

GOVT 155: Introduction to International Politics
Wesleyan University, Fall 2008

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Course Description and Objectives

The history of international relations provides us with a series of puzzles. Why do states resort to war even when leaders agree that war is costly? Why do sudden alliances emerge between states that have fought each other for centuries? Why do states invest billions of dollars in military technologies that they have no intention of using? Why is cooperation on climate change policy so difficult? Why is the Middle East such an unstable region in the world? What explains the importance of oil in the global economy? Why do states blatantly violate human rights, despite numerous international conventions that promise dire consequences for such behavior? Is the world becoming more peaceful, or more dangerous?

This course will acquaint students with the historical evolution of the international political system and introduce them to theoretical approaches to the study of international politics. The three primary goals of the course are to: (1) present leading theories and concepts for understanding international relations, including conflict and cooperation; (2) explore international history to evaluate theories of world politics, explicate historical events, and explain the evolution of the international system; and (3) apply these theories to analyze current global issues and make predictions about future developments.

Required Texts and Readings

The readings for this course offer conflicting interpretations of theory and history. Students should read these texts with the goals of identifying, comparing, and evaluating contending arguments.

The following texts are available at the campus bookstore and online. A copy of each is also available at the Olin Library at the reserve desk.

Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, eds., *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*. 9th edition (New York: Pearson Longman, 2009).

Jeffrey A. Frieden, *Global Capitalism: Its Fall and Rise in the Twentieth Century* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2007).

Additional required readings are available on Blackboard. Students should check Blackboard regularly for announcements, assignments, and study questions for the course.

Study Aids

Students may find the work load in this course to be overwhelming. The reading load is heavy, so students are especially advised not to fall behind in the reading. To assist students in preparation for class participation and exams, my teaching apprentice and I will hold regular office hours, which you can see at the top of the front page of this syllabus. I strongly suggest that students avail themselves of the opportunity to clarify and discuss course material with us. Office hours are not, however, opportunities to obtain information missed during absences from class. Such material should be obtained from classmates.

Although I do not post lecture notes online, the teaching apprentice and I will post a series of discussion questions, themes, and key terms for each week's material. These discussion questions will be available on Blackboard at least one week prior to each lesson to provide focus to reading and analysis.

Expectations

This course assumes no prior familiarity with international relations. This is a survey course of the field and will prepare students for advanced courses on the subject. This is not a current events course, but students are strongly encouraged to follow current events through a major newspaper with reputable coverage of foreign affairs; I recommend in particular the *New York Times*. Worldpress.org is a source of headlines from daily newspapers around the world, and the magazine *The Economist* also has strong weekly coverage of global issues.

Although this is an introductory course, I have high expectations of the students at Wesleyan. I expect students to attend classes regularly, to arrive early and prepared, and to conduct themselves with respect and courtesy toward others in the classroom. Students can expect the same from me.

Graded Work

Course grades will be based on the following elements

	<u>Value</u>	<u>Date</u>
Midterm 1 (take-home)	20%	take-home due Sept. 30
Midterm 2 (in class)	25%	in class Nov. 4
Final exam	35%	Dec. 16, 7-10pm
Class participation	20%	

Midterm Exams (45%)

The first midterm exam is a take-home, open-book, essay exam. This exam accounts for 20% of the total course grade and covers material between September 2nd and September 25th. I will post the exam on Blackboard on Thursday, September 25th at 5:00pm. The exam will be available on Blackboard until Tuesday, September 30th at 12pm and is **due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, September 30th**. Although it is a take-home, open book exam, it is assumed that students will present their own original and unaided work. Students found to misrepresent their work as original and unaided will receive a 0 on the exam and risk disciplinary action from the University.

The second midterm exam will be administered in class on Tuesday, November 4th. This exam accounts for 25% of the total course grade and is cumulative, but it will focus primarily on material between September 30th and October 30th. Students can expect a combination of short answer and essay questions; more specific information will be announced prior to the exam.

Final Exam (35%)

The final exam, worth 35% of the total course grade, will be a cumulative short answer and essay exam. The exam will be administered during the assigned period on **Thursday, December 16th from 7:00-10:00pm**, location TBA.

Incompletes will be allowed only for significant and verifiable personal emergencies (e.g., serious personal illness, death in the family). No extensions will be granted due to the pressures of academic life (such as work due in other classes).

There are no make-up exams. Personal emergencies will be accommodated at my discretion in the following way: the missed exam will simply be omitted from the final grade, with the other two exams being worth 40% of the final grade. Unexcused absences from an exam, however, will result in a “0” for that exam.

Course Participation (20%)

Students should think of the course participation grade as an in-class oral examination extended throughout the semester. To achieve the maximum score on participation, students should attend class, prepare for discussion by completing the readings in advance, contribute to the discussion in class, and be responsive to other students. Quantity of participation is not as important as quality. Questions, insights, and synthesis are all considered quality.

The following table designates the values I assign to letter grades, per the standard grading scale at Wesleyan.

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	GPA Value
A+	98.3	4.0
A	95	4.0
A-	91.7	3.7
B+	88.3	3.3
B	85	3.0
B-	81.7	2.7
C+	78.3	2.3
C	75	2.0
C-	71.7	1.7
D+	68.3	1.3
D	65	1.0
D-	61.7	.7
F	58.3	0

Grade Dispute Procedure

In the event that a student wishes to dispute a grade received on an exam, the student must adhere to the following procedure before I will review the exam. First, the student must wait 48 hours

before sending me an email concerning the grievance. Second, the student must send me an email to make an appointment to discuss the grievance. Third, during the appointment, the student must provide the original graded exam and a brief, typed summary of the reasons why the grade seems unfair. I will then reevaluate the exam. The student must accept the revised grade on the exam, even if it is lower than originally graded.

Additional Information

Plagiarism is a grave offense, and Wesleyan University takes academic honesty very seriously. For more details on Wesleyan's policy on plagiarism (and how to avoid it), see http://www.wesleyan.edu/acaf/policy/sc_plagiarism_complete.html.

Students with disabilities should notify me immediately so that I can make the appropriate accommodations. Please see the University's policies on students with disabilities, available at the following website: <http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disabilities.html>.

LECTURE AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Week		Date	Lecture
1	T	9/2	Introductory lecture
	Th	9/4	Analyzing International Relations: Theories and Evidence
2	T	9/9	Statecraft in the Ancient World: The Peloponnesian War
	Th	9/11	The Rise of the Modern State
3	T	9/16	The Classical Balance of Power
	Th	9/18	From the Concert of Europe to Bismarckian <i>Realpolitik</i>
4	T	9/23	The Expansion of World Trade in the 19 th Century
	Th	9/25	European Imperialism before 1914
5	T	9/30	MIDTERM EXAM 1 DUE
	Th	10/2	The Rise of Germany and the Origins of WWI
6	T	10/7	Collective Security and the League of Nations
	Th	10/9	The Great Depression and Interwar Political Economy
7	T	10/14	The Origins of WWII
	Th	10/16	The United Nations and Decolonization
8	T	10/21	The Postwar International Economic Order
	Th	10/23	The Origins of the Cold War
9	T	10/28	FALL RECESS (No class)
	Th	10/30	Nuclear Arms, Cold War Crises, and Limited War
10	T	11/4	MIDTERM EXAM 2; DISCUSSION OF U.S. ELECTIONS
	Th	11/6	Oil, Commodity Cartels, and North-South Economic Conflicts
11	T	11/11	The Middle East in World Politics
	Th	11/13	Globalization, Growth, and Poverty Alleviation
12	T	11/18	Terrorism and Irregular Warfare
	Th	11/20	Military Intervention after the Cold War
13	T	11/25	Environmental Agreements: The Global Commons
	Th	11/27	THANKSGIVING BREAK (No class)
14	T	12/2	Human Rights and International Order
	Th	12/4	Whither the New World Order?
		12/16	FINAL EXAM, 7:00-10:00pm, location TBA

LECTURES AND READINGS

Readings from the Art and Jervis book are designated with an asterisk.

Week 1

Sept. 2: Introductory lecture

No reading.

Sept. 4: Analyzing International Relations: Theories and Evidence

Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," Blackboard.

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, "Evaluating Arguments about International Politics," Blackboard.

Robert Jervis, "War and Misperception," Blackboard.

*Kenneth Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics."

Week 2

Sept. 9: Statecraft in the Ancient World: The Peloponnesian War

David Hansen, "A War Like No Other," Blackboard.

The Melian Dialogue, available at <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm>

Pericles' Funeral Oration, available at <http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/GREECE/PERICLES.HTM>

Sept. 11: The Rise of the Modern State

Henry Kissinger, "From Universality to Equilibrium," Blackboard.

Stephen Krasner, "Westphalia and all That," Blackboard.

Week 3

Sept. 16: The Classical Balance of Power

Gordon Craig and Alexander George, "Balance of Power: Three Experiments," Blackboard.

*Hans Morgenthau, "Six Principles of Political Realism."

Henry Kissinger, "The Concert of Europe," Blackboard.

Sept. 18: From the Concert of Europe to Bismarckian *Realpolitik*

Henry Kissinger, "Two Revolutionaries," and "Realpolitik Turns on Itself," Blackboard.

Week 4

Sept. 23: The Expansion of World Trade in the 19th Century

Jeffry Frieden, *Global Capitalism*, Chapters 1 and 2.

Sept. 25: European Imperialism before 1914

Jeffry Frieden, *Global Capitalism*, Chapters 4 and 5.

Ronald Robinson and John Gallagher, "The Imperialism of Free Trade," Blackboard.

Nicholas Mansergh, "Diplomatic Reasons for Expansion," Blackboard.

Week 5

Sept. 30: MIDTERM EXAM 1 DUE AT 1:10PM IN CLASS

No reading; view "Fields of Glory" in class.

Oct. 2: The Rise of Germany and the Origins of WWI

Norman Angell, "The Great Illusion," Blackboard.

*Robert Jervis, "Offense, Defense, and the Security Dilemma."

Dale Copeland, "Economic Interdependence and War: A Theory of Trade Expectations," Blackboard.

Week 6

Oct. 7: Collective Security and the League of Nations

*Kenneth Oye, "The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics."

*Michael Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs."

Woodrow Wilson, "Fourteen Points," available at <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wilson14.htm>.

Halle Selassie, "Appeal to the League of Nations," available at <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/selassie.htm>.

Oct. 9: The Great Depression and Interwar Political Economy

Jeffry Frieden, *Global Capitalism*, Chapters 6 and 8.

Charles Kindleberger, "An Explanation of the 1929 Depression," Blackboard.

Week 7

Oct. 14: The Origins of WWII

A.J.P. Taylor, "The Half-Armed Peace" and "War for Danzig," Blackboard.

Alan Bullock, "Hitler and the Origins of the Second World War," Blackboard.

Scott D. Sagan, "The Origins of the Pacific War," Blackboard.

Oct. 16: The United Nations and Decolonization

*Adam Roberts, "The United Nations and International Security."

1948 First Session of the UN General Assembly, available at:
<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/landmark/pdf/a-pv1.pdf>.

1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, available at
<http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>.

Jeffrey Frieden, *Global Capitalism*, Chapter 13.

Week 8

Oct. 12: The Postwar International Economic Order

Jeffrey Frieden, *Global Capitalism*, Chapters 11 and 12.

*Michael Hiscox, "The Domestic Sources of Foreign Economic Policies."

Address by George C. Marshall at Harvard University, available at
<http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/marshall.htm>.

Oct. 14: The Origins of the Cold War

Henry Kissinger, "The Beginnings of the Cold War," Blackboard.

George Kennan ("X"), "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," available at
<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/coldwar/x.htm>.

The Novikov Telegram, available at <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/novikov.htm>.

Summary of NSC-68, items 1-6, available at <http://www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/nsc-hst/nsc-68.htm>.

Week 9

Oct. 28: FALL RECESS (No class)

Oct. 30: Nuclear Arms, Cold War Crises, and Limited War

Robert Jervis, “The Political Effects of Nuclear Weapons,” Blackboard.

Marc Trachtenberg, “The Influence of Nuclear Weapons on the Cuban Missile Crisis,” Blackboard.

Norman Podhoretz, “Why We Were in Vietnam,” Blackboard.

Week 10

Nov. 4: MIDTERM EXAM 2; DISCUSSION OF U.S. ELECTIONS TO FOLLOW

Nov. 6: Oil, Commodity Cartels, and North-South Economic Conflicts

Daneil Yergin, “The Oil Weapon” and “Bidding for Our Life,” Blackboard.

Jeffrey Frieden, *Global Capitalism*, Chapter 16.

*Bruce R. Scott, “The Great Divide in the Global Village.”

Week 11

Nov. 11: The Middle East in World Politics

*Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations.”

Michael Ross, “Oil, Drugs, and Diamonds,” Blackboard.

Nov. 13: Globalization, Growth, and Poverty Alleviation

Jeffrey Frieden, *Global Capitalism*, Chapter 20.

*Sebastian Malaby, “NGOs: Fighting Poverty, Hurting the Poor.”

*John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge, “Why the Globalization Backlash is Stupid.”

Week 12

Nov. 18: Terrorism and Irregular Warfare

*Bruce Hoffman, "What is Terrorism?"

*Robert Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism."

Max Abrahms, "Why Terrorism Does Not Work," Blackboard.

Nov. 20: Military Intervention after the Cold War

*Chaim Kaufmann, "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars."

*Robert I. Rotberg, "Failed States."

*James L. Payne "Deconstructing Nation Building."

Week 13

Nov. 25: Environmental Agreements: The Global Commons

*Garret Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons."

*David G. Victor, "International Cooperation on Climate Change."

Nov. 27: THANKSGIVING BREAK (No class)

Week 14

Dec. 2: Human Rights and International Order

*Rhoda Howard and Jack Donnelly, "Human Rights in World Politics."

*Steven Ratner, "International Law: The Trials of Global Norms."

Dec. 4: Whither the New World Order?

*Anne-Marie Slaughter, "Government Networks and Global Governance."

*Robert Jervis, "The Era of Leading Power Peace."

*Gregory Gause, "Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?"

Classmate Contact Information

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