

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

GOVERNMENT 155

WESLEYAN UNIVERSTIY

**Fall 2008
M,W 11:00-12:20
PAC 422**

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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 three papers, quizzes and class participation. It is essential that you keep up with the readings so as to enhance participation, prepare for quizzes, 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.

Quizzes will be based upon the readings for that day and be in short-answer form. Grades will be assigned based on the following weights:

Participation	20%	
Quizzes	20%	
Paper 1	20%	Due on or before Oct 6

Midterm	20%	Due on or before Oct 27
Final	20%	According to University schedule

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, Seventh Edition**

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

Robert Kennedy, Thirteen Days

****readings from Art/Jervis and Russett/Starr/Kinsella are spread throughout the course, hence it would be especially convenient to own these particular books**

IV. Course Outline

INTRODUCTORY CLASS

Sept 3

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

A. Nationalism and the Rise of the Nation State

(Sept 8)

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. 49-62

**B. National Interests and Goals
(Sept 8)**

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' "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 10)**

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 10)**

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. 27-48

Art and Jervis, International Politics, pp. 15-28

D. The Means of Foreign Policy

**1. Power
(Sept 15)**

Discussion Questions: What is the national interest? Whose interest is it really? What are Wolfers' "goals of foreign policy?" 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 would Gallarotti and Nye, who talk about how power-seeking can backfire, say about the realist principle of power maximization?

**Arnold Wolfers, "Power and Influence" in Discord,
Chapter 7**

Joseph Nye, The Paradox of American Power, pp. 4-12

Giulio Gallarotti, "Nice Guys Finish First: American Unilateralism and Power Illusion"

**2. The Use of Force
(Sept 18)**

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. 174-215

Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, "Complex Interdependence and the Role of Force"

E. Balance of Power
(Sept 18)

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. 83-101

Sept 22

Computer workshop on Exploring the Net and Internet Research

F. Strategic Interaction: Bargaining and the Games States Play

1. Game Theory
(Sept 24)

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 (Sept 29)

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. 120-127**

1ST PAPER DUE Oct 6

2. DETERMINANTS OF FOREIGN POLICY

A. The Levels of Analysis (Oct 1)

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 1)

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, Chapter 4

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

C. Domestic Causes of Foreign Policy

(Oct 6)

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 6)

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. 174-181

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

E. Decision Making and Psychological Sources of Foreign Policy

(Oct 8,13)

1. Psychological Theories of Foreign Policy

(Oct 8)

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 13)

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

Robert Kennedy, Thirteen Days

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

Oct 15

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.

Oct 20

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

MIDTERM DUE Oct 22

3. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE NUCLEAR AGE

Oct 22

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

Oct 29

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. 149-162

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

Robert Art, "A Defensible Defense"

4. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, LAW, AND TRANSNATIONAL ACTORS

**A. Transnational Actors
(Nov 3)**

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. 432-443

B. International Law
(Nov 5)

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. 491-503, 539-547

Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapter 10

C. International Organization

1. Determinants of the Growth of International Organization

(Nov 5)

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 (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 10)**

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 12)**

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. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

**A. Theories of International Political Economy
(Nov 17)**

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
(Nov 17)**

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. OPEC
(Nov 19)**

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 can governments do to reduce their dependence on OPEC?

Stephen Krasner "Oil is the Exception"

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

"Still Holding Customers Over a Barrel" Economist

“End of the Oil Age” Economist

D. Underdevelopment

Nov 24

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.

Dec 1

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"

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

(Dec 3)

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 8)