

Political Science 145
The Politics of Global Problems
Introduction to International Relations
Autumn 2006
Tuesday and Thursday 930-1118am
Smith Laboratory 3082

Instructor: Ms. Amanda Rosen
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Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-1 and by appointment
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Goals and Objectives:

This course is an examination of the various challenges facing every nation and state in the world as they try to exist in a world of limited resources and questionable security. Throughout history, we have examples of these peoples trying to co-exist, sometimes cooperating, other times fighting out their differences. In this course we will examine why the world is full of both cooperation and conflict, and how these two competing forces interact in the contemporary world in issues such as weapons of mass destruction, the environment, globalization, war mongering and peace-making.

In the first part of the course we will examine the characteristics of the international system and explore how and why the system developed as it did. We will focus on the various theories of international relations—Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism and others—and how these aid us in explaining current global problems. The second half of the course focuses on some of the major problems that confront all states and nations in the world. We focus first on pure issues of security—the causes of war and peace and weapons of mass destruction—and then look at economic issues—international trade, finance, globalization, and north-south relations. The last part of the course will focus on the problems that cross state boundaries—the environment and disease in particular—and those that destroy traditional state boundaries from above and below.

The course meets two GEC requirements:

#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.

Materials:

There is one book required for this course, and it is available for purchase at SBX and the B&N at the Gateway.

Goldstein, Joshua S and Jon C. Pevehouse. *International Relations Brief (2006-2007 edition)*. New York, NY: Pearson & Longman Publishers, 2006. ISBN 0321434315

The previous 3rd edition is acceptable, and you will have better luck finding that one used (and therefore cheap). But if you are buying new, go with the newest edition, listed above.

This book has a companion website at www.IRtext.com. This site includes web links, simulations, and videos that relate to the material in your text, and are directly referred to by the icons in the book. I highly recommend that you use these materials, particularly the Changing World Order features and the Case in Point Videos.

Requirements and Grading:

Your final grade will be based on two exams, participation, and a map quiz.

Map Quiz	October 3 rd	20%
Midterm	October 17 th	35%
Final	December 6 th	35%
Participation/Attendance		10%

Final Grade Scale:

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

Map Quiz

Any course in international relations requires a basic knowledge of the location of the states and regions that play a major role in world politics. The map quiz will test your knowledge of these states and conflict-prone regions. It is worth 20% of your final grade and will be held on October 3rd.

Current Events/Participation

Every class session we will spend some time discussing current events. To that end, you should get into the habit of reading the international/world section of a major respected **printed** media source (including The Washington Post, London Times, International Herald Tribune, The Economist, Newsweek, Christian Science Monitor, LA Times, etc). All of these are available online for free, though occasionally registration is required. Your participation grade will be based on both your attendance and the quality of your contributions to the discussions.

Exams

These exams will be closed-book, in-class exams. These exams will test your knowledge and understanding of the readings, lectures, and current events as discussed in class. These exams will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, matching, fill-ins and short answer questions. They will each be worth 35% of your overall grade.

Other Policies:

Make-ups:

Attendance in class is expected, but occasionally students need to be absent from class for legitimate reasons (e.g. personal or family illness). If you will be absent on the day of a quiz or exam due to these types of exceptional circumstances, you must inform me **before** the class session and provide some kind of documentation. If you meet these criteria, we can discuss what arrangements can be made for a make-up exam. No make-ups will be given to students that do not follow this policy.

Respect:

This is a course about politics, and I anticipate that there will be many differing views brought out in class discussions. Every viewpoint is welcome, as long as everyone treats each other with respect. I encourage all students to openly discuss their views, as long as you also listen to the views of others respectfully and with an open mind. Fairness is more important than objectivity when it comes to politics. Anyone who shows disrespect to either the instructor or a fellow student will be asked to leave the class, along with any other action as I find appropriate.

Disabilities:

Any student who requires special accommodations as the result of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your needs. I rely on the Office for Disability Services (614-292-3307, room 150 Pomerene Hall) to document and coordinate the appropriate accommodations for these students.

Academic Misconduct:

Don't cheat. Seriously. There is no reason why you cannot pass this class and even do extremely well based purely on your own ability. If you aren't doing your own work, you are not getting the education that you are paying for and are therefore wasting your time as well as mine. If anyone is caught violating the University's rules on academic misconduct and cheating, I will forward the case as per University policy to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

Right to Revise Syllabus:

This syllabus outlines my goals for the course and my expectations for the students. Minor changes may need to be made along the way, particularly to the following schedule, and I reserve the right to revise the syllabus accordingly.

Schedule:

All readings are to be completed by the day they are listed under.

Thursday September 21st- Introduction to the Course

Tuesday September 26th – Conceptual Foundations of International Relations

Goldstein & Pevehouse 1-21

Thursday September 28th –The Historical Context

Goldstein & Pevehouse 21-43

Tuesday October 3rd – MAP QUIZ

Power Politics, Systemic Approaches, and Realism

Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 2 (45-76)

Thursday, October 5th- Power Politics, continued

Tuesday, October 10th – Alternatives to Power Politics

Goldstein & Pevehouse 77-84 and 102-119

Thursday, October 12th – State and Individual Level Approaches
Goldstein & Pevehouse 84-102

Tuesday, October 17th - Midterm Exam
This Exam covers: everything through State and Individual Level Approaches

Thursday, October 19th - Armed Conflict I
Goldstein & Pevehouse 121-147

Tuesday, October 24th - Armed Conflict II: Why We Fight
Goldstein & Pevehouse 160-171 (Skim 148-160)

Thursday, October 26th –International Trade
Goldstein & Pevehouse 174-202

Tuesday, October 31st—International Finance
Goldstein & Pevehouse 202-227 (skim 203-208)

Thursday, November 2nd —North-South Relations
Goldstein & Pevehouse chapter 7 p. 284-346 (skim “population” 296-306 and “revolution” 315-318)

Tuesday, November 7th—Documentary of Choice

Thursday, November 9th- No Class

Tuesday, November 14th- More North-South Relations

Thursday, November 16th- The Environment
Goldstein & Pevehouse 350-371

Tuesday, November 21st- The Rule of International Law
Goldstein & Pevehouse 231-250 and 263-280

Thursday, November 23rd-No Class-Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 28th - Breakdown of the Nation-State
Goldstein & Pevehouse 250-263

Thursday, November 30th- Clash of Civilizations
Huntington, Samuel. “The Clash of Civilizations”. Available at URL:
<http://www.alamut.com/subj/economics/misc/clash.html>

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 6th at 930am in Smith Laboratory 3082