

Course Syllabus
Political Science 145
The Politics of Global Problems
Winter 2006

Lectures: Monday/Wednesday, 1:30 – 2:48

Professor Alexander Thompson
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Office hrs.: Friday, 12-2

Course Description

This course introduces students to the study of international relations. The course begins with an historical overview of the international system and the rise and functions of nation-states. We then examine various levels of analysis and theoretical perspectives on international relations—including Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism—and discuss the nature of foreign policy decision-making. The second half of the course applies these concepts to such issues as war and peace, the politics of economic relations, international organizations, ethnic conflict, the environment, human rights, and globalization.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend every lecture and recitation session and to keep themselves updated on current events involving international affairs. We will begin every Wednesday session with a discussion of relevant current events. Graded components include: (1) a midterm exam, (2) a final exam, (3) 2 quizzes, (4) a 3-page memo on a contemporary international relations topic, and (5) attendance and class participation during recitation sessions. The exams will test course readings as well as information covered during lectures and recitations, including discussion of current events. Note that class lectures and recitation sessions will sometimes cover material that is not covered in the course texts; similarly, the readings may contain material that is not covered in the lectures or in recitation.

The final grade will be determined as follows:

Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	30%
Memo	15% (due February 1; guidelines will be handed out in class)
Quizzes	10% (5% each; on January 15 and February 27)
Participation	15% (includes attendance, active participation in discussions, and any other requirements of recitation sessions)

Course Texts

The course readings are from the following required books, both available at SBX bookstore:

- Karen Mingst, *Essentials of International Relations*, 3rd Ed. (W.W. Norton)
- Karen Mingst & Jack Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 2nd Ed. (W.W. Norton)

Academic Honesty

All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy. If you have any question about the University's Code of Student Conduct, please see the web site: <http://oaa.ohio-state.edu/coam/home.html>.

Students with Disabilities

If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact me as soon as possible (within the first two weeks of the quarter) so 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.

January 4 -- Introductory Session

What are international relations and why are they important? What are the goals of IR as a field of study?
What are the goals and organization of this course?

January 9 -- Conceptual Foundations of IR I: Levels of Analysis and Realism

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 3
Thucydides, in Mingst & Snyder
Morgenthau, in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 49-53

January 11 -- Conceptual Foundations of IR II: Liberalism and Constructivism

Readings: Kant, in Mingst & Snyder
Wilson, in Mingst & Snyder
Suggested: Walt, in Mingst & Snyder

January 16 -- No Class; Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

January 18 -- Historical Foundations of Modern IR

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 2

January 23 -- The Structure and Actors I: The International System

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 4
Mearsheimer, in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 54-72
Suggested: Wallerstein, in Mingst & Snyder

January 25 -- The Structure and Actors II: The State

(Quiz 1)

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 5
Krasner, in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 143-49

January 30 -- The Structure and Actors III: Foreign Policy, Elites, and Domestic Interests

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 6
Hermann & Hagan, in Mingst & Snyder

February 1 -- War and Armed Conflict I: Causes and Types of War

(Memo due at beginning of class)

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 8
von Clausewitz, in Mingst & Snyder

February 6 -- War and Armed Conflict II: Deterrence and Balance of Power

Readings: Morgenthau, in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 124-9
Gaddis, in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 33-47
Suggested: Sagan & Waltz, in Mingst & Snyder

February 8 -- Midterm Exam

February 13 -- War and Armed Conflict III: Sources of Order

Readings: Bull, in Mingst & Snyder
Jervis, in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 309-22

February 15 -- Ethnic Conflict and Terrorism

Readings: Huntington, in Mingst & Snyder
Said, in Mingst & Snyder
Pape, in Mingst & Snyder
Suggested: Posen, in Mingst & Snyder

February 20 -- International Political Economy I

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 9
Gilpin, in Mingst & Snyder

February 22 -- International Political Economy II

Readings: Krasner, in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 410-21

February 27 -- Globalization

(Quiz 2)

Readings: Held et al., in Mingst & Snyder

March 1 -- Prospects for International Governance I: International Organizations and Law

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 7

March 6 -- Prospects for International Governance II: Substate and Non-Government Actors

Readings: Keck & Sikkink, in Mingst & Snyder

March 8 -- Unilateralism versus Multilateralism in U.S. Foreign Policy

Readings: Jervis, in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 138-41

March 13 -- Final Exam. Monday, 1:30 – 3:18