

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

Monday & Wednesday 3:30 – 5:18 PM

Room: 0243 Central Classroom Building (CC)

Instructor: M. J. Reese

Office: 2043 Derby Hall (DB)

Office Hours: Wed. 1:15pm–3:15pm
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 and Jon C. Pevehouse. *International Relations (7th Edition)*. New York, NY: Pearson & Longman Publishers, 2006. **ISBN: 0-321-35474-5**

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, while not strictly required, is the surest way to achieve high grades 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%

GEC-Mandated Goals & Objectives for this Course

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:

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.

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 session. 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. ***This is important because we sometimes cover material in lecture not contained in the assigned reading.*** You may therefore miss something crucial for passing an exam if you do

not make the necessary arrangements. 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 postpone paper deadlines to accommodate travel plans so schedule your trips accordingly.

Reading:

You will be asked to complete a reading assignment in preparation for each lecture. Ideally, 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. ***I cannot emphasize enough that although we do not discuss everything in lecture covered in your readings you will be expected to answer quiz and exam questions that may involve these reading-only points and issues*** (i.e. merely showing up for lecture will *not* be enough to do well in this course).

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 well, you should do well on the exam. We shall discuss the exams more as they draw closer.

Communication with Your Instructor:

I encourage every student to feel free to contact me with any problems, concerns, or questions about the course. I am easiest to contact via e-mail (reese.150@osu.edu) which I do check with religious regularity. I will make myself available every week for regular office hours (Wednesday 1:15-3:15pm...in essence, the two hours before class time) and will also be available for additional meetings by appointment. If you do wish to make an appointment to meet outside of my regularly scheduled office hours, I request that you give me at least 24 hours notice to make sure I can accommodate you.

My goal is *not* to fail you. However, it is unfortunate that many students wait until finals week to contact me about their performance. If you run into problems with the course material, or are not achieving the grades you believe yourself capable of, please contact me sooner rather

than later. If you wait too long, you may have little or no opportunity to turn your performance around and achieve the A grade I know each of you are capable of.

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 October 5th 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

September	21	Introduction
	26	Basic Concepts in International Relations Read: Goldstein and Pevehouse, pp.3-49
	28	Realism Read: Goldstein and Pevehouse, pp.55-94
October	3	Alternatives to Realism (Liberalism, Marxism, Constructivism, Peace Studies) Read: Goldstein and Pevehouse, pp.99-133
	5	Foreign Policy Read: Goldstein and Pevehouse, pp.139-163

10 **Catch-Up Day & Exam Review**

12 **MIDTERM I**

The exam will held at the regular class time & location

SECTION II: SEVERAL IMPORTANT STATES & THEIR PROBLEMS

17 **The United States – The Problem of Power**

Read: Pastor, pp.191-238

Recommended Reading: Pastor, pp.1-31

19 **France & The European Union – The Problem of Vulnerability**

Read: Goldstein and Pevehouse, pp.377-394 & Pastor, pp.63-89

24 **Britain – The Problem of Decline**

Read: Pastor, pp.33-63

Recommended Reading: Pastor (On Germany), pp.91-138

26 **China – The Problem of Modernization**

Read: Pastor, pp.291-331

Recommended Reading: Pastor (On Japan), pp.239-289

31 **Russia – The Problem of Weakness**

Read: Pastor, pp.139-190

Recommended Reading: Pastor, pp.333-363

November 2 **Catch-Up Day & Exam Review**

7 **MIDTERM II**

The exam will held at the regular class time & location

