

## Government 155 International Politics

Spring 2008  
TTh 10:30-11:50 AM  
Class Location: PAC 125  
Office Hours: Th 1-2, F 11-noon,  
and by appointment

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### Course Description

The purpose of the course is to provide the student with the background and conceptual tools for understanding contemporary international relations. Classes will address a wide variety of issues including the origins of the state system, the nature of power, the use of force, and international political economy. Conceptions derived from these discussions will be applied to consider topics arising in the present international system such as nationalism, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, the environment, and international organization.

Class periods will be devoted to lectures by the instructor and discussion of the reading material.

This course provides the foundation for upper-level courses in the international relations and a general introduction for non-majors. It is also a requirement for the Certificate in International Relations awarded by the Public Affairs Center.

Students are strongly encouraged to stay current with foreign policy developments by reading a major newspaper. Although a basic understanding of “front page” international news will be assumed, **this course is not a current events course.**

### Requirements and Course Grading

Grades will be based on: 3 exams (80%), participation in class discussions (10%), simulation participation (5%), and in-class quizzes (5%).

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. At the instructor’s discretion, if a personal emergency keeps you from taking an exam, the exam portion of your final grade will be calculated based upon the other exams. For example, if one exam is missed, each of the two other exams would be worth 40% of the final grade ( $80\% \div 2 = 40\%$ ).

Unexcused absences from an exam will result in a “0” for that exam.

### Exams

Exam #1 (25% of grade) will occur on February 26. Exam #2 (25% of grade) will take place on April 15. Exam #3 (30% of grade) will cover the material over the entire course and will occur during finals week as scheduled by the registrar.

Exam question types:

*Identification questions* require you to define and give the significance of important terms and concepts. A complete list of these terms will be made available on the course Blackboard prior to the exam.

*Essay questions* require an answer that broadly integrates material from the course (e.g., After taking this course, do you feel that the world is fundamentally peaceful or conflictual? Why?).

Exam #1 will consist of identification terms from classes 1-8 and an essay.

Exam #2 will consist of identification terms from classes 9-17 and an essay.

Exam #3 (the final exam) will consist of identification terms from classes 20-24 and essays.

### Participation

The participation grade will be evaluated based upon the student's contribution to discussion, responsiveness to other students, and quality of insight during classes. These components will be worth 10% of the final grade.

### Simulation Participation

Participation during the course simulation (#17 below) will count 5% of the final grade. Evaluation will be based upon the individual's contributions to his/her nation's efforts and adherence to his/her role and national perspective. As part of the evaluation process, students will be surveyed as an additional source of input.

### Quizzes

Daily quizzes at the beginning of the class period will begin on February 5 and end on May 1 (class days #4 through #23) will be worth 5% of the final course grade. There will be a quiz on each of these days except those on which there is a exam or during the simulation. Each quiz will consist of 3 multiple choice questions using the Turning Point software (except for April 29 which will have 6 questions). The quiz will be over the reading for the day. Each of you will need a personal "clicker" to use in this process. Additional information on this process will be available on the course Blackboard.

Each student will be allowed 1 excused (lost, malfunctioning, misplaced, forgotten, stolen, possessed, etc.) clicker quiz. For this one time only, the student will be allowed to turn in a paper response to the quiz.

There are no make-ups for quizzes. Missed quizzes result in a "0" for each of the three quiz items. If you must be gone from class because of outside University commitments, religious holidays, personal illness, and family emergencies, please contact me before-hand (University commitments and religious holidays) or afterward (personal illness, family emergencies). If I excuse your absence, the questions from that day will not count in the calculation of the quiz grade.

### Simulation

Midway through the course, the class will take part in a simulation of international diplomacy entitled “Nations: A Simulation Game in International Politics.” Students will be randomly assigned to a nation. Class simulation periods will be supplemented by use of the Blackboard. The “clickers” will also be used during this simulation. The simulation and accompanying Blackboard exercise will be discussed in class in more detail.

### Readings

The following assigned readings are available for purchase at Broad Street Books:

Robert Art and Robert Jervis, International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues, 8th ed. (please note this is a new edition). You must have this edition as significant revisions occur from edition to edition.

Henry R. Nau, Perspectives on International Relations: Power, Institutions, and Ideas

The following item is available for purchase (in paper or pdf format) directly from the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy:

Case #169 Nations: A Simulation Game in International Politics

To order the cases, go to the ISD e-commerce site: <http://www.guisd.org/>. Please note that this item is non-returnable.

All the above items are available on reserve in Olin Library. Additional readings are available on the course Blackboard.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### I. Key Concepts and Theoretical Perspectives

1. January 24 Introduction: IR as a Field of Study
2. January 29 IR Field to Present Day  

Nau, "Why We Disagree about International Relations," pp. 1-13  
Daniel Maliniak, Amy Oakes, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney,  
"Inside the Ivory Tower," Foreign Policy (March/April 2007), pp.  
62-68. (Blackboard)
3. January 31 Key Concepts  

**Note: Clicker test – bring your clickers to class.**

Nau, "How to Think About International Relations," pp. 14-42
4. February 5 Neorealism and Anarchy  

**Note: Quizzes begin.**

Morgenthau, Waltz, Mearsheimer, Walt (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 7-14,  
29-60, 96-103
5. February 7 Neoliberalism and Cooperation  

Oye, Keohane (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 69-82, 119-126, 283-295  
Robert O. Keohane, "A Functional Theory of Regimes," International  
Politics, 4<sup>th</sup> edition pp. 132-138 (Blackboard)
6. February 12 Constructivism and Identity  

Tickner, Wendt, Doyle (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 15-28, 61-68, 83-95
7. February 14 Domestic Processes  

Nau, "The Democratic Peace" pp. 393-400  
Gause, (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 432-440  
Ole R. Holsti, "Theories of International Relations," Making American  
Foreign Policy, pp. 327-332 (Blackboard)  
Valerie M. Hudson, "Foreign Policy Analysis: Actor-Specific Theory  
and the Ground of International Relations," Foreign Policy Analysis  
(2005), pp. 1-30 (Blackboard).

8. February 19 Individual Level

Margaret Hermann & Joe Hagan, "International Decision Making: Leadership Matters," Foreign Policy, (Spring 1998), pp. 124-37 (Blackboard)

Ole R. Holsti "Cognitive Process Approaches to Decision-Making" Making American Foreign Policy, pp. 33-51 (Blackboard)

Charles F. Parker and Eric Stern, Bolt from the Blue or Avoidable Failure? Revisiting September 11 and the Origins of Strategic Surprise Foreign Policy Analysis (2005) pp. 301-330. (Blackboard)

## **II. The Recent International System and International Relations Theory**

9. February 21 European System through World War I

Nau, "Perspectives on World History" and "World War I," pp. 43-93

10. February 26 **Exam #1** (material in classes 1-8)

11. February 28 Interwar Period (1919-1939), Bipolarity, and the Cold War

Nau, "World War II" and "The Origins and End of the Cold War", pp. 94-147

12. March 4 The Post-Cold War Era

Nau, "After the Cold War," pp. 148-180

Jervis, Huntington, Zakaria, Jervis (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 375-431

## **III. International Relations Subfields: International Security and International Political Economy**

13. March 6 Approaches to International Security

Jervis, Hoffman, Art (Art and Jervis Reader), pp. 177-220

### **Spring Break**

14. March 25 Crisis, Coercive Diplomacy, and Nuclear Weapons

Art, Schelling, Art (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 141-177

15. March 27 Arms Control, Negotiations, Morality, and Force
- Morgenthau (Art and Jervis reader), pp. 104-113  
 Gordon A. Craig & Alexander A. George, Force and Statecraft, chapters 12, pp. 245-268 (Blackboard)
16. April 1 International Political Economy and Interdependence
- Gilpin, Scott, Frankel, Wolf, Waltz, (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 267-282, 296-347  
 Nau, “Globalization Today” and “How Globalization Actually Works,” pp. 208-256
- Recommended background: Nau, “How the West Became Rich,” pp. 184-207

#### **IV. Simulation**

17. April 3, 8, 10 International Politics Simulation
- ISD Case “Nations: A Simulation Game in International Politics”
- We will discuss this aspect of the course before April 27. Nation assignments will be posted on the Blackboard.
18. April 15 **Exam #2** (material in classes 9-17)
19. April 17 **No Class – I’m out of town giving a talk for Wesleyan**

#### **V. Challenges in the Current World**

20. April 22 Human Rights, International Law, and Global Governance
- Hoffmann, Roberts, Howard & Donnelly, Ratner, (Art & Jervis reader) pp. 114-118, 127-136, 546-557, 581-586  
 Nau, “Global Governance,” pp. 373-392
21. April 24 War and Weaponry
- Pape, Sagan, Waltz, (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 221-261

22. April 29                      Thinking Inside the State: Economic Development and Internal State Conflict

**Note: There will be 6 clicker quiz questions today – 3 on economic development and 3 on internal state conflict**

*Economic Development*

Rodrik, Garrett, Micklethwait & Wooldridge, (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 347-368

Nau, “Trade and Investment,” “Miracle and Missed Opportunity”, “Foreign Aid and Domestic Governance”, pp. 256-331

*Internal State Conflict*

Rotberg, Kaufmann, Dobbins, Payne, Naim (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 451-494, 558-566

Nau, “Ethnic, Religious, and National Conflicts” pp. 334-352

23. May 1                              Thinking Outside the State: The Environment and Primacy in the Current Era

**Note: Last quiz this day.**

Environment-

Hardin, Homer-Dixon, Browne, (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 495-516

Nau, “World Environment,” pp. 353-372

Primacy-

Walt, Betts & Christensen, Moravcsik (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 441-450, 517-531

**VI. Conclusion**

24. May 6                              Conclusions: Challenges to the Current System?

Keck & Sikkink, Mallaby, Drezner, (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 532-545, 567-580

**Exam 3** as scheduled during finals week.

**Certificate of International Relations --Related Courses**

Since Government 155 International Politics is a survey of the international relations field, other courses at Wesleyan cover most of these issues in greater depth. For a list of courses that cover many of these issues, please see the Certificate web page at: <http://www.wesleyan.edu/pac/>.