

Government 155
Wesleyan University
Spring 2008
M,W 8:30-9:50am in PAC 421
Course Assistant: Jonathan Hutchinson
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Introduction to International Relations

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental concepts in the study of international politics and to acquaint them with the historical evolution of the modern global political system. The course has three primary goals: (1) to present leading theories and concepts for understanding international relations, including war and peace, trade, and globalization; (2) to examine international history to test theories of world politics, explicate historical events, and explain the evolution of the international system; and (3) to apply this knowledge of history and theory to analyze and assess contemporary global issues and to make predictions about potential future developments.

Some of the major questions we will tackle include: Is conflict an inescapable aspect of international politics? Why do states resort to war? What have been the effects of nuclear weapons? What will be the effects of spreading democracy, free trade, and international organizations? Why, and under what conditions, do states cooperate? What is globalization, and what will be the consequences of further internationalization of national economies and cultures? Is nationalism waxing or waning, and what are the implications of the answer? Are we on the threshold of a new era in international politics, one with the potential for lasting patterns of cooperation and peace, or must we inevitably return to a cycle of great power rivalry and competition?

This course assumes no prior familiarity with the basic concepts and literatures of international relations and world politics. However, while this is *not* a current events course, students are strongly encouraged to follow current events through a major newspaper with good coverage of foreign affairs; I recommend in particular the *New York Times*. I also recommend the magazine, *The Economist*, for its weekly coverage of global affairs.

Required Texts: The readings for this course include conflicting interpretations of both theory and history. Your job is to read critically and to identify, and then to compare and evaluate, contending arguments.

The following texts will be available in the campus bookstore. You should also be able to find them in many neighborhood bookstores and on-line:

Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, eds., *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*.

Paul Lauren, Gordon A. Craig and Alexander L. George, *Force and Statecraft: Diplomatic Problems of Our Time*, 4th edition (Oxford University Press, 2007).

Recommended—a good background text and primer on IR theory and concepts:

Henry A. Nau, *Perspectives on international relations: power, institutions* (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2007).

The following required item is available for purchase—as a hard, paper copy or as a pdf file—directly from the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy:

Case #169—Nations: A Simulation Game in International Politics

To order the case, go to the Institute's site: <http://www.guisd.org/>.

Additional readings will be available electronically. On-line journals may be accessed through the

e-journals/databases link on Olin Library's main page. Several others are available through the hyperlinks listed below. All other readings will be accessible through the Library's electronic reserve system. The class password will be govt155 or GOVT155.

Course Requirements: Students should attend all class lectures. The assigned readings will complement—but will not effectively substitute for—the lectures. You will learn the most from this class if you do the reading on each topic before coming to lecture. Doing so will also allow you to more effectively participate in class discussions, ask and respond to questions, and offer your own opinions. Moreover, because it is important for you to assimilate not only the basic facts, but also the overarching concepts, ideas, and arguments, it would be a major error to defer doing the reading until just before exams are given and assignments are due.

Students will be expected to complete the following tasks:

1. Class Attendance and Participation (15% of grade). You are expected to do the readings, attend class, and participate in class discussions—this means, minimally, that you should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings DURING the class period for which they were assigned. In addition, I know 8:30am is early, but please be aware that, without exception: a) if you miss more than two classes, your grade will be adversely affected; b) if you arrive more than ten minutes after class begins, you will be considered absent; and c) if you are tardy with regularity, even if less than ten minutes late, your final grade too will be adversely affected. Please prepare accordingly.
2. Midterm Examinations (20% each). There will be two short answer/ID and/or multiple short essay blue book exams.
3. Short Paper (10%): This is a four-page (max) paper, which will be due on the last day of class and which will focus on the in-class simulation. Topic TBA concurrent with the simulation. The paper will be graded based upon clarity of presentation, organization, and analytical quality. The paper should support its claims with evidence from class lectures and readings and should be correct in terms of grammar, punctuation and spelling. Papers deficient in these respects will be penalized.
4. Final Examination (35%). Format of the exam TBA; however, please be aware that this exam will be *cumulative*; thus you will be expected to have mastered the entire semester's worth of course materials.

Late papers will be accepted and incompletes will be granted at the discretion of the instructor and only permitted in the event of *significant and verifiable* (i.e., documented) personal emergencies (e.g., serious illness, death in the family). *Under no condition will extensions will be granted due to the stresses of academic life* (e.g., demands of other classes, other papers or exams, extracurricular activities, etc.).

Course Schedule:

I. Key Concepts and Historical Context

Session 1 (January 24): Course Introduction: The Study of International Politics

Session 2 (January 29): International Relations and Foreign Policy; Levels of Analysis

Stephen M. Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories,"
Foreign Policy, no. 110 (Spring 1998), pp. 29-46.

Spanier and Wendzel, "Chapter 2: The Three Levels of Analysis: A
Framework for the Study of International Politics," in *Games Nations Play*.

Session 3 (January 31): How Do We Know What We Know?: Theory and Methodology

Stephen Van Evera, "Chapter 2: Hypotheses, Laws and Theories: A User's Guide," in *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*.
John Elster, (excerpt from) "Mechanisms," in *Nuts and Bolts for the Social Sciences*, pp. 3-10.

Session 4 (February 5): The European System through World War I

Lauren, Craig and George, Chapters 1-2.

Highly Recommended, particularly if your grasp of (European) history is weak:
Paul Kennedy, "Chapter 5: The Coming of a Bipolar World and the Crisis of the Middle Powers: Part One, 1885-1918" in *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*.

Recommended:

Henry Kissinger, *Diplomacy* (Simon & Schuster, 1994), Chapter Seven, "A Political Doomsday Machine;" Chapter Nine, "The New Face of Diplomacy: Wilson and the Treaty of Versailles;" and Ten, "The Dilemmas of the Victors."

Session 5 (February 7): The Interwar Period and the Origins of World War II

Lauren, Craig and George, Chapters 3 and 7.
Charles Kindleberger, "An Explanation of the 1929 Depression" in *The World in Depression*.

Documents to be distributed via email in class: "Articles 10 Through 16 of the League Covenant," and "The Kellogg-Briand Pact Outlaws War."

Highly Recommended...:

Paul Kennedy, "Chapter 6: The Coming of a Bipolar World and the Crisis of the Middle Powers: Part One, 1919-42" in *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*

Session 6 (February 12): Bipolarity and the Cold War

Lauren, Craig and George, Chapters 4 and 11; review Chapter 7.
Benjamin Cohen, "The Bretton Woods System"; available at:
<http://www.polsci.ucsb.edu/faculty/cohen/recent/bretton.html>

Documents to be distributed: [Excerpts from] Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 25 (1947); "The Truman Doctrine," and "NSC-68."

Session 7 (February 14): The Post-Cold War World and the Diffusion of Power

Lauren, Craig and George, Chapter 6.
[Excerpt from] Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth, "Power, Globalization and the End of the Cold War: Reevaluating a Landmark Case for International Security," *International Security* (Winter 2000-01), pp. 7-9 and 14-34.
[Excerpts from] Mueller, *Retreat from Doomsday*, pp. 7-12 and 251-257.
Zakaria, "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy," *Foreign Affairs* (Nov/Dec 1997).

Session 8 (February 19): Midterm I

II: Theoretical Perspectives

Session 9 (February 21): Classical Realism, Neorealism, Anarchy, and the Security Dilemma

[Excerpt from] Thomas Hobbes, *The Leviathan*, Chapter 13 only; available at:
<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-c.html>
Kenneth Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics" in Art and Jervis.

Stephen Walt, "Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning" in Art and Jervis.
John Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power" in Art and Jervis.
Robert Jervis, "Offense, Defense, and the Security Dilemma" in Art and Jervis.

Session 10 (February 26): Neoliberalism and Cooperation

Kenneth A. Oye, "The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics" in Art and Jervis.
Michael Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs" in Art and Jervis.
Robert Keohane, "International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?," *Foreign Policy* (Spring 1998).

Recommended: Stanley Hoffman, "The Uses and Limits of International Law," in Art and Jervis.

Session 11 (February 28): No class

Session 12 (March 5): Constructivism, Culture and Identity

Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It" in Art and Jervis.
Jepperson, Wendt and Katzenstein, "Norms, Identity, and Culture in National Security," in *The Culture of National Security*
Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" in Art and Jervis.

Recommended: Jeffrey T. Checkel, "The constructivist turn in international relations theory" *World Politics*, vol. 50, no. 2 (January 1998), pp. 324-34.

Session 13 (March 7): Domestic Politics, Decision-making, Perceptions and Misperceptions

[Excerpt from] Jervis, "Deterrence, the Spiral Model, and the Intentions of the Adversary," in *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*, pp. 58-84 only.
Irving Janus, *Groupthink*, Chapter 1: "Why So Many Miscalculations?"
[Excerpt from] Daniel L. Byman and Kenneth M. Pollack, "Let Us Now Praise Great Men: Bringing the Statesman Back In," *International Security*, vol. 25, no. 4 (Spring 2001), pp. 107-114 and 143-146 only.

Session 14 (March 26): Midterm II

III. Issues in International Relations

Session 15 and 16 (March 28 and April 2): Security Issues and the Role of Nuclear Weapons

Lauren, Craig and George, Chapters 8-10; review Chapter 11.
Thomas Schelling, "Chapter 1: The Diplomacy of Violence," in *Arms and Influence*, pp. 1-34.
Scott Sagan, "Nuclear Instability in South Asia" in Art and Jervis.
Kenneth Waltz, "Nuclear Stability in South Asia" in Art and Jervis.
Benjamin Schwarz, "The Perils of Primacy," *The Atlantic* (January/February 2006); available at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200601/primacy>

Recommended:

Paul K. Huth, "Deterrence and International Conflict: Empirical Findings and Theoretical Debates," *Annual Review of Political Science*, vol. 2 (1999), pp. 25-48.
Albert Wohlstetter, "The Delicate Balance of Terror"; available at: <http://www.rand.org/publications/classics/wohlstetter/P1472/P1472.html>

Session 17 and 18 (April 4 and 9): Economic Issues: Trade, Money, and Collective Goods

Robert Gilpin, "The Nature of Political Economy" in Art and Jervis.
Robert Keohane, "Hegemony in the World Political Economy" in Art and Jervis.
Jeffrey Frankel, "Globalization of the Economy" in Art and Jervis.
Bruce Scott, "The Great Divide in the Global Village" in Art and Jervis.
Sebastian Mallaby, "NGOs: Fighting Poverty, Hurting the Poor" in Art and Jervis.
Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons" in Art and Jervis.
John Browne, "Beyond Kyoto" in Art and Jervis.

Sessions 19 and 20 (April 11 and 16): Ethical Issues I and II: Rights, Global Justice, and Humanitarian Intervention

Rhoda Howard and Jack Donnelly, "Human Rights in World Politics" in Art and Jervis.
Steven Ratner, "International Law: The Trials of Global Norms," in Art and Jervis.
Martha Finnemore, "Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention," in Peter Katzenstein, (ed.), *The Culture of National Security*.
James Dobbins, "Nation-Building: UN Surpasses US on Learning Curve," in Art and Jervis.
Kelly M. Greenhill, "On Intervention to Deter Deadly Conflict: A Prospective Analysis," *Breakthroughs*, vol. 10, no. 1 (Spring 2001), pp. 36-44.

Recommended:

Richard Betts, "The Delusion of Impartial Intervention," *Foreign Affairs* (1994), pp. 20-33.
Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, "Transnational Activist Networks," in Art and Jervis.

IV. The Future of International Politics

Sessions 21 and 22 (April 18 and 23) Power, Globalization and its Discontents

Dani Rodrik, "Trading in Illusions" in Art and Jervis.
Geoffrey Garrett, "Globalization's Missing Middle" in Art and Jervis.
John Micklethwait and Adrian Woolridge, "Why the Globalization Backlash is Stupid" in Art and Jervis.
Stephen Walt, "Taming American Power" in Art and Jervis.
Robert Jervis, "Understanding the Bush Doctrine" in Art and Jervis.

V. Simulation

Sessions 23-25 (April 25, April 30 and May 2) In-class exercise

ISD Case "Nations: A Simulation Game in International Politics"
(Details to follow; assignments will be posted on Blackboard)

VII. Conclusions

Session 26 (May 7) Course Wrap-Up

Short Paper Due (at the start of class)
Lauren, Craig and George, Chapter 12.
Additional readings TBA