

University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Department of Political Science  
Political Science 231: World Politics

Prof. Jonathan R. Strand  
Phone: 895-3356  
Office Hours: T & Th 11:00-12:30 (and by appointment)  
Login to Course WebCampus Site: <https://webcampus.nevada.edu>  
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Fall 2008  
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### **Course Content**

This course surveys the subfield of political science concerned with the scientific study of power, institutions, structures, and change in international relations. The class discussions will focus on debates among different theoretical approaches to the study of international relations. After taking this course students will be familiar with concepts, theories, and methods used in the study of international relations.

### **Course Objectives**

- 1) To introduce students to the major theories of international relations
- 2) To familiarize students with the subfield of international relations
- 3) To provide students a foundational understanding of key institutions, organizations, movements, and actors in world politics

**Course Requirements:** *Exams:* There will be three 100 point exams. All make-up exams are scheduled for Thursday December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Make-up exams will only be allowed when the instructor is notified in writing *before* the scheduled exam and only for verifiable and excusable grounds. All essay exams and quizzes must be written in black ink, dark blue ink, or a number 2 pencil. Exams and quizzes not conforming to this requirement will not be graded. Students who do not exercise intelligible penmanship will be penalized on their exam and quiz grades. Please note that *all* final exams must be taken during the officially scheduled time and that make-up exams are not offered for the final exam. *Students must acquire scantron sheets for all exams.*

*Class Participation and attendance*, including quizzes, will account for another 50 points. Make-up quizzes will not be offered. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Missing more than 3 classes lowers your final grade by one-third (e.g., an A- turns into a B+). Missing more than 5 classes determines that your grade is an F.

Students who arrive late or leave early will be marked absent. Disruptions – such as using a cell phone, text messenger, pager, computer or other device – will have a deleterious effect on your grade. *The instructor requires all cell phones and pagers to be switched off during class.*

Electronic devices, including language translation equipment, may not be used during exams. Recording devices may not be used at anytime; if any unauthorized recording is made and distributed you will be subject to civil suit. If you use a computer to take notes the instructor reserves the right to obtain a copy of your notes within 24 hours of the request; failure to comply with this will result in a failing grade for the course.

Late assignments will be penalized 20 percent per day beyond the due date. Incompletes will only be offered when requested in writing on behalf of a student by the Chair of the Department of Political Science or the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. All grade disputes must be in writing.

Students who expect to miss class because of the observance of a religious holiday will have an opportunity to make up missed work given that the instructor has been notified in writing regarding the anticipated absence by the last day of late registration (August 29, 2008). Students who expect to miss class due to an officially sanctioned, UNLV activity (e.g., intercollegiate athletics) must notify the instructor in writing at least 7 days prior to the anticipated absence and provide written verification of participation.

The instructor reserves the right to have students' assignments submitted electronically and assessed by plagiarism detection software. The University requires all members of the University Community to be familiar with and to follow copyright and fair use laws. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To help familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit its copyright page at: [www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright](http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright). Plagiarism of any form will result in a failing grade for the course and the instructor will file a case with the Office of Student Conduct.

The instructor expects students to read a major international news source on a regular basis. The instructor suggests the following sources of information: *Economist* ([www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)); *Financial Times* ([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com)); *International Herald Tribune* ([www.iht.com](http://www.iht.com)); *Asia Times* ([www.atimes.com](http://www.atimes.com)).

*Participation and Communication:* The instructor usually will reply to email questions and concerns within 24 hours. Please understand, however, there may be times where it will take longer for a reply. Announcements will be made on the course homepage if the instructor will be unavailable for any extended period. The instructor expects students to log-in to Webcampus on a regular basis. Please note that it is UNLV's policy that you communicate with the instructor via your Rebelmail account.

### **Required Readings:**

Goldstein, J. S. and J.C. Pevehouse (2008) *International Relations*. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, New York: Longman.

In addition to the textbook, the instructor will from time to time post additional readings on WebCampus. These additional readings are required. Discussion, quiz, and exam questions may be based on the additional readings.

### **Computer Issues**

For passwords, access issues and other computer problems contact the Student Computing Services Help Desk at 702-895-0761. Alternatively you can use to the WebCampus Presidium Support site at <http://supportcenteronline.com>

### **Student Accommodation:**

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability>.

**Course Outline:** The instructor reserves the right to adjust this schedule as needed.

Date	Topic	Readings
8/26	Introduction	Goldstein Chapter 1
8/28	Realism	Goldstein Chapter 2
9/2	Realism	Goldstein Chapter 2
9/4	Alternative to Realism	Goldstein Chapter 3
9/9	Alternative to Realism	Goldstein Chapter 3
9/11	Foreign Policy	Goldstein Chapter 4
9/16	Foreign Policy	Goldstein Chapter 4
<b>9/18</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>	
9/23	Conflict & War	Goldstein Chapter 5
9/25	Conflict & War	Goldstein Chapter 5
9/30	Military Force	Goldstein Chapter 6
10/2	Military Force	Goldstein Chapter 6
10/7	The UN System	Goldstein Chapter 7
10/9	The UN System	Goldstein Chapter 7
10/14	International Law & Diplomacy	Goldstein Chapter 7
10/16	International Law & Diplomacy	Goldstein Chapter 7
10/21	International Law & Diplomacy	Goldstein Chapter 7
<b>10/23</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>	
10/28	International Trade	Goldstein Chapter 8
10/30	International Trade	Goldstein Chapter 8
11/4	International Monetary Relations	Goldstein Chapter 9
11/6	International Monetary Relations	Goldstein Chapter 9
<b>11/11</b>	<b>Holiday</b>	<b>no class</b>
11/13	Integration	Goldstein Chapter 10
11/18	Integration	Goldstein Chapter 10
11/20	Global Environmental Politics	Goldstein Chapter 11
11/25	Global Environmental Politics	Goldstein Chapter 11
11/27	<b>Holiday</b>	<b>no class</b>
12/2	North-South Relations	Goldstein Chapter 12
12/4	Development	Goldstein Chapter 13
<b>12/9</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>3:10-5:10 PM (subject to change)</b>

**Other Key Dates:**

**Last Day to Withdraw, November 3**

**All Make-up exams, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**