

# The United States in World Politics

Political Science 245  
Autumn 2005  
SM 1048  
T, TH 9:30-11:18

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## Course Description

This course proceeds in two parts. First, we will discuss the three prominent schools of thought in international relations (IR) scholarship. Among other things, we will cover the major principles, assumptions, and expectations that underpin realism, liberalism, and social constructivism. Second, we will focus on contemporary issues in American foreign policy, such as terrorism and failed states. You should look at the first part as providing the foundation for the substantive issues that we will cover later in the quarter.

## Course Requirements

- Mid-term @ 30 %
- Final Exam @ 30 %
- 7-10 page paper @ 25 %
- Attendance/Class participation @ 15%

There are three required assignments. You will submit a critical paper that analyzes one class reading. For the purposes of this class, you will choose one reading from a list that I will provide, and then offer a sophisticated critique. Each paper should be structured in five parts: (1) an introduction with a clearly stated argument; (2) a brief summary of the reading; (3) a critique of the reading that tells me what you think are its strengths and weaknesses; (4) a section that points out ways that the article could be improved; and (5) a conclusion that suggests implications for U.S. foreign policy. I will hand out more specific paper guidelines during the quarter. Papers are due in class on Thursday, December 1.

You will also have a mid-term and final exam that tests your ability to recall and synthesize the main arguments of the readings and other IR scholarship presented in class. Both the mid-term and final exam will consist of multi-part essay questions. Rather than seeking to trick you, I will pass out a study guide with 8-10 potential exam questions about a week before each exam. This should provide you with more than enough time to think about the questions, re-read material and study notes, and prepare thoughtful, coherent answers. The mid-term and final exam will test your ability to answer two of the study guide questions.

Please note that attendance/class participation will NOT be a murky component of your grade. Instead, attendance will be taken throughout the quarter, and your attendance frequency will strongly determine how many points (out of 15) you receive. Students who vigorously participate can enhance their attendance scores.

## **GEC Goals and Objectives**

### **Goals/ Rationale**

1. International issues courses help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and the world.
2. Courses in social science help students understand human behavior and cognition, and the structures of human societies, cultures and institutions.

### **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.
2. Students understand the theories and methods of scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies.
3. Students comprehend human differences and similarities in various psychological, social, cultural, economic, geographic, and political contexts.
4. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

## **Late Policy and Missed Exams**

Failure to submit papers by the assigned due date listed above will result in a one full letter grade deduction (A to B, B to C, and so on) per day. Only in dramatic cases will you be allowed to complete the mid-term (MID-TERM: Tuesday, October 18, 9:30-11:18) or final exam (FINAL: Wednesday, December 7, 9:30-11:18) should you fail to take them at their scheduled times.

## **Readings**

There is one required book for this class: Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: W.W. Norton, 2004). You can purchase the book at SBX. All supplemental readings will be placed on reserve in the main library and most can be found online. You can access all of the online readings through the OSU library web site. Go to the library homepage (<http://library.osu.edu>). Next click on the "E-Journals" link (left side of web page, under "Quicklinks"). On the next page, (at the upper lefthand corner) click on "off campus sign in," and sign in with your OSU username and password. If you don't sign in, assuming you're off campus, you won't have access to OSU's online journals. You'll then be sent back to the "E-journals page." Now simply search for the *title of the journal* (say, International Security or Foreign Affairs), and then click on the link that contains the volume with the desired reading.

Also, for your convenience, below I have supplied direct links, when possible, to a number of the of the class readings. The good part is that this course requires no outside research. And when appropriate, I can certainly point out especially important parts of readings to which you should devote more attention.

## **Misc.**

While this course doesn't require outside research, you will probably find it useful to incorporate current events into your papers as a way to bolster your arguments and poke holes in the claims made by various authors. I encourage you to look at some of these sources: *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, the *BBC*, *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, *Financial Times*, *The Economist*, *Foreign Affairs*, *The National Interest*, and *Foreign Policy*, all of which are either available online, at the main library, or at your local bookstore.

## **Schedule of Readings**

Sept. 22      Class Introduction

## **I. Theoretical Foundations**

Sept. 27      ***Anarchy***  
John J. Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power," in Mingst and Snyder, pp.54-72.

Hedley Bull, "Does Order Exist in World Politics," in M&S, pp. 120-124.

Sept. 29      ***Realism***  
Hans Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory of International Relations" and "Political Power," in M&S, pp. 49-53.

Hans Morgenthau, "The Balance of Power," "Different Methods of the Balance of Power," and "Evaluation of the Balance of Power," in M&S, pp. 124-129.

Robert Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma," in M&S, pp. 309-322.

Oct. 4      ***Liberalism***  
& 6      G. John Ikenberry, "Is American Multilateralism in Decline?" in M&S, pp. 262-282.  
John J. Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," in M&S, pp. 283-294.

Woodrow Wilson, "The Fourteen Points," in M&S, pp. 26-28.

Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, *Power and Interdependence: World Politics in*

*Transition* (Boston: Little, Brown, and Co, 1977), pp. 1-35. (only on reserve in main library)

Oct. 11 ***Social Constructivism***

Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics," *International Organization*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (Spring 1992), pp. 391-425. (OSU libraries: <http://library.osu.edu>; also on reserve)

Martha Finnemore, "Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention," in *M&S*, pp. 102-118.

Oct. 13 ***Review Session***

Stephen Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," in *M&S*, pp. 4-11.

Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," *Foreign Policy* (November/December 2004), pp. 52-62. (OSU libraries: <http://library.osu.edu>; also on reserve)

Oct. 18 ***Mid-term***

## **II. Issues in Contemporary U.S. Foreign Policy**

Oct. 20 ***Unipolarity and Responses to American Power Dominance***

William C. Wohlforth, "The Stability of a Unipolar World," *International Security*, Vol. 24, No. 1 (Summer 1999), pp. 5-42.  
([http://mitpress.mit.edu/journals/pdf/isec\\_24\\_01\\_5\\_0.pdf](http://mitpress.mit.edu/journals/pdf/isec_24_01_5_0.pdf); or OSU libraries: <http://library.osu.edu>; also on reserve)

Jeremy Pressman, "If Not Balancing, What? Forms of Resistance to American Hegemony," BCSIA Discussion Paper 2004-02, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, March 2004.  
([http://bcsia.ksg.harvard.edu/BCSIA\\_content/documents/Pressman\\_2004-02\\_for\\_web.pdf](http://bcsia.ksg.harvard.edu/BCSIA_content/documents/Pressman_2004-02_for_web.pdf); also on reserve)

Stephen Walt, "Taming American Power," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 5 (September/October 2005), pp. 105-120. (OSU libraries: <http://library.osu.edu>; also on reserve)

Oct. 25 ***U.S. Grand Strategy***

Charles Krauthammer, "The Unipolar Moment Revisited," *The National Interest*, No. 70 (Winter 2002/03), pp. 5-17.  
([http://www.cfr.org/pdf/Krauthammer\\_347.pdf](http://www.cfr.org/pdf/Krauthammer_347.pdf); or OSU libraries: <http://library.osu.edu>; also on reserve)

Joseph Nye, "U.S. Power and Strategy After Iraq," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 82, No. 4 (July/August 2003), pp. 60-73.

([http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/news/opeds/2003/nye\\_usiraq\\_foraffairs\\_070103.htm](http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/news/opeds/2003/nye_usiraq_foraffairs_070103.htm);  
or OSU libraries: <http://library.osu.edu>; also on reserve)

Oct. 27 ***Failed States***

Robert I. Rotberg, "The New Nature of Nation-State Failure," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (Summer 2002), pp. 85-96.  
(<http://www.twq.com/02summer/rotberg.pdf>; or OSU libraries:  
<http://library.osu.edu>; also on reserve)

Robert I. Rotberg, "Failed States in a World of Terror," in M&S, pp. 157-163.

Nov. 1

***Ethnic conflict***

John Mueller, "The Banality of Ethnic War," *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 1 (Summer 2000), pp. 42-70.  
(<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndsu/ambrosio/ethnicconflicts/banality.html>; or OSU  
libraries: <http://library.osu.edu>; also on reserve)

Barry R. Posen, "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict," in M&S, pp. 357-366.

Scott Straus, "Sudan and Genocide," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 1 (January/February 2005), pp. 123-133. (OSU libraries: <http://library.osu.edu>; also on reserve)

Nov. 3

***Democracy in International Relations***

Immanuel Kant, "To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch," in M&S, pp. 20-24.

Michael Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," in M&S, pp. 73-86.

Jonathan Monten, "The Roots of the Bush Doctrine: Power, Nationalism, and Democracy Promotion in U.S. Strategy," *International Security*, Vol. 29, No. 4 (Spring 2005), pp. 112-156. (OSU libraries: <http://library.osu.edu>; also on reserve)

Gregory Gause, "Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 5 (September/October 2005), pp. 62-76. (OSU libraries: <http://library.osu.edu>; also on reserve)

Robert Conquest, "Downloading Democracy," *The National Interest*, No. 78 (Winter 2004/05), pp. 29-32. (OSU libraries: <http://library.osu.edu>; also on reserve)

Nov. 8

***The Roots of Terror***

- & 10 Michael Mousseau, "Market Civilization and its Clash with Terror,"  
*International Security*, Vol. 27, No. 3 (Winter 2002/02), pp. 5-29.  
 ([http://bcsia.ksg.harvard.edu/BCSIA\\_content/documents/88503\\_mousseau.pdf](http://bcsia.ksg.harvard.edu/BCSIA_content/documents/88503_mousseau.pdf); or  
 OSU libraries: <http://library.osu.edu/>; also on reserve)
- Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" in M&S, pp. 163-169.
- Edward Said, "The Clash of Ignorance," in M&S, pp. 170-173.
- Audrey Kurth Cronin, "Behind the Curve: Globalization and International  
 Terrorism," in M&S, pp. 367-381.
- Robert A. Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," in M&S, pp. 382-  
 401.
- Fareed Zakaria, "The Politics of Rage: Why Do They Hate Us?" *Newsweek*,  
 October 15, 2001.  
 ([http://www.fareedzakaria.com/articles/newsweek/101501\\_why.html](http://www.fareedzakaria.com/articles/newsweek/101501_why.html); also on  
 reserve)
- Nov. 15 ***Nuclear Proliferation***  
 John Mueller, "The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons: Stability in the  
 Postwar World," in M&S, pp. 341-347.
- Scott Sagan and Kenneth Waltz, "Indian and Pakistani Nuclear Weapons: For  
 Better or Worse?" in M&S, pp. 322-341.
- Graham Allison, "How to Stop Nuclear Terror," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 83, No. 1  
 (January/February 2004), pp. 64-74.  
 ([http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20040101faessay83107/graham-allison/how-to-  
 stop-nuclear-terror.html?mode=print](http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20040101faessay83107/graham-allison/how-to-stop-nuclear-terror.html?mode=print); or OSU libraries: <http://library.osu.edu/>; also  
 on reserve)
- Nov. 17 ***Iraq***  
 Kenneth M. Pollack, "Next Stop Baghdad?" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 81, No. 2  
 (March/April 2002), pp. 32-47. (<http://www.cfr.org/publication.php?id=4484>;  
 OSU libraries: <http://library.osu.edu/>; also on reserve)
- Chaim Kaufmann, "Threat Inflation and the Failure of the Marketplace of Ideas,"  
*International Security*, Vol. 29, No. 1 (Summer 2004), pp. 5-48.  
 ([http://mitpress.mit.edu/journals/pdf/isec\\_29\\_1\\_5\\_0.pdf](http://mitpress.mit.edu/journals/pdf/isec_29_1_5_0.pdf); or OSU libraries:  
<http://library.osu.edu/>; also on reserve)
- Nov. 22 ***Empire***

Robert Jervis, "The Compulsive Empire," in M&S, pp. 138-141.

Jack Snyder, "Imperial Temptations," *The National Interest*, No. 71 (Spring 2003) pp. 29-40. (OSU libraries: <http://library.osu.edu>; also on reserve)

Michael Doyle, "International Intervention," in M&S, pp. 347-357.

Nov. 29

***Globalization***

David Held, Anthony McGrew, with David Goldblatt and Jonathan Perraton, "Globalization," in M&S, pp. 462-471.

Bruce R. Scott, "The Great Divide in the Global Village," in M&S, pp. 421-430.

Thomas Friedman, "The Backlash," in M&S, pp. 471-476.

Joseph Stiglitz, "The Way Ahead," in M&S, pp. 437-460.

Dec. 1

***Review session***

\*\*Papers due\*\*

Dec. 7

***Final exam***