International Politics

The purpose of this course is to broaden our knowledge of international politics and to sharpen our analytical ability in interpreting world events. To accomplish this, we will focus on both traditional/classical as well as modern theories of international relations. Since many believe that there has not been a complete break or departure between traditional and modern theories, the two traditions will receive our attention throughout the semester. Whether it is the balance of power theory or any of the many political economy theories, all will be examined to assist in developing a scholarly approach to and an informed understanding of world politics. Thus there will always be a twofold emphasis: an introduction to theories and concepts in international relations, and an application of these theories to explain world conflicts, both in the past and in the post Cold War period.

STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE: Each class meeting will be divided between lectures and discussions on contemporary issues in international politics. Lectures will be accompanied by PowerPoint presentations and general outlines of lecture themes to be distributed before each lecture. In-class discussions will be based on handouts of articles on world politics from leading publications to be distributed in class or posted online. There will be three in-class examinations, including the final and two take-home written assignments (three pages each). The first in-class exam is objective (multiple choice & true and false), worth 20 points; the second is objective and subjective (short essays and definitions), worth 30 points; the third, a final, is both objective and subjective, worth 40 points. The first take-home written assignment is a research essay worth 5 points; the second, part of the final, is an essay based on assigned readings worth 5 points. This brings your total up to 100 points. The grading system for this class is as follows: the grade of A begins at 88; B at 78; C at 68; and D at 58. The course also provides you with the opportunity to earn an additional 10 points over the 100. This opportunity is in the form of 5 unannounced quizzes (each is worth 2 points; they are multiple choice & true and false) which can be given at anytime during the class and will cover the materials discussed up to and including the day of the quiz. Since these quizzes are not part of the basic course assignments, there will be no makeup or substitute assignments if they are missed. (Attendance is a must in this class. Absences exceeding four meetings will result in dropping you from class). In-class exams require a SCANTRON form #882 and a No. 2 pencil.

DROPPING THE CLASS REMAINS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

The two take-home written assignments differ from each other. The first is in the form of a research essay. For the paper to be accepted and graded, a one-page statement about the topic, thesis, and sources to be used is required. Only when the statement is approved, you can start writing the three-page research essay. A guideline handout on how to write
the assignments will be distributed in class. You can earn five points from this assignment. The second take-home assignment, which is due in the last week of classes, will be the take-home part of the final examination, and will also enable you to earn five points. More about it will be discussed as we approach the last week of classes.

**Learning Objectives.** In this class, you are expected to show a good grasp of the three levels of analysis and the ability to apply international relations theories to international conflicts or inter-state wars. Important also is the ability to develop and work on your research skills so you can integrate theory with the case study or the conflict to be examined.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

**Recommended & Background Books**

**FIRST WEEK**
General Introduction, Part I

**Idealism and Realism in World Politics.**
The Development of International Politics as a Science
Idealist and Realist Positions on War and Peace
Balance of Power as a Realist Theory of World Politics
Readings: “Realism and Idealism,” Encyclopedia of American Foreign Policy,
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_gx5215/is_2002/ai_n19132473
Edward Hallett Carr, *The Twenty Years’ Crisis, 1919-1939*, Chps 4 and 5 (recommended only)
http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/carr.htm

**SECOND WEEK**

**Idealism and Realism in World Politics, Part II**
Readings: “Realism and Idealism,” Encyclopedia of American Foreign Policy,
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_gx5215/is_2002/ai_n19132473
Edward Hallett Carr, *The Twenty Years’ Crisis, 1919-1939*, Chps 4 and 5
http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/carr.htm
Idealism in International Politics. Stephen D. Krasner Interview: Conversations with History, Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley
http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/people3/Krasner/krasner-con5.html
THIRD WEEK
Approaches to International Relations
International Relations in Daily Life
Thinking Theoretically
Making Sense of International Relations
Readings: Chp.1
The Neo-Neoconservatism, by Dena Roth
http://www.columbia.edu/cu/current/articles/summer2006/roth.html
The Neo-Cons and Iraq, by Peter Berkowitz
http://www.hoover.org/pubaffairs/dailyreport/archive/15764112.html
Hans Morgenthau and the Iraq war: realism versus neo-conservatism, by John J.
Mearsheimer
http://www.opendemocracy.net/democracy-americanpower/morgenthau_2522.jsp

FOURTH WEEK
The Historical Context of Contemporary International Relations
The Pre-Westphalian World
The Emergence of the Westphalian System
Europe in the Nineteenth Century
The Interwar Years and World War II
The Cold War
The Post Cold War Era
Learning from History
Readings: Chp.2

FIFTH WEEK
Contending Perspectives
Theory and the Levels of Analysis
Liberalism and Neoliberal Institutionalism
Realism and Neorealism
The Radical Perspective
Seeing the World through Theoretical Lenses
Readings: Chp.3

SIXTH WEEK
Contending Perspectives (continued)
Readings: Chp.3

FIRST EXAMINATION

SEVENTH WEEK
The International System
The Notion of a System
The International System According to Liberals
The International System According to Realists
The International System According to Radicals
Advantages and Disadvantages of the International System as a Level of Analysis
From the International System to the State
Readings: Chp.4
A Theory of International Politics. Kenneth Waltz Interview: Conversations with History, Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley
http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/people3/Waltz/waltz-con3.html
A Unipolar World. Kenneth Waltz Interview: Conversations with History, Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley
http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/people3/Waltz/waltz-con5.html

EIGHTH WEEK
The State
The State and the Nation
Contending Conceptualizations of the State
The Nature of State Power
Using State Power
Models of Foreign-Policy Decisionmaking
Challenges to the State
Readings: Chp.5

NINTH WEEK
The Individual
Foreign-Policy Elites: Individuals Who Matter
Private Individuals
Mass Publics
How Much Do Individuals Matter?
Readings: Chp.6

The Failure to See that The Shah Might Fall: The Jervis Post-Mortem For the CIA in Retrospect, Robert Jervis
http://www.international.ucla.edu/cms/files/jervis.pdf

TENTH WEEK
SECOND EXAMINATION

Intergovernmental Organizations, Nongovernmental Organizations, and International Law (Part I)
Realist Views of International Organization and Law
The Radical View of International Organization and Law
Organizations, and International Law Make a Difference?
Readings: Chp.7

ELEVENTH WEEK
Intergovernmental Organizations, Nongovernmental Organizations, and International Law (Part II)
Realist Views of International Organization and Law
The Radical View of International Organization and Law
Organizations, and International Law Make a Difference?
Readings: Chp. 7

TWELFTH WEEK
War and Strife
The Causes of War
The Changing Character of Warfare and Its Instruments
The Just War Tradition
Approaches to Managing Insecurity
Other Threats to International Security
International Security, Old and New
Readings: Chp. 8
Deterrence and Rogues. Kenneth Waltz Interview: Conversations with History, Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley
http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/people3/Waltz/waltz-con6.html

THIRTEENTH WEEK
International Political Economy
Contending Theoretical Approaches
Key Concepts in Liberal Economics
Power, Competition, and Development in the International Political Economy
The Role of Institutions in Managing Power, Competition, and Development
Readings: Chp. 9

FOURTEENTH WEEK
Transnational Issues
Health and Disease—Protecting Life in the Commons
The Environment—Protecting Space in the Global Commons
Human Rights—Protecting Human Dignity
The Impact of Globalizing Issues
Do Globalizing Issues Lead to Global Governance
Readings: Chp. 10

FIFTEENTH WEEK
Current Issues in the Globalization Debate


http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/03/magazine/03DOMINANCE.html?_r=2&oref=slogin&oref=slogin
SIXTEENTH WEEK

FINAL EXAMINATION

For all online readings, check my homepage and go to Political Science 7, Fall 2011
http://homepage.smc.edu/chalala_elie/