

University of Utah
Political Science Department
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
POLS 2100-03

Tuesdays **Spring 2008**
6:00-8:40 PM **BU C 305**

Instructor: Kristian Alexander
Office: OSH 325
Office hours: Wednesdays 4:00-6:00
and by prior appointment

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Purpose and Objectives

This course serves as a general introduction for students interested in international relations. The purpose of the course is to introduce the students to the basic concepts, units of analysis, and major issues of international relations (IR). This course explores both, the general principles and theories of IR, as well as some of the most controversial issues in contemporary world politics. Students will learn to analyze factors that influence the behavior of states at various levels: systemic, regime, societal, bureaucratic, and individual. Later in the course, students will apply some of the previously learned principles to some important current issues in world politics, including security in the post-Cold War era, the re-emergence of nationalism, and the international political economy.

There are several different goals this course sets out to accomplish. For one, you should be better able to understand and participate in the ongoing public debate about the major issues in international affairs. Second, you should acquire the knowledge and intellectual skills necessary for more specialized courses in international relations. Thirdly, you should improve your ability to think, read, listen, write and speak critically and clearly. For students interested in a career that will take them beyond America's borders, a study abroad is an extremely valuable experience, and the University of Utah has arrangements with universities across the globe which makes this possible. These permit students to study, and in some cases work, in internship positions in countries around the world. In addition, the Hinckley Institute for Politics has an internship program that enables University of Utah students to spend a semester in Washington, working and studying in a variety of settings tailored to students' interests.

This is a lecture and discussion course, the success of which depends heavily on your preparation for each class meeting and your enthusiasm you bring to class discussion. I will be asking you questions during each class and may give quizzes to make sure you have kept up with current events in World Politics.

Course Requirements

1. Class participation: (10%). Your participation grade will consist of active participation in class discussion (thoughtful comments, answering questions posed by the instructor, raising critical questions) and in-class exercises. In order to get the most out of this course, you must be prepared when you come to class. You are required to complete the readings prior to class meeting and to be ready to discuss them. Be prepared to answer questions about the readings. If I feel that students are not doing the readings, I reserve the right to replace part of the participation grade with unannounced quizzes on the reading assignments. You are also expected to keep up to date with current events in world politics by reading periodicals (*Time*, *Newsweek*, *The Economist*, etc.) and a national newspaper such as the *New York Times* or equivalent. Attendance will affect your participation, and excessive absences will result in a lower grade. An excused absence means you have a medical excuse or documented emergency.

2. In-class debate: (20%). Many class periods will be devoted to discussions of controversial issues in world politics. The topics will be drawn from John Rourke's *Taking Sides: World Politics* (13th ed.). For several of these topics approximately two to four students will be in charge of beginning the class discussion of the topic at hand (during the second part/half of class). For example, if the question to be addressed were "Is Islamic Fundamentalism a Threat to Political Stability?", two students will have to advocate in favor of the "pro" position and two students take the "contra" side. In a debate style format, each group will briefly present their position and perspective. There will also be an opportunity for each group to respond following opening presentation. You will be allotted approximately 15-20 minutes to present your case (per side/group) after which your classmates will be allowed to ask questions. A sign up sheet with issues that you can choose from will be handed out at the beginning of the first week of class. I will compile a list of all group participants and hand out the final schedule with names and e-mail addresses for your convenience. It is the groups' responsibility to meet and coordinate the activities that will lead to a successful completion of this project. In addition to presenting your case in class, you will be required to hand in a 2-3 page paper (double spaced, 12-inch font) that deals with your subject matter. In this paper you are required to summarize/synthesize the argument you have been assigned to represent and to rebut one argument that your counterparts will likely present. This paper is due at the end of your in-class presentation. All group members are required to hand in a separate paper. Your grade for this assignment will be based on the in-class presentation and the subsequent paper. Under certain circumstances, students will be afforded the opportunity for extra credit in which case they will be asked to sign up for more than one in-class debate topic.

3. Exams: Midterm (20%) - Final (30%). The examinations will test the students' comprehension and analysis of the readings and lecture material. Exams will be a mix of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and most probably a choice of essay questions (esp. on the Final exam). The Final will be comprehensive. Make-up

examinations will only be allowed if you obtain permission from me at least 24 hours prior to the exam. Make-up exams will only be permitted if you can provide me with a legitimate excuse (i.e., medical excuse or documented emergency).

4. Short Writing Assignment: (1) (20%). This assignment is marked on the syllabus and will be the basis of extended class discussions. By writing the paper in advance, all students will be better prepared to follow and participate in class exercises. Three to four (max.) pages double-spaced to be handed to the instructor at the beginning of class. These papers should be typed, double spaced, use 12-inch font, and not to exceed the designated amount of pages. Papers that fail to meet these requirements will not be accepted! It should be referenced and free of spelling and grammatical errors. I do not accept electronic submissions; it is the student's responsibility to provide me with a paper copy of all work.

The short writing assignment is due in class on Tuesday, January 22nd, 2008.: In 3-4 pages, critically assess Huntington's arguments. What is (are) his basic argument(s)? Do you fundamentally agree or disagree? What are his assumptions and perceptions of the Islamic World? Provide evidence to support your points, and be prepared to discuss in class!

Samuel Huntington, "Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993, pp.22-49* (also available through EBSCO Host).

Late Assignments: If you cannot fulfill a requirement by the due date, I must be contacted within 24 hours of the due date and provided with a legitimate explanation (e.g., medical illness). Assignments, which are allowed to be completed after the due date, will be expected to meet higher standards given the additional time granted.

Student Academic Conduct: The University of Utah's policies pertaining to Academic Misconduct and Dishonesty will be carefully observed and strictly enforced in this class. This policy appears on pages 11-13 of the 2000-2002 General Catalog and in the electronic Policy and Procedures Manual at <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>

Plagiarism Note

Any instance of plagiarism, or other forms of academic misconduct, will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may also result in a failing grade for the course. The University's definition of plagiarism is as follows:

"Plagiarism" means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.

ADA Statement: The University of Utah, Department of Political Science seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, <http://disability.utah.edu/> 162 Olpin Union Bldg, 581-5020 (V/TDD) to make arrangements for accommodations. This information is available in alternative format with prior notification.

Course Materials and Readings

Rourke, John T. and Mark A. Boyer, *International Politics on the World Stage. Brief.* (7th ed.), (Guilford, Conn: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, 2008).

Rourke, John T., *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in World Politics* (13th ed.), (Guilford, Conn: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, 2008).

These books are available for purchase at the University bookstore. In addition, several articles, necessary for assignments, will be placed on electronic reserve at Marriott Library. They can be viewed, printed or downloaded at (<http://ereserve.lib.utah.edu/webpac-1.2-bin/DoReserve>).

It is the students' responsibility to get a copy of these articles. They are indicated with an asterisk (*) in the course outline.

To access material on e-reserve:

- Through the Marriott Library:
- Log-in to My.Utah.edu, or
- Click on Course Reserves on the Marriott Library home page and authenticate through the My.Utah.edu
- Directly through My.Utah.edu: Click on the *Academics* option from the left menu

Should you encounter problems logging on or accessing the online articles, please call the *Campus Help Desk* at 581-4000 or the *Reserve Desk* at 581-6049.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Tuesday, January 8th, 2008

Topic: Introduction to the Course

Week 2: Tuesday, January 15th, 2008

Topic: Concepts and Theories in International Relations

Rourke and Boyer, Chapter 1

Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," *Foreign Policy*, November/December 2004, pp.53-62*

J. Ann Tickner, "Feminist Perspectives on 9/11," *International Studies Perspectives*, no.3, 2002, pp.333-350*

Donald Snow, "Popular Terror and the Democratic Peace. Theory versus Practice," in: Donald Snow (2008) *Cases in International Relations. Portraits of the Future*. 3rd ed., Pearson/Longman, pp. 3-19*

Short Paper is due in class Tuesday, January 22nd, 2008.

NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED!

Week 3: Tuesday, January 22nd, 2008

Topic: The Evolution of World Politics

Rourke and Boyer, Chapter 2

Bruce D. Berkowitz, "Who Won the Cold War---and Why it Matters," in: Steven L. Spiegel et al. (2005) *Readings in World Politics. A New Era*. Wadsworth: USA, pp.251-257 (Reprinted)*

Jeffrey Record, "The Use and Abuse of History: Munich, Vietnam and Iraq," *Survival*, Vol.49, No.1, pp.163-180*

Week 4: Tuesday, January 29th, 2008

Topic: Levels of Analysis

Rourke and Boyer, Chapter 3

Daniel W. Drezner, "Foreign Policy Goes Glam," *The National Interest*, Vol.92, Nov./Dec. 2007, pp.22-28*

Andrew J. Bacevich, "Requiem for the Bush Doctrine," *Current History*, Vol.104, No.686, pp.411-417*

In-Class Discussion: Should All Foreign Troops Soon Leave Iraq?
Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 7; pp.102-113

Week 5: Tuesday, February 5th, 2008

Topic: Nationalism

Rourke and Boyer, Chapter 4

Minxin Pei, "The Paradoxes of American Nationalism," in: *Foreign Policy*, no.136, May/June 2003, pp.30-37*

David A. Lake and Donald Rothchild, "Containing Fear. The Origins and Management of Ethnic Conflict," in: Michael Brown et al (2001) *Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict*. Cambridge: MIT Press, pp.126-160*

In-Class Discussion: Is U.S. Global Dominance Destructive?
Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 3; pp.36-51

Week 6: Tuesday, February 12th, 2008

Topic: Globalization and Transnationalism

Rourke and Boyer, Chapter 5

Jeffrey Haynes, "Religion and International Relations after 9/11.," in:
Democratization, Vol.12, no.3, June 2005, pp.398-418*

Timothy Samuel Shah and Monica Duffy Toft, "Why God is Winning," in:
Foreign Policy, July/August 2006, pp.38-43*

In-Class Discussion: Is Economic Globalization a Positive Trend?
Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 1; pp.2-20

Week 7: Tuesday, February 19th, 2008

Topic: National Power and Diplomacy

Rourke and Boyer, Chapter 6

Joshua Kurlantzick, "The Decline of American Soft Power," *Current History*,
Vol.104, No.686, pp.419-424*

Timothy Garton Ash, "Anti-Europeanism in America," *Hoover Digest*, No.2,
Spring 2003.*

In-Class Discussion: Is Patient Diplomacy the Best Approach to Iran's Nuclear
Program?
Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 14; pp.254-273

REVIEW FOR MIDTERM

Week 8: Tuesday, February 26th, 2008

Midterm: 6:00-8:00 PM

Week 9: Tuesday, March 4th, 2008

Topic: International Organizations: An Alternative Structure

Rourke and Boyer, Chapter 7

Jeffrey Laurenti, "Grand Goals, Modest Results: The UN in Search of Reform,"
Current History, Vol.104, No.686, pp.431-437*

John Redmond, "Turkey and the European Union: troubled European or European
trouble?," in: *International Affairs*, Vol.83, no.2, 2007, pp.305-317*

In-Class Discussion: Does the United Nations Deserve Support?
Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 16, pp.292-305

Week 10: Tuesday, March 11th, 2008

Topic: International Law and Human Rights

Rourke and Boyer, Chapter 8

Rhoda E. Howard and Jack Donnelly “Human Rights in World Politics,”
in: Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis eds. (2005) *International Politics. Enduring
Concepts and Contemporary Issue*. Pearson/Longman 7th ed., pp.558-570
(Reprinted)*

Scott Strauss, “Darfur and the Genocide Debate,” in: *Foreign Affairs*, Vol.84,
no.1, January/February 2005, pp.123-133*

In-Class Discussion: Is U.S. Refusal to Join the International Criminal Court
Wise?

Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 17; pp.306-324

Week 11: Tuesday, March 18th, 2008

Spring Break: No class!

Week 12: Tuesday, March 25th, 2008

Topic: Pursuing Security

Rourke and Boyer, Chapter 9

Robert A. Pape “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” in: Robert J.
Art and Robert Jervis ed. (2005) *International Politics. Enduring Concepts and
Contemporary Issue*. Pearson/Longman 7th ed., pp.232-249 (Reprinted)*

Peter W. Singer, “Outsourcing War,” in: *Foreign Affairs*, Vol.84, no.2,
March/April 2005, pp.119-132*

In-Class Discussion: Does the United States Have a Sound Strategy for the War
on Terrorism?

Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 13; pp.226-253

Week 13: Tuesday, April 1st, 2008

Topic: National Economic Competition

Rourke and Boyer, Chapter 10

Kendal W. Stiles, “Sweatshops, Outsourcing, and Global Production,” in: Kendal
W. Stiles (2008) *Case Histories in International Politics*. 5th ed.,
Pearson/Longman, pp.285-298*

In-Class Discussion: Is Immigration an Economic Benefit to the Host Country?

Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 11; pp.185-201

Week 14: Tuesday, April 8th, 2008

Topic: International Economics

Rourke and Boyer, Chapter 11

Ngairé Woods, "The shifting politics of foreign aid," in: *International Affairs*, Vol. 81, no.2, 2005, pp.393-409*

In-Class Discussion: Is World Trade Organization Membership Beneficial?

Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 9; pp.134-161

Week 15: Tuesday, April 15th, 2008

Topic: Preserving and Enhancing the Biosphere

Rourke and Boyer, Chapter 12

Nicholas Eberstadt, "Russia, the Sick Man of Europe," in: *Public Interest*, no.158, Winter 2005, pp.3-20*

In-Class Discussion: Can Destructive Impacts from Global Warming Be Confidently Predicted?

Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 19; pp.346-359

REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM

Week 16: Tuesday, April 22nd, 2008

Final Exam: 6:00-8:40 PM