

Introduction to International Relations

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Political Science S1601.002
Summer 2004
Tue. & Thur. 6:15-9:25pm
International Affairs Bld. 902

Course Description:

Although international relations has existed as a separated field of study for a relatively brief time (in most countries it became a separate discipline in part as a response to the World Wars) it has attracted scholarly attentions since at least the time of Thucydides. The importance of this field of study continues to grow as international politics become more complex and affects the daily lives of more and more people.

It is the aim of this course to give students the analytical tools necessary to be able to think critically about international relations. In particular, the course will give students the ability to develop answers to important “why” questions in this field: Why do wars break out? Why isn’t there more trade in the world? Why aren’t states able to solve common problems like pollution? In order to do this the course will expose students to the major theoretical approaches in international politics and look at historical and current cases to evaluate how well these theories do at answering the whys of world politics. Students should keep in mind, however, that this is not a course on foreign policy in the narrow sense nor is it a current affairs course.

The course will consist of four sections:

- I. Theoretical Underpinnings:** will introduce students to the main questions in international relations as well as the main theoretical approaches used in the discipline to analyze these problems.
- II. Security Studies:** will look at the realm of international security by examining such topics as the causes of war, international terrorism, humanitarian intervention, weapons proliferations, etc.
- III. International Political Economy:** will look at international economic relations and the particular problems that limit economic interaction between states and the effect of this on individuals and nations. It will cover such issues as trade policy, international monetary flows and the issues of globalization and development.
- IV. New Issues in International Relations:** will tackle some of the newer issues that are receiving greater attention in the field because of their increasingly cross-border character. These include global environmental problems, the spread of infectious diseases, and international drug trafficking.

Course Materials:

The required textbook for the course is:

Goldstein, Joshua, *International Relations*, **Updated 5th Edition** (New York: Longman, 2004)

In the course schedule I will refer to this book as **G**. In addition to this students are strongly encouraged to purchase the following two edited volumes:

Frieden, Jeffrey and David Lake, *International Political Economy* **4th Edition** (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000)

Mingst, Karen and Jack Snyder, eds. *Essential Readings in World Politics* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company 2001)

In the course schedule I will refer to these books as **F&L** and **M&S** respectively. Copies of these books will be made available in Butler Library Reserves and they can be purchased at Columbia University Bookstore.

Requirements:

Attendance:	10%
Class Discussion:	10%
Short Presentation:	10%
Midterm:	30%
Final:	40%

Class Participation (30%):

Given the compressed time frame of the class it is essential that students attend all classes and come prepared by doing the assigned reading. This is essential because missing one lecture or not doing the readings for once class is the equivalent of missing a **week's** worth of readings or lectures.

About one hour of every class will be devoted to student presentations and discussion of the readings and lecture material led by the instructor. This is essential in order to allow students to reflect on the course material and develop a strong command of the subject. To this end 30% of your final grade will reflect this effort:

Attendance: You will be allowed to miss one lecture without penalty, no questions asked. After that you will lose 2% of your final grade for the course for every lecture that you miss (unless you have a valid medical excuse).

Discussion: You will be expected to contribute to class discussions. Such participation is essential in order to develop a critical understanding of the material and will help you when you write your midterm and final. You will not have to dominate each class discussion to get a good grade but you cannot just

show up and expect a good grade (after all you are already receiving 10% of your grade for attendance).

Presentation: Each class, one or two students will give a brief (5-10 min) presentation on one of the readings from M&S or F&L that was assigned for that class. This should not be a mere regurgitation of the readings but a critical analysis that will stimulate class discussion. In addition to their presentation, students should submit a brief, one page, outline of their presentation at the end of the class in which they have presented.

Midterm (30%):

You will have a take home midterm. This will take the form of a 5 to 7-page double space paper. The midterm assignment will be handed out on Thursday, July 22 and will be due at the beginning of class on Thursday, July 29. The penalty for late submissions will be one full letter grade a day. This rather heavy penalty reflects the compressed time frame of the course.

Final (40%):

The final will be held on the last day of class Thursday, August 12. The exact format of the exam will be announced by Thursday, August 5.

Course Schedule

Note: *Lectures may depart from strict adherence to this schedule. Additional reading may be assigned.*

Each three-hour class meeting will consist of two lecture sessions (roughly an hour long each) and one discussion section (also an hour long).

I – Theoretical Foundations of International Relations

Class 1 – Tue. July 6:

Theoretical Approaches, Conflict and Cooperation, Levels of Analysis.

- **G:** 3-50
- **M&S:** Walt (27-34)

Class 2 – Thur. July 8:

Realism and Power Politics

- **G:** 71-102
- **M&S:** Bald (2-3), Morgenthau (34-38) and Waltz (70-91)

Liberalism (old and new), International Organizations and Law

- **G:** 115-126, 261-65 and 283-88, and if you have time skim 265-83 and 288-99
- **M&S:** Doyle (39-52) and Mersheimer(346-57)

Class 3 – Tue. July 13

Marxism & Dependency Theory

- **G:** 455-474
- **M&S:** Wallerstein (149-57)

Constructivism **Guest Lecturer: Thania Sanchez**

- **G:** 138-142; if you have time read also 126-37
- **M&S:** Ruggie (91-119)

Class 4 – Thur. July 15

Domestic Politics Approaches

- **G:** 167-78
- **F&L:** Eichengreen (37-46)

Individual Actors and Rational Choice Approaches

- **G:** 155-67 and revisit 84-89 and 116-17
- **M&S:** Hergmann & Hagan (210-16)

II – International Security Issues

Class 5 – Tue. July 20

Military Force and the Causes of War

- **G:** 183-98, 210-14 and 221-40
- **M&S:** Clausewitz (236-39) and Schelling (240-48)

Alliances and the Democratic Peace

- **G:** 102-11 and revisit 123-26
- **M&S:** Kant (393-96) and Layne (397-420)

Class 6 – Thur. July 22 **Midterm handed out!**

Ethnic Conflict and Civil Wars

- **G:** 198-210 and 483-490
- **M&S:** Luttwak (283-87) and Posen (382-91)

The Politics of (Humanitarian) Intervention **Guest Lecturer: Zachary Shirkey**

- **M&S:** Doyle (268-77) and Glennon (331-35)

Class 7 – Tue. July 27

International Terrorism

- **G:** 214-19; skim 52-69

Weapons of Mass Destruction

- **G:** 240-57
- **M&S:** Singh (278-82)

III – International Political Economy

Class 8 – Thur. July 29 **Midterm Due (beginning of class)!**

The International Trading System

- **G:** 303-37

International Trade Policy **Guest Lecturer: Amy Widsten**

- **F&L:** Hart & Prakash (180-191), Rogowski (318-26) and Alt & Gilligan (327-42)

Class 9 – Tue. Aug. 3

The International Monetary System

- **G:** 343-77
- **F&L:** Eichengreen (220-44), Cohen (245-56), and Goodman & Pauly (280-97)

Debt, the IMF and World Bank

- **M&S:** Kapur (317-24)

Class 10 – Thur. Aug. 5

Globalization and Regionalism

- **G:** 379-82, 394-407 and revisit 306-8; skim if you have time 382-94
- **F&L:** Williamson (405-16)
- **M&S:** Friedman (440-46)

Development **Guest Lecturer: Megumi Naoi**

- **G:** 474-83 and 495-522; skim if you have time 522-31.
- **F&L:** Stiglitz & Squire (383-91) and Broad, Cavanagh, & Bello (392-404)

IV – New Issues in International Relations

Class 11 – Tue. Aug. 10

Collective Action Problems and Interdependence

- **G:** 413-18

The Environment, Infectious Diseases and International Crime

- **G:** 418-49 and revisit 197-98
- **F&L:** Butler (433-45)

Class 12 – Thur. Aug. 12 **Final Exam!**