

Political Science 145
The Politics of Global Problems
Winter Quarter, 2005

Tuesday & Thursday 5:30 – 7:18 PM

Room: Bolz Hall 0412

Course Website:

<http://psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/grads/mreese/>

Instructor: M. J. Reese

Office: 2043 Derby Hall

Office Hours: Th 3:15pm–5:15pm
or by appointment

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Course Description

The Politics of Global Problems is an introductory course in International Relations (IR). This course will provide a broad theoretical and historical overview of the international system, the principal actors in this system, and some of the contemporary challenges facing international society. This course proceeds in three parts. In the first section of the class, we will discuss basic theoretical concepts in the study of international relations such as anarchy, power, nations, states, and interdependence. In the middle portion of the course, we will consider the historical perspectives of several important states and how their respective experiences typify different problems states face in the anarchy of the international system. In the final section, we will consider some important issues facing the modern world such as terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, international governance, and global inequality. The end purpose of this course will be to provide the student with the necessary tools to understand and interpret international events and politics.

Readings

There are two required books for this course. Both books should be available at the University Bookstore, Local Booksellers (Long's, SBX, etc.) and Internet bookstores such as at Amazon.com, Half.com, Barnesnoble.com, and the like. I highly suggest you attempt to find the books online as you will likely find the best prices there. However, you are responsible for performing the required readings on time – no leeway will be given to compensate for shipping delays.

Goldstein, Joshua S. *International Relations (6th Edition)*. New York, NY: Pearson & Longman Publishers, 2005. **ISBN: 0-321-20948-6**

Pastor, Robert A. *A Century's Journey: How The Great Powers Shape the World*. New York, NY: Basic Books, 1999. **ISBN: 0-465-05475-7**

In addition, it is highly suggested that you get in the habit of monitoring the international news. While I personally prefer *The Economist* (www.economist.com), other reputable publications such as the *New York Times* (www.nytimes.com) or *Newsweek*

(www.newsweek.com), among others, will suffice. Connecting current events to the material presented in this course is the surest way to achieve success in exams.

The Determination of Grades:

The final course grade will be determined by weighting your performance in four areas:

1. Quizzes (Best 2 scores out of 3)	10%
2. Midterm Exam I	20%
3. Midterm Exam II	30%
4. Final Exam	<u>40%</u>
FINAL GRADE	100%

My grading scale for the quizzes, exams, and final course grades is as follows:

A	=	100% - 92%	C+	=	80% - 78%
A-	=	92% - 90%	C	=	78% - 72%
B+	=	90% - 88%	C-	=	72% - 70%
B	=	88% - 82%	D+	=	70% - 68%
B-	=	82% - 80%	D	=	68% - 60%
		E (also known as "F")	=		Less than 60%

Student Responsibilities:

Attendance:

This is primarily a lecture course. Lecture courses will do you no good if you are not around to hear the lectures. As a result, you are expected to attend every class section this quarter. I will not, however, take attendance after the first day. If you do happen to miss a lecture, you will still be held responsible for the material covered. It is up to you to acquire the lecture notes from a classmate. However, it is obviously in your interest to attend class on the days that quizzes and tests are administered. You will be allowed to take a make-up quiz or exam only if you present me with ***a documented excuse*** for your absence on the day of administration. In cases of illness, for instance, a documented excuse would consist of a signed note from your doctor or the OSU Medical Center. I will *not* allow for make-up exams or quizzes to accommodate travel plans so schedule your trips accordingly.

Reading:

You will be asked to complete a reading assignment in preparation for each lecture. These reading assignments will average about 40 pages per class. You are to complete this reading *before* each class begins. It is important to keep up with this reading. Getting too far behind is a recipe for doing badly on quizzes and exams.

Quizzes:

The quizzes will be held at random (except for the class immediately before each exam) and will not be announced ahead of time. There will be three of these *closed book* “pop quizzes” held during the quarter. Each quiz will be held **at the start of class**. You will not be allowed to take the quiz if you arrive after the quizzes have been collected. These quizzes will focus upon recent lectures and your reading assignment for the day they are administered. Each quiz will consist of five multiple-choice questions. At the end of the course, I will “throw out” the worst of your three quiz scores. The quiz component of your final grade (10%) will then be calculated by averaging your other two quiz scores.

Exams:

There will be three *closed book* exams held during this course: two midterms and a final exam. Each exam will be structured similarly with an “identification of terms” section and an “essay” section. One week before each exam, I will hand out a study guide to assist you in your preparations. **Each exam will be composed solely of items found on these study guides.** Therefore, if you know the guide, you should do well on the exam. We shall discuss the exams more as they draw closer.

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 accommodation based on the impact of a disability, it is your responsibility to contact me no later than January 13th to schedule an appointment. 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.

Course Schedule:***SECTION I: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM***

January	4	Introduction
	6	Basic Concepts in International Relations Read: Goldstein, pp.3-49

10 **Russia – The Problem of Weakness**

Read: Pastor, pp.139-190

Recommended Reading: Pastor, pp.333-363

15 **Catch-up Day and Review**

17 **MIDTERM II**

The exam will held at the regular class time & location

SECTION III: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

22 **International Conflict – The War On Terror**

Read: Goldstein pp.171-206; 225-249; 140-141; 209-211

24 **Conflict, International Organizations, & Law – The “Axis of Evil”**

Read: Goldstein pp.255-293; 252-253; 297-299; 97-99

March

1 **The International Political Economy – Globalization**

Read: Goldstein pp.301-327; 343-354; 52-53

3 **Collective Action Problems – Environment & Overpopulation**

Read: Goldstein pp.417-453; 456-457

8 **Development and Dependence – Inequality and the Developing World**

Read: Goldstein pp.459-493; 501-518; 497-499; 541-542

10 **Catch-up Day and Review**

15 *******FINAL EXAM*******

**THE FINAL WILL BE HELD FROM 5:30 – 7:18 PM AT
THE REGULAR CLASS LOCATION**