

Politics of Global Problems

Political Science 145

Spring 2004

TTh 2:30 – 4:30 pm

ML 115

Course Web site:

<http://psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/grads/coggins/>

Bridget Coggins

Office Hours: F 10-12

(or by appointment)

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Course Description:

The Politics of Global Problems is an introduction to international relations theory and practice. The course begins with a broad theoretical overview that includes power-based and foreign policy approaches to international politics. Though the course often reflects upon 20th century politics, our primary focus will be upon contemporary international problems. We will pay special attention to issues like ethnic conflict, nuclear and other weapons proliferation, terrorism, international organization and law. The final part of the course looks at competing predictions and recommendations for US policy into the 21st century. How should the preeminent power in the world behave? Can the United States maintain both its power and prestige or will its period of relative prosperity be short-lived? Finally, how will the world around us change in the years to come?

Class Participation and Quizzes:	15% (best 3 scores out of 4)
Response Papers:	20% (2 papers, 10% each)
Midterm Exam:	30%
Final Exam:	35%
Extra Credit:	2.5% (details to follow)

Required Readings:

All listed readings are required readings. If a particular topic sparks your interest, however, do feel free to ask me for additional readings.

All of the required course books are available at SBX on High Street. Both books are popular however, and may be found *much* cheaper on-line. The Ikenberry book is on 2 hour reserve at the Main Library and is also available at the Columbus Public Library.

The New York Times (The paper version or the on-line version will suffice. Hard copies of the paper are available at a significant discount to students. On-line copies of the paper are free of charge.) Students are expected to read the *NYT International Section* Monday through Friday each week. Students should come to class prepared to discuss current events with reference to our coursework. Quizzes may also cover *NYT* article content.

Goldstein, Joshua S. (2004) *International Relations, 5th Edition* Washington, D.C.: Pearson/Longman ISBN: 0-321-19550-7

Ikenberry, G. John (2004) *America Unrivaled: The Future of the Balance of Power* Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press ISBN: 0801488028.

****Additional links to readings for the course are available on the course Web site. Click on the “Classes” button and then look under 145.**

Student Responsibilities:

Assigned readings should be completed *before* Tuesday's lecture each week. Reading before the lectures will insure that any questions or uncertainties that there might be about the course material will be discussed (and hopefully clarified) in class. The reading load is usually around 50 pages per week (excluding *NYT* content). Reading assignments become shorter as the quarter progresses in order to allow students to focus upon exams and their response papers.

I prefer not to lecture at you for an hour and forty-eight minutes each session. If you have questions or comments about the lecture or readings, please don't be shy. I will also provide a number of opportunities for discussion, small group and interactive demonstrations. Strong participation and feedback are essential to your learning more and my teaching better. It also just makes things more interesting.

Attendance at each lecture is not mandatory, but it will greatly increase your chances of success in this class. If you do miss a lecture, please contact your classmates for their notes first and then attend office hours if you have additional questions or need clarification. You will know that you have missed too many lectures when your grade begins to slip and your classmates refuse to share their notes with you. While students with legitimate absences will be accommodated, I will not rehash entire lectures for those who can not find the time to attend class.

Additional guidelines for papers and information on the structure and content of the midterm and final exam will be provided during lectures. I am also happy to address questions or review rough drafts of papers during my office hours.

Please note that I *do not* have a late paper policy outlined in the syllabus. Except in extreme and unavoidable circumstances, I will not accept late papers. You know when the course papers are due as of today, plan accordingly. The same holds for make-up exams. If you are ill or have a family emergency, a written excuse detailing the reason for your absence or tardiness is required (though this alone is not always sufficient to warrant a make-up, e.g. *Here's my plane ticket from Barbados. Can I take the final two weeks late?*). If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to attend an exam, make arrangements before, rather than after the absence.

Finally, if you begin to have difficulties with the coursework, please contact me so we can work together to remedy the problem. Don't wait until the 9th week of the quarter to ask for help if you need it.

Quizzes and Participation: There will be four short quizzes throughout the quarter. Your three highest scores out of four will constitute your participation grade. I will drop the low score. The quizzes are designed to measure student participation and engagement with the coursework. Quizzes will include (but will not be limited to) lecture topics, reading assignments, and *New York Times* article content. They will be multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank. Quizzes will be *easy* if you read the assigned materials and attend class regularly.

Response Papers: (paper #1 due by 5/4) (paper #2 due by 6/1) Response papers provide an opportunity for students to react and respond to the ideas presented in the readings. These short papers (about two pages single-spaced) are somewhat informal, but they should clearly convey the author's arguments as well as the student's own take on the subject.
Please Note: The informal structure of the response paper does not imply a lower standard for your written work. Improper grammar, spelling and punctuation will adversely affect your grade.

Midterm Exam: (5/4) The midterm exam is multiple choice and covers course material through the 5th week of the quarter.

Final Exam: (6/3 or during regularly scheduled final exam time) The final exam is cumulative and will include multiple choice, identification, short answer and essay questions.

Extra Credit: 2.5% extra credit (added to your final course grade) is available to those students willing to participate in experiments conducted by the political science department. 2.5% may seem like too little reward, but it is often the difference between a B+ and an A-. Helping other students and professors of politics is also good karma. Details for those wanting to participate will follow in class.

Additional Course Notes:

Disability: Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and seeking available assistance, by the end of the first week of the quarter. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung in the Political Science Department if you require assistance at 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall, 292-2880.

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. If you have any questions about what constitutes either of these offenses, please see official OSU policy or ask me during office hours. If you have questions about how to appropriately cite sources in your research papers, please see the "Links" page on my Web site. Proper citation formats can be found toward the bottom of the page. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

Course Schedule:

**Lecture topics may vary slightly based upon class interests and discussion time.

PART 1 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

Week 1: **Course Introduction**
(Read Goldstein Chapter 1, "Understanding International Relations")

Tuesday (3/30) What is international relations? And how do we study it?

Thursday (4/1) An Extraordinarily Short History of International Politics

Week 2: **Core Concepts in International Security**
(Read Goldstein Chapter 2, "Power Politics", Skim Chapter 3, "Alternatives to Power Politics")

Tuesday (4/6) Realism, Neo-Realism and Great Power Politics

Thursday (4/8) Liberalism and Alternative Approaches to IR

<u>Week 3:</u>	<u>The Foreign Policy Approach to IR</u> <i>(Read Goldstein Chapter 4, "Foreign Policy" and Reading for Tuesday's activity on Web site)</i>
Tuesday (4/13)	Introduction to Foreign Policy Decision-Making US Foreign Policy in Iraq: Alternative Lenses
Thursday (4/15)	CLASS CANCELLED
<u>Week 4:</u>	<u>The Individual in International Relations</u> <i>(Read Byman and Pollack and personality profiles of G.W Bush and Hussein on Web site)</i>
Tuesday (4/20)	Individuals in International Relations: How Important <i>are</i> Personal Characteristics?
Thursday (4/22)	Alternative Approaches to Studying Individuals
<u>Week 5:</u>	<u>International Conflict and War</u> <i>(Read Goldstein Chapter 5, "International Conflict")</i>
Tuesday (4/27)	Theories of War and Peace
Thursday (4/29)	"Types" of Conflict
<u>Week 6/7:</u>	<u>Arms and Strategy</u> <i>(Read Goldstein Chapter 6, "Military Force")</i>
Tuesday (5/4)	Midterm Exam (Response Paper #1 due by beginning of class)
Thursday (5/6)	Conventional Uses of Force
Tuesday (5/11)	Nuclear, Biological and Other Arms Proliferation
<u>Week 7/8:</u>	<u>International Organization and Law</u> <i>(Read Goldstein Chapter 7, "I.O. and Law")</i>
Thursday (5/13)	World Order, Norms and Organization
Tuesday (5/18)	The UN, International Law and Human Rights in Practice

PART 2 **CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES ON U.S. RELATIONS**

Week 8/9: **US Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War Era**
(Read Ikenberry (Ed.) America Unrivaled, TBA)

Thursday (5/20) The Contemporary World: Facts and Figures

Tuesday (5/25) Competing Strategies for the Post-Cold War Era

Week 9/10: **US Foreign Policy Today**
(Read Goldstein Op-Ed Section, p.54-69 and Readings on Web site)

Thursday (5/27) The Bush Doctrine and International Terrorism

Tuesday (6/1) Supporters and Critics of US Foreign Policy
(Response Paper #2 due by beginning of class)

Week 10: **Course Conclusion**

Thursday (6/3) Final Exam or Final Review Session