

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

Prof. Jonathan R. Strand
Phone: 895-3356
Office Hours: M, W 1:00-2:30 (and by appointment)

Fall 2005
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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 Requirements: *Exams:* There will be three 100 point exams. All make-up exams are scheduled for Wednesday December 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Make-up exams will only be allowed when the instructor is notified *before* the scheduled exam and only for verifiable and excusable grounds. All 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.

Class Participation and attendance, including quizzes, will account for another 100 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 participation 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. 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 (September 2). 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 verification of participation.

The instructor reserves the right to have students’ written materials 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. 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); *Financial Times* (www.ft.com); *International Herald Tribune* (www.ihf.com); Asia Times (www.atimes.com). Quizzes may include information on current events.

Required Text:

Bruce Russett, Harvey Starr, and David Kinsella (2006) *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*. (8th Ed.) Belmont, CA: Thompson, Wadsworth. ISBN:0-534-604129.

Student Accommodation: The UNLV Disability Resource Center (DRC) houses the resources for students with 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. The phone numbers are 702-895-0866 (voice), 702-895-0652 (TDD), and 702-895-0651 (Fax). For additional information please visit: www.unlv.edu/studentinf/les.

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

August 29: Introduction, Chapter 1

August 31: Theories, Chapter 2

September 5: No Class

September 7: Theories (continued), Chapter 2

September 12: Actors, Chapter 3

September 14, 19, & 21: System Structure & Power, Chapters 4 & 5

September 26: Exam 1

September 28: Domestic Politics, Chapter 6

October 3: Individuals, Chapter 7

October 5 & 10: Military Conflict & Force, Chapter 8

October 12: The Security Dilemma, Chapter 9

October 17 & October 19: International Law and Organization, Chapter 10

October 24: Democratic Peace & Zones of Turmoil, Chapter 11

October 26: Exam 2

October 31 & November 2: Political Economy of Security, Chapter 12

November 7 & 9: Interdependence & Economic Order, Chapter 13

November 14 & 16: Regionalization and Globalization, Chapter 14

November 21, 23, 28: North-South Economic Relations, Chapter 15

November 30 & December 5: Politics of the Global Environment, Chapter 16

December 7: Debating the Future, Chapter 17

FINAL EXAM, December 12 (Monday) 8:00-10:00 a.m.