

WORLD POLITICS

SPRING 2009

Instructor: Mr. Gordon Stirling Course: Political Science 231
Phone: 895-5250 Section: 001
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Office: A-226/WRI Time: TR, 4:00-5:15 PM
Office Hours: MW, 2:45-3:45 PM

Description: This course is an introduction to international politics and foreign policy. The course also will cover international trade and development. Students should gain knowledge of the theories, elements and institutions of international political, security and economic relations and how these relate to current events and trends in international relations. Successful completion of this course satisfies UNLV's International and Foreign Culture requirement.

Required Text: International Relations, Eighth Edition, Goldstein and Pevehouse

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for Political Science 231.

Office Hours, Telephone and E-mail: Office hours and office telephone number are as noted above. You may leave a voicemail if the instructor is not in the office when you call. E-mails from students to the instructor and from the instructor to students should be through official UNLV e-mail (Rebelmail) and Web Campus channels only.

Attendance: Attendance is required. Every three absences, for any reason, will result in the loss of one-half grade (for example, B+ to B; six absences would result in the loss of another half-grade, B to B-). Some questions on each test will be derived only from lecture material. Therefore, regular class attendance is strongly advised.

You may not attend class if you are not registered for the class. Please check your registration status regularly to ensure that you remain registered. You may not attend a course section if you are not registered for that section. If you are requested by the Registrar or an Advisement office to obtain a faculty signature for any kind of add/drop or other administrative action, you will be referred to the Chairman of the Political Science Department.

March 27 is the final day you may drop or withdraw from a class without refund.

Academic Misconduct: Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolled at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

Examples of misconduct include plagiarism (using the words or ideas of another, from the internet or any source, without proper citation of the source) and cheating. Any attempt to cheat on an examination will be subject to the most severe penalty the University allows.

Copyright and Fair Use Laws: The University requires all members of the UNLV Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. YOU ARE INDIVIDUALLY AND SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATIONS OF COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE LAWS. THE UNIVERSITY WILL NEITHER PROTECT YOU 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 familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, you are encouraged to visit the following website: <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/>.

Class Conduct and Interruptions: In accordance with UNLV's student conduct code and student expectations, it is important to maintain a class atmosphere conducive to listening, learning and concentration. Cell phones, pagers, music players and other electronic communications devices should be turned off and put away during class. Late arrivals, early departures, leaving and returning, eating in class, "side-bar" conversations and other inattentive behavior during class interrupt the flow of discussion and concentration of other students, and should be avoided.

If a late arrival or early departure is unavoidable, please take a seat as near to an exit from the classroom as possible to prevent disruption. If you use a laptop computer in class (**to be used for taking notes only**), please sit in a back row, so as to avoid distracting other students.

Polite intellectual discourse and inquiry, with respect for the views and opinions of each other, will be the norm in class. No tape recording or filming of class sessions is permitted, as it can inhibit class participation.

Disabilities: The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The

DRC is the UNLV office that reviews and maintains disability documentation for students and provides 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 Center (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are VOICE (702)895-0866; TTY (702)895-0652; FAX (702)895-0861. For additional information, please visit <http://www.studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

UNLV Writing Center: One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling (702) 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu>

Assignments and Grading:

Exams

There will be three closed-book exams of multiple choice, true-false and short answer essay questions. You will need to bring a Scantron form, a pencil and an exam book (or blank sheets of paper) to each exam. Final grades will be determined by adding together the total points received on the three exams and calculating the percentage.

Students will be graded on knowledge and understanding of textbook reading assignments and class lectures. Reading assignments and exam dates are set forth in the schedule below. Please note that the amount of material covered during the semester is subject to slight change at the discretion of the instructor, taking into account time constraints and the extent of coverage of various topics. Students will be informed in advance of the specific material to be covered on exams. The exams are not cumulative.

Material from the readings not included in the lectures and material from the textbooks not included in the lectures may be the basis for exam

questions. Electronic dictionaries are not permitted to be used during exams.

This syllabus and a study guide before each exam will be provided under this course on Web Campus.

Your Scantron form and essay paper, with scores, will be returned to you following Exams I and II. You will also be notified of your mid-term grade, which will consist of your grade on exams to that date, plus an extra credit. Scores for Exams I, II and III also will be posted on Web Campus. After an exam, check to ensure that your exam score is posted on Web Campus. If it is not, please consult with the instructor.

Make-up Exams and Early/Late Exams

Religious Holidays: If you miss an examination because of a religious holiday that you observe, you will have the opportunity to make up the examination shortly thereafter. You must notify the instructor by January 20 if you anticipate missing an examination because of observance of a religious holiday so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Official extracurricular activity: If the date of any of the examinations conflicts with your participation in an official extracurricular activity, you will have the opportunity to make up the examination shortly thereafter. You must provide official written notification no less than one week prior to the examination so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Extraordinary circumstances: If extraordinary circumstances require you to miss an exam you will have the opportunity to make up the exam on the last day of scheduled class only, April 30. Several days before the make-up date, the instructor will send reminders of the make-up date through Web Campus to students for whom no scores have been recorded for either or both of the first and second exams. If you receive such a reminder in error, please consult with the instructor immediately.

There will be no make-up exam for the third exam, which will be given only on May 5, during exam week.

Early exams will not be given.

Class Discussion of Current Events

Discussions of current events related to international affairs will enhance your understanding of material covered in the text and the lectures. You should become familiar with current international political trends and events through regular reading of newspapers and/or

internet news sites, and through watching or listening to television and radio news and discussions shows. Current events material of relevance to class content may be posted on Web Campus in advance of class to promote class discussion.

Extra credit

Students may earn extra credit by presenting information during class on international issues in accordance with a format to be provided by the instructor. In order for all students to have an opportunity to earn extra credit, students are limited to one extra credit presentation every two weeks (that is, four class sessions must go by before you may present your next extra credit presentation). Extra credit presentations are worth three points each.

Grade Percentages

90% and above = A 80%-89% = B 70%-79% = C 60%-69% = D
Below 60% = F

Students in the B, C and D ranges whose final percentages approach the next higher grade may receive a B+, C+ or D+. No minuses will be given, except in the cases of half-grades lost for absences.

COURSE SCHEDULE

January 13, 15

Introduction; Syllabus;
The Globalization of International Relations

Goldstein - Chapter 1

January 20, 22

Power Politics

Goldstein - Chapter 2

January 27, 29

Alternatives to Power Politics

Goldstein - Chapter 3

February 3, 5

Foreign Policy

Goldstein - Chapter 4

February 10, 12

International Conflict

Goldstein - Chapter 5

February 17

Exam I

February 19, 24

Military Force and Terrorism

Goldstein - Chapter 6

February 26, March 3

International Organization, Law and Human Rights

Goldstein - Chapter 7

March 5, 10

International Trade

Goldstein - Chapter 8

March 17, 19

Money and Business

Goldstein - Chapter 9

March 24, 26

International Integration

Goldstein - Chapter 10

March 31

Exam II

April 2, 14

Environment and Population

Goldstein - Chapter 11

April 16, 21

The North-South Gap

Goldstein - Chapter 12

April 23, 28

International Development

Goldstein - Chapter 13

April 30

Make-up Examinations

(If you have no make-up exams to take, you do not need to come to class.)

May 5 (6:00 pm-8:00 pm)

Exam III