

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

Department of Political Science

PSC 231 Section 003

WORLD POLITICS

Fall 2005

Friday 2:30 PM - 5:20 PM

Location: WRI C303

Instructor: Olga Kuznetsova-Elliott

Office Hours: Thursday - 9:15PM - 9:45PM & Friday -10:30AM -1:00PM Office: WRI A216

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COURSE OBJECTIVES, CONTENT, PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

This is an introductory course in World Politics. As such, it is designed to achieve the following:

1. **Content:** International Relations (IR) is a sub-field of Political Science, concerned with international politics. As a field of study, International Relations (IR) has uncertain boundaries and it is interdisciplinary. It has numerous overlaps with other disciplines such as history, economics, psychology, sociology, geography, communications, cultural and environmental studies. Notwithstanding the breadth and scope of IR, it focuses primarily on the theoretical and scientific study of systems, structures, institutions, law, development, environment, power, conflict, cooperation, trade, and policy-making at the international level.
2. We will gain insight into the main sub-fields of IR such as security studies, international organization, foreign policy-making, and international political economy. IR is a dynamic and evolving field, undergoing constant change and development. We will analyze various international and global phenomena, actors, issues, institutions, and their continuity and change.
3. We will first address international security issues. The second half of the course will address international political economy and international development issues.
4. **Objectives:** Students will be able to apply the basic methodological, theoretical, and conceptual tools used for the analysis and study of International Relations and World Politics. We will discuss current events and will apply concepts, theories, and methods used in the study of IR in explaining the events of the day.
5. Students will become familiar with the historical and philosophical basis for the present-day "state" of the nation-states.
6. We will analyze contemporary global issues and policy implications for the present and for the future. We will gain insight into the workings and the dynamics of international and global systems and structures.
7. We will take a closer look at the mechanics of *power politics* as it relates to the nation-states and their relations with each other.

8. We will gain insight into and review such important topics as **Genocide, National Defense, Global Security, Globalization, National Sovereignty, Human Trafficking & Slavery, Human Rights, Nuclear Proliferation, Terrorism, War, International Law & Order, Environment, Water Shortages & Droughts, Population, Natural Disasters, Infectious Diseases & Epidemics, SARS & Flu Outbreaks.**

9. Seek understanding into such fundamental concepts as Realism, Liberalism, Feminism, Socialism, Dependency, Liberty, Order, Conflict, Equality, Democracy, Ideology, Legitimacy, Sovereignty, . Majority Rule, Pluralism, Pragmatism, etc.

Course Structure and Expectations:

Each lecture will consist of **three parts**. The '**warm-up**', **introductory part** will help us "activate" our international political vocabulary. During this part, we will tackle various concepts to enlarge our political vernacular and enhance our knowledge of world politics. This part, as well as all other parts of the class, will be based on the *required* reading, assigned for that week. The **second part** will consist of a lecture, where the topic at hand will be discussed at length. The **third** part will be based both on **theory and practice**. Students will participate in **interactive activities and games**, based on the required reading and other assignments for that week.

We will be actively engaged in discussions and presentations, as well as "question-answer" time. This will be a chance for students to shine and show active participation. We will conclude each class with a brief summary of the subject matter. Homework and assignments for the next week's class will be . discussed. Students will leave the classroom with a list of discussion topics for the next class and will be asked to ponder over some probing issues, as they relate to international politics and our own experience.

I will expect everybody **to read the required materials prior** to each class to allow you to participate in each session to your full potential. Students will be **required and expected** to follow **current events** by watching the news, reading newspapers and magazines, researching political issues on the Internet, staying curious, etc.

Evaluation: Grades will be determined based on the following:

- 1. Attendance and participation can greatly improve your grade! (15%)**
- 2. A written mid-term examination, consisting of 3 PARTS (30%):** multiple choices, a short quiz based on concepts and terms, and a short 2-page essay (in-class). With regards to essays, students will be free to select their favorite topic from an extensive list, provided by the instructor. Most essay topics will be phrased in the form of a question to allow students to expand on an idea or a theory.
- 3. A final examination, consisting of 3 PARTS (30%):** multiple choices, a quiz based on concepts, terms, and a short 3-page essay (in-class). Students will be free to select their favorite topic from an extensive list, provided by the instructor. Again, most essay topics will be phrased in the form of a question to allow students to expand on an idea or a policy issue.
- 4. Throughout the semester, I will be conducting short pop quizzes (10%),** which can help you greatly in your overall grade evaluation.
- 5. Each student will be assigned two (2) oral presentations (15%).** You will be given ample time to research a topic; presentation assignments will encompass a vast array of topics - foreign policy issues, NATO, UN, WTO, IMF, leaders, etc.) Certain presentation assignments will require work in

groups. Your group will have an opportunity to polish the presentation before you have to present it to the rest of the class. The quality of your oral presentations can greatly improve your grade as well.

Attendance policy:

Throughout the entire semester I will be tracking down and taking everyone's attendance. Students who arrive late or leave early will be marked absent. Since this is such a significant part of your grade, you must have a legitimate and compelling excuse to miss a class. Please, e-mail me or call me *in advance* if you are going to miss a class. Failure to take your mid-term or final exam on a scheduled date may result in an inferior grade. Mid-term make-up exams may be arranged for those students with legitimate and compelling excuses. Make-up exams are NOT offered for the final exam.

Course Outline:

Note: The following topics and dates are subject to minor changes to accommodate your interests, requests and needs.

Week #1 (9/2/05) - Introductions. Overview of policies, procedures, and expectations. **War & Conflict** - natural tendencies? **Cooperation & Reason** - natural tendencies? **International Anarchy** - what does it mean?

Reading: J. Goldstein, Chapters 1 and 2.

Week #2 (9/9/05) - A framework for analysis: **Realism & Liberalism** - conflicting theoretical approaches? The dichotomy between *what is vs. what should be*. Perceptions - how do we perceive the world? What ***IS real?***

Reading: J. Goldstein, Chapters 3 & 4.

Week #3 (9/16/05) - **Alternatives to Power Politics.** Towards an **Eclectic Approach.**
Foreign Policy - models of decision-making.

Reading: J. Goldstein, Chapter 5.

Week #4 (9/23/05) - **International Conflict:** the Causes of *War*. Leverage and Power.

Reading: J. Goldstein, Chapter 6.

Week #5 (9/30/05) - **Military Force:** the use of force, states and militaries.

Reading: J. Goldstein, Chapter 7.

Week #6 (10/07/05) - **International Organization and Law:** Law and Sovereignty, the UN, World Order and International Law.

Reading: **REVIEW CHAPTERS 1-7 AND ALL THE NOTES!**

Week #7 (10/14/05) - MID-TERM EXAMINATION- MARK YOUR CALENDARS! (Good Luck!

Week #8 (10/21/05) - International Political Economy: International Markets, Trade Regimes and Agreements. Currency, Money Supply, and Global Banking. The Role of Multinationals and Implications for Sovereignty.

Reading: *J. Goldstein, Chapters 8 &9.*

Week #9 (10/28/05) - NO CLASS. NEVADA DAY. Please, DO THE READING ASSIGNMENT!

Reading: *J. Goldstein, Chapters 8 &9.*

Week #10 (11/04/05) - **Integration:** Supranationalism the European Union. Global Culture? Environment and Population. Interdependence. Natural Resources - Scarcity?

Reading: *J. Goldstein, Chapters 10 &11.*

Week #11 (11/11/05) - NO CLASS. VETERAN'S DAY. Please, DO THE READING ASSIGNMENT!

Reading: *J. Goldstein, Chapters 10&11.*

Week #12 (11/18/05) - **The North-South Gap** - Poverty, Imperialism. Revolution.

Reading: *J. Goldstein, Chapter 12 & 13.*

Week #13 (11/25/05) - NO CLASS/THANKSGIVING/FAMILY DAY. Please, DO THE READING ASSIGNMENT!

Reading: *J. Goldstein, Chapter 12, 13 & 14.*

Week #14 (12/02/05) - **International Development. Foreign Assistance & Aid. Dependency Relationship?**

Reading: *J. Goldstein, Chapters 1- 14. Review ALL the materials and lecture notes in preparation for the final exam.*

Week #15 (12/09/05) - **World Politics and International Relations Revisited: Review and Concluding Remarks.**

Final Presentations and Discussion Groups. Study guides will be discussed and distributed.

Reading: *Review ALL the materials and get ready for the FINAL EXAM!*

12/16/05 - FINAL EXAM - GOOD LUCK!

REQUIRED READING:

Goldstein, J. S. (2005) *International Relations*. 6th Edition New York: Longman.

"IF YOU HAVE A DOCUMENTED DISABILITY THAT MAY REQUIRE ASSISTANCE, YOU WILL NEED TO CONTACT THE LEARNING ENHANCEMENT SERVICES FOR COORDINATION OF YOUR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS. THE LES IS LOCATED IN THE REYNOLDS STUDENT SERVICES COMPLEX IN ROOM 137. THE PHONE IS (702) 895-0866 and www.drcssc@ccmall.nevada.edu.