

Political Science 145
The Politics of Global Problems
Autumn Quarter 2006

Monday and Wednesday 8:00-9:48 AM
Bolz 412

Instructor: Autumn Lockwood Payton
Office Hours: M 1:00-3:00 PM
(and by appointment)
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Course Description and Goals

This is an introductory course in International Relations (IR). Everyday we are confronted with international issues and problems that affect our daily lives. Perhaps you plan to travel outside of the United States. Maybe you know someone serving overseas in Afghanistan or Iraq. Perhaps you are an international student, or maybe your family has recently immigrated to the United States. The study of IR touches upon these issues and many others including the examination of interstate war, ethnic conflict, military alliances, international organizations and trade flows, to name just a few. This course is designed to give you sufficient theoretical and historical background of IR in order to analyze and discuss contemporary international issues. As such, I expect students to participate in discussions of international current events with respect to the reading and lecture material.

The primary objectives for the course follow:

- Become familiar with political events around the world and evaluate how they relate to your own country, community, and life.
- Develop critical reading and writing skills, recognizing the intent of the authors and evaluating messages against your own informed beliefs and opinions.
- Learn to use speech effectively and persuasively (Aristotelian rhetoric) by advocating your claims through the use of logical arguments. In light of this, students should be able to argue both sides of an issue.

Required Texts

There are two required texts for this course. You may purchase the text at the University Bookstore or any local textbook sellers (e.g. Long's, SBX, etc.) and through Internet booksellers such as Amazon.com; however, if you choose to order online, shipping delays may prevent you from performing the required readings in a timely manner. In order for this course to be useful to you, it is essential for you keep up with current events and read The New York Times on a daily basis. There will be a few additional readings available through CARMEN indicated on the syllabus.

Ray, James Lee and Juliet Kaarbo. Global Politics, 8th edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005.

The New York Times (May be purchased directly from The Lantern's web site for \$20 per quarter, please check to see if delivery applies to you:

<http://www.thelantern.com/home/index.cfm?event=viewCustomPage&name=NYTimes>.

Or you may read the paper online at no cost: www.nytimes.com)

Student Evaluation

Daily Quizzes:	20%
Map Quiz:	5%
Position Paper:	25%
Midterm Examination:	25%
Final Examination:	25%

I will grade assignments on the following scale:

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

Assignments

Quizzes: Everyday we meet (with the exception of examination days and the day your paper is due) you will have a short quiz that will assess your knowledge of the assigned reading and current events. This is to ensure that you keep up with the readings and they will help you prepare for the midterm and final examinations. I will drop the two lowest quiz grades. Make-up quizzes will not be administered.

Map Quiz: This quiz is separate from the daily quizzes and will cover your knowledge of world geography. Knowledge of geopolitics will facilitate classroom discussion of current events and overall understanding of interstate relations.

Position Paper: 5-7 pages, typed, double-spaced, 12pt. Times New Roman font, 1" margins. For this assignment you will select one from a list of films and analyze it through the theoretical lenses offered in class and take a policy position the problems and potential solutions addressed in the film. All of these films deal with controversial topics policy makers and scholars confront in International Relations, ranging from the global impact of the AIDS pandemic to strategies for dealing with ethnic conflict. Your task will be to scrutinize the argument the film is making and give your supported opinion on why you agree or disagree with the film and offer a possible policy solution. You must support your position using logical arguments aided by the use of course material, examples from current events, and outside sources (more on this later). This is not simply an opinion paper. You must convey how your position is defensible, and why it is a better alternative than opposing positions. Proper citation format must be used. No electronic copies will be accepted.

Midterm Examination: (10/25) The midterm will cover course material through the 4th week of the quarter. The format is multiple choice and identification questions.

Final Exam: (12/4) Administered during the regularly scheduled final exam time. The final will be cumulative and will include multiple choice, identification, and essay questions.

Student Responsibilities

Reading: You will be asked to complete reading assignments in preparation for each lecture. In order to have fruitful discussion and get the most out of the lectures it is imperative to do the reading prior to each class. Hence, if a reading is listed for the date 10/9, you must complete that reading prior to class on that day.

Absences, Make-Ups, and Late Policy: If you are sick or have a family emergency you must have proper documentation in order to make-up a graded assignment, no exceptions. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per class period. For example, if a “B+” paper due on Tuesday is turned in on the following Thursday, it will receive a “C+”.

Feedback: If you have questions or comments about lectures, readings, course administration, or discussions I strongly encourage you to ask me during or after class, during office hours, by email or by phone. During the working week, I will try to respond to emails within a 24 hour period. I encourage you to take advantage of my office hours. I have designed this course so that every student can do well if they are willing to put in the effort. If you are experiencing difficulties in the class, I will do my best to help you. The earlier you notify me, the more effectively I can help you.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated. Any suspected incidences of cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s ideas or words without proper citation) will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If you have questions on what constitutes violations of academic misconduct please refer to official OSU policy contact me directly.

Disability: Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor. Any student in need of accommodation should contact me by the end of the first week of the quarter to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office of Disability Services in 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate accommodations.

Course Schedule

Week 1

September 20 Introduction to the Study of International Relations

Week 2

September 25 Brief History of International Relations: From Empire to Modern State
Read: GP pp. 24-56

September 27 International Relations in the Modern Era (During and Post Cold War)
Read: GP pp. 57-95

Week 3

October 2 Map Quiz
Theoretical Perspectives in IR
Read: GP pp. 2-23

October 4 Power: Measures and Indicators of State Power
Read: GP pp. 98-121

Week 4

October 9 Conflict and Security: Theories of Conflict and Interstate Conflict
Read: GP pp. 162-192;

October 11 Conflict and Security: Intrastate and Ethnic Conflict
Read: GP pp. 193-213; CARMEN: "Peaceful, Rebuilt but still divided; Bosnia ten years on," The Economist November 26, 2005

Week 5

October 16 Managing Conflict: Balance of Power and Alliance Politics
Read: GP pp. 214-233

October 18 Managing Conflict: Nuclear Weapons and Bargaining Solutions
Read: GP pp. 233-256; CARMEN: John Mearsheimer "Why we will soon miss the Cold War".

Week 6

October 23 War and Society: A View from Alternative Theoretical Lenses
Read: CARMEN: Nira Yuval-Davis "Gendered Militaries, Gendered Wars," pp. 93-134 of Gender and Nation

October 25 MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Week 7

October 30 NO CLASS

November 1 Foreign Policy and Political Regime Type
Read: GP pp. 122-145; Profile: Kim Jong Il

Week 8

November 6 Controlling Conflict: Collective Security and the United Nations System
Read: GP pp. 257-278

November 8 International Law: Treaties and Courts and Human Rights
Read: GP pp. 278-304

Week 9

November 13 International Political Economy: The Bretton Woods System
Read: GP pp. 306-336

November 15 Bringing Down a Dictator, Discussion
PAPERS DUE IN CLASS

Week 10

November 20 International Political Economy: The Developing World
Read: GP pp. 337-370

November 22 Regional Integration and The European Union
Read: GP pp. 372-400

Week 11

November 27 Security and the Environment
Read: GP: pp. 427-442; CARMEN:
Sections on climate change science and the Kyoto Protocol

November 29 WRAP UP and EXAM REVIEW

FINAL EXAMINATION Monday, December 4 7:30-9:18 AM

The following are the goals and objectives set out for this GEC course by the University:

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.

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.