm exams 30% each
Final exam 30% (including material from entire course)
Participation 10% (including regular attendance)

Course Readings. The following required book is available at SBX and other local bookstores. Do not try to substitute an earlier edition, although there should be many used copies of the 7th edition available. Other readings may be assigned and will be available free via the Internet.

Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse, *International Relations* (7th Edition).
Longman, ISBN: 0321354745

Academic Honesty. All work is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

Disabilities. Students certified by the Office for Disability Services will be accommodated appropriately, and they should inform me of their needs as soon as possible.

Please Note. The only reason to use my Derby office phone number is to see if I am actually there. I am rarely there, except during office hours. You are strongly encouraged to use email (myers.620@osu.edu) to reach me.

GEC Rationale. International issues courses (emphasizing diversity) help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and the world. Courses in social science help students understand human behavior and cognition, and the structures of human societies, cultures and institutions.

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

Course Outline and Readings

This is a very approximate guide, and our actual pace will vary. If no specific assignment is given at the end of class, assume that we will cover the next chapter in Goldstein when next we meet.

Week 1 – Understanding International Relations (Goldstein Ch. 1)

Week 2 – Power Politics (Goldstein Ch. 2)

Week 3 – Alternatives to Power Politics, and Foreign Policy (Goldstein Ch. 3 & 4)

Week 4 – International Conflict and Military Force (Goldstein Ch. 5 & 6)

Midterm 1 – Monday, February 6

Week 5 – International Organization and Law (Goldstein Ch. 7)

Week 6 – Trade (Goldstein Ch. 8)

Week 7 – Money & Business and Integration (Goldstein Ch. 9 & 10)

Midterm 2 – Monday, February 27

Week 8 – Environment and Population (Goldstein Ch. 11)

Week 9 – The North-South Gap and Int'l Development (Goldstein Ch. 12 & 13)

Week 10 – Postscript, Wrap-Up, and Discussion (Goldstein Ch. 14)

Final Exam – Monday, March 13, 1:30 PM - 3:18 PM