

Political Science 145
The Politics of Global Problems
Introduction to International Relations
Winter 2007

Tuesday and Thursday 230-418pm
Scott Laboratory 0050

Instructor: Ms. Amanda Rosen
Office: Derby Hall 2036
Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-2 and by appointment
Email: rosen.81@osu.edu

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 are two books for this course, and both are available for purchase at SBX and the B&N at the Gateway.

Required:

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.

Recommended:

Baker, James A III et al. *The Iraq Study Group Report: The Way Forward—A New Approach*. New York, NY: Vintage Books, 2006. ISBN 9780307386564 (\$10.95, new). Also available in its entirety online at http://www.usip.org/isg/iraq_study_group_report/report/1206/iraq_study_group_report.pdf, so you do not need to actually purchase the text (though you will be required to read it in its entirety)

Requirements and Grading:

Your final grade will be based on two exams, participation in discussion, a map quiz, and 2 response papers.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----|
| Map Quiz | January 16th | 10% |
| Midterm Exam | January 30th | 25% |
| Iraq Study Group Response Paper | February 13th | 15% |
| Clash of Civilizations Response Paper | March 8th | 15% |
| Final Exam | March 15th | 25% |
| Participation | | 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 countries 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 10% of your final grade and will be held on January 16th.

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 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. Televised news focuses a great deal on local stories and is therefore not as useful for this class; please do not rely on CNN, Fox News or broadcast news as the main source of your information. I do encourage you to watch the Daily Show with Jon Stewart and the Colbert Report, however (Comedy Central, M-Th at 11 and 1130pm,

respectively). Your participation grade (10%) will be based on both your attendance and the quality of your contributions to discussions both inside the class and on the discussion boards at the Carmen web site.

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 25% of your overall grade.

Response Papers

There are two response papers you must write for this class, worth 15% each. They are to be 5 double-spaced page (12 pt. font, 1" margins, etc) typed responses to two key readings for the class. The first one will focus on the Iraq Study Group Report and will be due on February 13th; the second one will evaluate and debate Samuel Huntington's article "The Clash of Civilizations" and will be due on March 8th. These are not research papers; instead they will require you to form an argument and defend your point of view on a current debate in international relations. More information on these papers will be handed out separately.

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.

Assignments:

Papers are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date. Late papers will be docked 1/3 a letter grade for each 24 period that they are late—turning a B paper into a B- for example. Unless agreed in advance, I will not accept papers that are more than 3 days late. Please do not email papers to me without prior approval—except under extraordinary circumstances, I only accept hard copies.

Technical Glitches:

Technical glitches—a misbehaving computer, uncooperative email program, or printer that decided to punish you by running out of toner—do happen. However, it is your responsibility to account for these in your planning and not use them as an excuse for why you cannot turn in your work. Couldn't print out your paper before class? Do what you can--email it to me or bring me a disk, and then print it out asap after class to get me the hard copy. It is also your responsibility to maintain communication with me by checking the Carmen web site daily to see if any announcements have been made or emailing me if a problem arises. Please do not play the "my email must have gotten lost somehow" game—you will find that honesty will go a lot further to gaining my sympathy.

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. As the instructor, I promise to do the same. 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:

I rely on the Office for Disability Services (614-292-3307, room 150 Pomerene Hall) to document and coordinate the appropriate accommodations for students requiring special accommodations as a result of a disability.

Academic Misconduct:

Don't cheat. No, seriously. There is no reason why you cannot pass this class and even do extremely well based purely on your own ability. If you are not 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 January 4th - Introduction to the Course

Tuesday January 9th – Conceptual Foundations of International Relations

Goldstein & Pevehouse 1-21

Thursday January 11th – The Historical Context

Goldstein & Pevehouse 21-43

Tuesday January 16th – Power Politics, Systemic Approaches, and Realism

Map Quiz

Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 2 (45-76)

Thursday, January 18th - Power Politics, continued

Mueller, John. "A False Sense of Insecurity?". *Regulation* Fall 2004: 42-46 (handout)

Tuesday, January 23rd – Alternatives to Power Politics

Goldstein & Pevehouse 77-84 and 102-119

Thursday, January 25th – State and Individual Level Approaches

Goldstein & Pevehouse 84-102

Tuesday, January 30th - Midterm Exam

This exam covers: all materials through State and Individual Level Approaches

Thursday, February 1st - Armed Conflict I

Goldstein & Pevehouse 121-147

Iraq Study Group Report Part I: Assessment (p. 1-40)

Tuesday, February 6th - Armed Conflict II: Why We Fight

Goldstein & Pevehouse 148-171 (Skim 148-160)

Iraq Study Group Report Part II: The Way Forward: A New Approach (p. 41-96)

Thursday, February 8th –International Trade

Goldstein & Pevehouse 174-202

Tuesday, February 13th —International Finance

Iraq Study Group Response Paper Due

Goldstein & Pevehouse 202-227 (skim 203-208)

Thursday, February 15th —North-South Relations

Goldstein & Pevehouse 284-315 (skim “population” 296-306)

Tuesday, February 20th — More North-South Relations

Goldstein & Pevehouse 318-346 (skim “Foreign Assistance” 338-346)

Thursday, February 22nd - The Environment: An Inconvenient Truth

Goldstein & Pevehouse 350-371

Tuesday, February 27th - The Rule of International Law

Goldstein & Pevehouse 231-250 and 263-280

Thursday, March 1st - Breakdown of the Nation-State: Attacks from Below

Goldstein & Pevehouse 315-318; 133-142 (review)

Tuesday, March 6th - Breakdown of the Nation-State: Attacks from Above

Goldstein & Pevehouse 250-263

Thursday, March 8th --The Clash of Civilizations?

The Clash of Civilizations Response Paper due

Huntington, Samuel. “The Clash of Civilizations”. Available at URL:

<http://www.georgetown.edu/faculty/irvinem/CCT510/Sources/Huntington-ClashofCivilizations-1993.html>.

Also available through the Foreign Affairs web site, www.foreignaffairs.org.

Final Exam:

Thursday, March 15th from 130-318pm in Scott Laboratory 0050