

***INTERNATIONAL POLITICS***

***GOVERNMENT 155***

**SECTION 1**

***WESLEYAN UNIVERSTIY***

**Fall 2009  
M,W 11:00-12:20  
PAC 104**

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**Teaching Apprentice: Elizabeth Trammell**

**Office Hours: TBA**

**I. Course Description**

**This course represents an introduction to the central concepts, theories, and empirical findings in the study of international politics. The principal actors, structures, and processes of international relations will be analyzed in a theoretical and historical context. Major topics include: nationalism and the national interest, power, diplomacy, game theory and bargaining, the causes of foreign policy, nuclear weapons and international security, imperialism, underdevelopment, international organizations, international resource management, the environment, trade, and transnational actors.**

**II. Requirements**

**Final course grades will be based on two longer papers, two exams, a few shorter papers and class participation. It is essential that you keep up with the readings so as to enhance participation, as well as avoiding excess reading before examinations and assignments. The lectures and discussions will be based upon the readings for the day. Discussion questions will be available on the syllabus. The questions will also serve as good study guides.**

**Grades will be assigned based on the following weights:**

**Participation            20%**

<b>Short papers</b>	<b>10%</b>	
<b>Paper 1</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>Due on or before Oct 12</b>
<b>Midterm</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>Due on or before Nov 9</b>
<b>Paper 2</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>Due on or before Dec 8</b>
<b>Final</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>According to University schedule</b>

**In addition to my regularly scheduled office hours, your T.A. will be holding office hours. The T.A. will also conduct help and review sessions before assignments and exams.**

### **III. Readings**

**All the readings on this syllabus will be required. The readings can also be found on reserve at the Olin Library Reserve Room. Most reserve readings will also be available online in electronic reserve.**

**Access to the readings will be password protected. The password for this course is**

**“govt155”**

**The following books will be used extensively and are recommended for purchase:**

**Robert Art and Robert Jervis, Eds., International Politics, Ninth Edition**

**Bruce Russett, Harvey Starr, and David Kinsella, World Politics, Ninth Edition**

**Giulio M. Gallarotti, The Power Curse**

**Robert Kennedy, Thirteen Days**

### **IV. Course Outline**

#### **INTRODUCTORY CLASS (Sept 9)**

#### **1. BASIC CONCEPTS, PROCESSES, AND THE NATURE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

**A. Nationalism and the Rise of the Nation State**  
(Sept 14)

*Discussion Questions: What is the nation-state? What functions does it serve? It is commonly argued that nationalism is an important factor holding nations together. Is this true? Is nationalism a natural phenomenon or does it have to be created by national leaders? Think about both the good and the bad effects of nationalism. Is the nation-state the ultimate form of human collectivity, or is there something beyond the nation-state?*

**John Herz, "The Rise and Demise of the Territorial State"**

**Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, pps. 51-64**

**B. National Interests and Goals**  
(Sept 16)

*Discussion Questions: What is the national interest? Whose interest is it really? Is Morgenthau correct in saying a general national interest exists for all nations, and that this national interest can be defined in terms of the accumulation of power? What is this power of which he speaks? If this were true, would it make the world a more dangerous place or peaceful place? What are Wolfers's "goals of foreign policy?" Do they make the world more dangerous or more peaceful?*

**Hans Morgenthau, Politics Among Nations, Chapter 3**

**Arnold Wolfers, "The Goals of Foreign Policy" in Discord and Collaboration, Chapter 5**

**C. Theories of International Politics**

**1. International Anarchy and Realism**  
(Sept 21)

*Discussion Questions: The Realist school of international politics has traditionally looked to Hobbes' Leviathan as an intellectual precursor. In Chapter 13 Hobbes paints a picture of what a community would be like without*

*central organization or rule. How would you describe this state-of-nature existence? What is anarchy all about? Can we draw realistic parallels between this state of nature and the world of international politics?*

**Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, Chapter 13**

**Art and Jervis, International Politics,  
pp. 1-14, 29-68**

## **2. Alternatives to Realism (Sept 23)**

*Discussion Questions: What are the alternatives to Realism? Are idealism and feminism a better way to approach world politics?*

**Hedley Bull, The Anarchical Society, Chapter 2**

**Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, pp. 27-49**

**Art and Jervis, International Politics, pp. 15-27**

## **D. The Means of Foreign Policy**

### **1. The Use of Force (Sept 28)**

*Discussion Questions: In the nuclear age, is the large scale use of force still a useful means of statecraft?*

**Art and Jervis, International Politics, pp. 127-138, 153-197**

**Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, “Complex Interdependence and the Role of Force”**

## **E. Balance of Power (Sept 30)**

*Discussion Questions: What is a balance of power? How does it differ from Elrod's Concert of Europe? When will nations prefer to bandwagon as opposed to balance according to Walt? What are the necessary conditions for a balance of power? Do we have a balance of power today?*

Art and Jervis, International Politics, pp. 96-103

Richard Elrod, "The Concert of Europe" World Politics  
(January 1976)

Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, pp. 85-103

## Oct 5

### *Computer workshop on Internet-based Research*

#### **F. Strategic Interaction: Bargaining and the Games States Play**

##### **1. Game Theory (Oct 8)**

*Discussion Questions: We will discuss our experience in the simulation game. Think fully about how the Prisoner's Dilemma can be used to explain world politics. What reasons can you give for why you followed the strategy that you did? What relation does this have to international politics?*

**Robert Jervis, "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma"**

**Robert Axelrod, The Evolution of Cooperation,  
Chapters 1,4**

##### **2. Bargaining (Oct 12)**

*Discussion Questions: Schelling presents numerous strategies for bargaining. Especially interesting are his concepts of "the power through binding oneself," "the advantage of the last clear chance," and the whole idea of the rationality of irrationality. What are these strategies? How can they be used to win a chicken game?*

**Thomas Schelling, The Strategy of Conflict,  
Chapter 2 up to p. 46 and Chapter 3 up to p. 58**

**Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics,**

pp. 123-130

**1st PAPER due Oct 12**

Find an event in world politics, either old or current, and use a particular theory or concept that we learned to explain it. Write four double –spaced pages and please cite your sources,

**2. DETERMINANTS OF FOREIGN POLICY**

**A. The Levels of Analysis  
(Oct 14)**

*Discussion Questions: What is the whole concept of levels of analysis? How does Waltz' 3 levels (which he calls images) explain war? Russett and Starr present an alternative "menu" of levels. Which of Russett and Starr's levels do Waltz' levels correspond to?*

**Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapter 1**

**Kenneth Waltz, Man, the State and War, Chapters 2, 4, 6**

**B. Structural Causes of Foreign Policy  
(Oct 14)**

*Discussion Questions: How does the structural level explain foreign policy? What are its advantages and disadvantages? How would you explain the Gulf War on a structural level? Why does Mearsheimer say we will miss the Cold War? Do you agree with his argument?*

**Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapters 4, 5**

**John Mearsheimer, "Why We Will Miss the Cold War"**

**C. Domestic Causes of Foreign Policy  
(Oct 19)**

*Discussion Questions: Woodrow Wilson, former teacher and football coach at Wesleyan University, argued that a democratic world (i.e., where all nations are governed by democratic principles) was a safe world. Michael Doyle has recently restated the argument in terms of the passivity of liberal states. What is the logic of their argument? What are the strengths and weaknesses? Consider the evidence too (pay attention to Doyle's use of the evidence). In democracies, popular views are supposedly the primary*

*shapers of foreign policy. Is this true of the U.S.? Does the U.S. have a truly democratic foreign policy?*

**Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapter 6**

**Woodrow Wilson, excerpts from Public Papers, in Wolfers and Martin, Anglo-American Tradition in Foreign Affairs (look under Wilson "Excerpts" in Reserve Room)**

**Art and Jervis, International Politics, pp. 83-95**

**D. Bureaucratic Politics  
(Oct 19)**

*Discussion Questions: What are the main principles of the bureaucratic politics approach to explaining foreign policy as described by Arnold Kanter and Morton Halperin? How do these principles explain the Vietnam War? What are your main critiques of the BP approach to foreign policy?*

**Morton Halperin and Arnold Kanter, "The Bureaucratic Perspective"**

**Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, pp. 174-180**

**James Thompson, "How Could Vietnam Happen?" (look under Halperin and Kanter in Reserve)**

**E. Decision Making and Psychological Sources of Foreign Policy  
(Oct 21, 28)**

**1. Psychological Theories of Foreign Policy  
(Oct 21)**

*Discussion Questions: The decision-making level of analysis explains foreign policy by looking at the belief systems and thought processes of leaders. Hence, it proposes that we learn about foreign policy through a familiarity with the psychology of leaders. What are the principal psychological processes that affect foreign policy decisions?*

**Robert Jervis, "Hypotheses on Misperception"**

**Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapter 7**

**2. Psychological Sources and the Cuban Missile Crisis  
(Oct 28)**

*Discussion Questions: Which of these psychological processes were especially visible and important in the Cuban Missile Crisis case?*

**Robert Kennedy, Thirteen Days**

**Assignment:** Let us pretend that you are an advisor to President Kennedy before the decision to blockade Cuba was made. Based on what you learned about the decision, write a two-page memo to President Kennedy suggesting the best plan to deal with the missiles in Cuba. We will discuss your plans on October 28.

**F. Levels of Analysis and the Decision to Drop the A-Bomb**

**Nov 2**

**The class will watch the documentary "The Decision to Drop the Bomb."**

**The film analyzes the formative events which led to Truman's decision to use the atomic bomb. While watching the film, think about which levels of analysis best explain Truman's decision.**

**Nov 4**

**Discussion of the decision to drop the bomb and levels of analysis.**

**Assignment:** Let us pretend that you are an advisor to President Truman before the decision to drop the a-bomb was made. Based on what you learned about the a-bomb decision, write a two-page memo to President Truman suggesting the best plan to end the war. We will discuss your plans on November 4.

**MIDTERM due November 9**

**3. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE NUCLEAR AGE**

**Nov 9**

**The class will watch the documentary "War Plans."  
The film discusses the problem of national security  
in the nuclear age.**

**Nov 11**

*Discussion Questions: What is the best nuclear strategy for nations to follow in order to assure ongoing peaceful relations? There has been a long debate between MAD (mutual assured destruction) advocates and counter-force (aim at and destroy weapons rather than cities). MAD proponents argue that you minimize peace when you aim at cities (i.e., when you hold the other nation's population hostage). Which do you think is a more stabilizing strategy? Where is the best place to aim your weapons? Moreover, what should our plan be if we begin fighting a war? Which targets would we attack first? What kind of retaliation can we expect? Some people (e.g., MAD advocates) might argue that the best plan is no plan because other nations will be convinced that the war will get out of hand and therefore be deterred from starting hostilities. (In this case, "no plan" would signal an irrational conduct of war which would be akin to using the strategy of the rationality of irrationality in a Chicken game). Can nuclear deterrence be better modeled as Chicken or Prisoner's Dilemma?*

**We will discuss the film and the following readings:**

**Art and Jervis, International Politics, pp. 139-152**

**Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics,  
Chapters 8, 9**

**Robert Art, "A Defensible Defense"**

**4. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, LAW, AND TRANSNATIONAL ACTORS**

**A. Transnational Actors  
(Nov 16)**

*Discussion Questions: LeFeber talks about the advent of a global culture based on the spread of common images and values (capitalism, the Swoosh) through the media. Chang cites hip-hop and youth culture as a main factor driving these images and values. Is this the origin of the new global civilization, or will*

*nationalism and other forms of restricted identification (ethnicity, religion) keep the world from making the leap to one community? Will we have one world, or will we be faced with what Huntington calls the "clash of civilizations"?*

**Jeff Chang, "It's a Hip-Hop World"**

**Walter LeFeber, "Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism"**

**Sam Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations"**

**Leslie Sklair, "Sociology of the Global System"**

**Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, pp. 418-429**

**B. International Law**  
(Nov 18)

*Discussion Questions: What are Schwarzenberger's categories of international law? How would you describe the general nature of international law? How does it differ from domestic law? Would you say that international law has influence in international politics?*

**George Schwarzenberger, The Frontiers of International Law, Chapter 1**

**Art and Jervis, International Politics, pp. 504-538**

**Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapter 10**

**C. International Organization**

**1. Determinants of the Growth of International Organization**

(Nov 18)

*Discussion Questions: Inspect the graph which shows the growth of international organization over the last two centuries. Based on these trends you see, what forces would you say cause the growth of international organization. For example, notice the sharp rise in the number of international organizations after World War I and World War II. Based on this one, would you say that international organizations tend to increase sharply in number after major wars*

*after major wars (why is this?) Look over the graph carefully and try to come up with other explanations of the growth and timing of international organization.*

**Harold Jacobson, Networks of Interdependence,  
Chapters 1, 3**

**2. The Structure and Role of the United Nations in  
Historical Perspective  
(Nov 23)**

**We will be watching the documentary "The United Nations." The film explores the growth of the UN and primary functions of the UN system in an historical context.**

**3. Competing Theories of International Organization  
(Nov 23)**

*Discussion Questions: How would you describe or characterize the four major theories of international organization: federalism, functionalism, neofunctionalism, and neo-Marxism? Which best describes the growth of international organization in our own times (let us say over the last century)?*

**Harold Jacobson, Networks of Interdependence,  
Chapter 4**

**5. POWER AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY**

**1. Power  
(Nov 30)**

*Discussion Questions: What are the ideas of the power curse and power illusion? Is the U.S. presently suffering from such a curse? What can it do to avoid the pitfalls of power illusion?*

**Giulio M. Gallarotti, The Power Curse**

**Paper 2 due Dec 8**

**Based on the idea of the power curse and power illusion, try and construct a plan by which the U.S. can maximize its influence over the next two decades. What strategies should it**

embrace? What strategies should it avoid? Write four double-spaced pages and cite your sources.

## 6. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

### A. Theories of International Political Economy

(Dec 2)

*Discussion Questions: Gilpin describes and analyzes the three major theories of international economic relations: liberalism, Marxism, and mercantilism. What are the major tenets of each theory? Which theory best describes international economic relations today?*

Art and Jervis, International Politics, pp. 263-279

### B. Trade: The U.S.-Japanese Dimension

(Dec 2)

**The class will watch "Talking Tough to Tokyo" a broadcast of a roundtable discussion among trade experts about the current state of Japanese-U.S. trade relations and prospects for future U.S. trade policy.**

*Discussion Questions: We can learn a good deal from present day Japanese-U.S. trade relations: there is no question that they represent a microcosm of international trade relations. The main source of friction has been the enormous bilateral trade deficit the U.S. presently runs against Japan (over the past 10 years, U.S. has been consistently buying 50 billion more in goods from Japan than Japan buys from the U.S.). Where is the main cause of this uneven trade relationship? Many in the U.S. contend it stems from unfair and restrictive trade practices in Japan (barriers, and export subsidies). Many in Japan contend it stems from the growing uncompetitiveness of American industry. What do you think? What should be done about the problem?*

**We will discuss the film in light of the following readings:**

**Steven Hanke "U.S.-Japanese Trade: Myths and**

**Realities''**

**Jacob Schlesinger, "U.S. Chip Makers''**

**Richard Rosecrance "The Rise of the Trading State''**

**C. Underdevelopment**

**Dec 7**

**We will watch the documentary "The Tools Of Exploitation" from the film series "The Africans." The film explores the roots of economic underdevelopment in Africa.**

**We will discuss the film in light of the following readings:**

**Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapter 15**

**Theotonio Dos Santos, "The Structure of Dependence''**

**Peter Kilby, "The Internal Forces Afflicting Africa''**

**Bauer and Yamey, "Against the New Economic Order''**

**D. OPEC**

**(Dec 9)**

*Discussion Questions: OPEC is the most powerful international resource cartel in history. It has survived the ongoing problem of cheating among its member states (i.e., countries producing more than their quotas) and, more recently, have survived two devastating wars among its members (Iran-Iraq and the Gulf War). What has been the secret of its success? More specifically, why has OPEC achieved and maintained the strength it has enjoyed? Furthermore, can we expect the cartel to last into the future, or are its days numbered? What is the future of oil? What can governments do to reduce their dependence on oil?*

**Stephen Krasner "Oil is the Exception"**

**C. Fred Bergsten "The Treat is Real"**  
(look under Foreign Policy 14 in reserve)

**Moises Naim, "The Devil's Excrement"**

**Daniel Yergin, "It's Still the One"**

**Michael Grunwald, "Seven Myths about Alternative Energy"**

**David Rothkopf, "Is a Green World a Safer World? Not Necessarily"**

**E. The Tragedy of the Commons: Preserving Our  
Global Environment**

**(Dec 9)**

*Kirk: "Spock, our planet has been ravaged by war for so many years. How can you explain it? It is so brutal and violent. Surely, there must be a better way?"*

*Spock: "Yes Captain, violent and brutal indeed. But it is true of you humans that you so often obtain that which you least desire."*

*Mr. Spock's comments, from a Star Trek episode, ring true of the environment. Surely, no one wants the environmental degradation which now exists on our planet, but we do indeed experience such degradation. How do you explain it? Is the environment indeed in serious trouble; or as Solow suggests, are environmentalists overstating the problem?*

**Robert Solow, "Sustainability: An Economist's  
Perspective"**

**Art and Jervis, International Politics, pp. 347-352**

**Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapter 16**

**Concluding Class & Review**

**(Dec 14)**