

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

Summer 2006

Mon. and Wed. 9:00-12:00 PM OSH 238

(Class meets: 05/15/2006-06/21/2006)

Instructor: Kristian Alexander
Office: OSH 325
Office hours: Mon./Wed. 12:30-1:30 PM
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.

Course Requirements

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. There will also be one written assignment, which is due on Monday, May 22nd, 2006 in class . It is clearly are marked on the syllabus. You will be evaluated through class participation, a midterm exam, a final, the previously mentioned short writing assignment and on your in-class discussion topic.

1. Class participation (15%). 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-class debate on controversial issues).

a.) 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 reading and for the

possibility of unannounced quizzes. You are also expected to keep up to date with current events in world politics by reading periodicals (*Time*, *The Economist*, etc.) and a national newspaper such as the *New York Times* or equivalent.

b.) 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.

c.) 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* (12th ed.). For several of these topics approximately 3-4 students will be in charge of beginning the class discussion of the topic at hand. For example, if the question to be addressed were "Is Islamic Fundamentalism a Threat to Political Stability?", two people will have to advocate in favor of the "pro" position and two people 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 presentations. A sign up sheet with issues that you can choose from will be handed out at the beginning of the first week of class.

2. Exams : Midterm (30%) - Final (35%). 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).

3. Short Writing Assignment (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 (max.) pages double-spaced to be handed to the instructor at the beginning of class. The papers should be typed, double spaced, use 12-inch font, and not to exceed the designated amount of pages. Any paper that fails 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.

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 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*, (6th ed.), (Guilford, Conn: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, 2005).

Rourke, John T., *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in World Politics* (12th ed.), (Guilford, Conn: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, 2006).

These books are available for purchase at the University bookstore. In addition, several articles, necessary for assignments, will be placed on electronic reserve (as well as regular 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.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Monday May 15th, 2006

Topic: Introduction to the Course

Week 1: Wednesday May 17th, 2006

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*

Alica Ba and Matthew Hoffmann, "Making and Remaking the World for IR 101: A Resource for Teaching Social Constructivism in Introductory Classes," *International Studies Perspectives*, no.4, 2003, pp.15-33*

SHORT PAPER ASSIGNMENT:

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

Due in class on Monday, May 22nd, 2006: In a 3 page paper, critically assess Huntington's arguments. What are his main arguments? 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!

Week 2: Monday May 22nd, 2006

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)*

Andreas Wenger & Doron Zimmermann (2003), "Current Affairs," in: *International Relations. From The Cold War to the Globalized World*. Lynne Rienner Pub: Bolder, Colorado, pp.325-338*

Week 2: Wednesday May 24th, 2006

Topic: Levels of Analysis

Rourke and Boyer, Chapter 3

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

Kevin Woods, James Lacey, and Williamson Murray, "Saddam's Delusions: The View from the Inside," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2006, pp.1-13*

In-Class Discussion: Was War with Iraq Justified?

Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 10; pp.136-151

Week 3: Monday May 29th, 2006

Memorial Day Holiday!

No Class!

Week 3: Wednesday May 31st, 2006

Topic: Nationalism, Globalization and Transnationalism

Rourke and Boyer, Chapters 4-5

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*

Daniel Philpott (2002) "The Challenge of September 11 to Secularism in International Relations" *World Politics*, Vol. 55, No.1., pp. 66-95.*

In-Class Discussion: Will State Sovereignty Survive Globalism?

Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 3; pp.31-49

REVIEW FOR MIDTERM

Week 4: Monday June 5th, 2006

Midterm: 9:00-10:15 AM

(Multiple Choice and Short Answer Questions)

Topic: Preserving and Enhancing Human Rights and the Global Commons

Rourke and Boyer, Chapters 13-14

Laurie Garrett, "The Next Pandemic?," *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2005, p.1-11*

Donald M. Snow, "Worse than the Bubonic Plague. AIDS in Africa as a Transstate Issue," in: Donald M. Snow (2006) *Cases in International Relations. Portraits of the Future*. 2nd ed., pp257-272*

Week 4: Wednesday June 7th, 2006

Topic: International Organizations: An Alternative Structure

Rourke and Boyer, Chapter 7

W. Andy Knight "The future of the UN Security Council: Questions of legitimacy and representation in multilateral governance," in: Andrew F. Cooper et al eds.(2002) *Enhancing Global Governance. Towards a New Diplomacy?* United Nations University Press, pp.19-37*

Jeffrey Laurenti (2005), "Grand Goals, Modest Results: The UN in Search of Reform," *Current History*, Vol.104, No.686, pp.431-437*

In-Class Discussion: Is the United Nations fundamentally flawed?
Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 17, pp.266-283

Week 5: Monday June 12th, 2006

Topic: Diplomacy, International Law and Morality

Rourke and Boyer, Chapters 8-9

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.*

The Economist, "French anti-Americanism," December 24th, 2005, pp.75-77*

The Economist, "Special Report: War Crimes: Bringing the wicked to the dock," March 11th 2006, 20-22*

In-Class Discussion: Should the United States Continue to Encourage a United Europe?

Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 5; pp.70-83

In-Class Discussion: Should the United States ratify the International Criminal Court Treaty?

Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 18; pp.284-297

Week 5: Wednesday June 14th, 2006

Topic: Pursuing Security

Rourke and Boyer, Chapter 10

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)*

Barry R. Posen, “We can Live with a Nuclear Iran,” *The New York Times*, Monday, February 27th, 2006*

In-Class Discussion: Is the War on Terrorism succeeding?
Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 15; pp.230-246

Week 6: Monday June 19th, 2006

Topic: Globalization and Economic Competition and Cooperation

Rourke and Boyer, Chapters 11-12

James S. Henry, “Where the Money Went,” in: *Global Issues. Annual Editions 05/06*, pp.80-84

Jeffrey Kluger, “The Big Crunch,” in: *Global Issues. Annual Editions 05/06*, pp.24-26

Muhammad Yunus, “The Grameen Bank,” in: *Global Issues. Annual Editions 05/06*, pp.189-192

In-Class Discussion: Should the Rich Countries Forgive All Debt Owed by the Poor Countries?
Rourke (Taking Sides): Issue 13; pp.191-205

REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM

Week 6: Wednesday June 21st, 2006

Final Exam: 9:00-11:30 AM
(Essay Questions)

