

Introduction to International Relations
POLS 2100-060
Spring 2008

University of Utah
Political Science Department

Instructor: Carrie Humphreys
Time: Thursday 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Location: Murray Campus, Room 106

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Course Overview & Objectives

This is an introductory course on international relations (IR). As one of the subfields within the discipline of political science, IR studies the interaction among various actors (states, organizations, individuals, etc.) that participate in the global system. Even if you do not intend to major in political science, knowledge of world politics is essential to fully understand the world in which we live because at no time in history have events in distant places had more impact on national and local affairs.

The course is formatted with a mixture of lectures and discussions. I will introduce the main concepts through a lecture after which we will actively discuss key points, examples, and ideas in either small groups or as a class. More specifically, the first part of the course will provide both a historical and theoretical basis for understanding world politics. This part of the course will survey the main players in the global system, the levels of analysis, the key theories, and other important components like power, conflict, and cooperation. The second part of the course will apply the initial theories and concepts to controversial issues in contemporary world politics like globalization and the environment.

By the end of the course, students should have a solid understanding of the core ideas, components, and issues of international relations. Also, students should be able to use the IR fundamentals to analyze past and current issues. The general approach to political analysis learned by students in this course can be extended to issues and events beyond those covered in this class. Finally, students should further develop their skills to critically analyze and actively discuss relevant political topics.

Readings

Most of the required reading assignments for this course are found in the following required text, available through the University Bookstore:

Goldstein, Joshua S., and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2007. *International Relations*. 8th ed. Pearson Longman.

In addition, some supplemental (but also required) journal articles and book chapters have been placed on electronic reserve through the Marriott Library. It is the students' responsibility to get a copy of these articles. They are indicated with asterisks (**) in the course schedule.

Course Grades & Requirements

Final course grades will be determined based upon fulfilling the following requirements:

Participation:	15%
Mid-term exam:	25%
Final exam:	30%
Paper #1	15%
Paper #2	<u>15%</u>
	100% = Total

Participation: The participation grade will be based on: 1) Providing thoughtful comments, answering questions posed by the instructor, and raising critical questions in class. To do so, students are expected to keep up with the weekly readings and attend class. 2) Coming to class prepared to engage in class discussions. Throughout the semester, we will be having small group and class discussions. This is an opportunity for students to become actively engaged in the material and share their ideas, opinions, and insight. Students are expected to participate actively and intelligently in class discussions. 3) Participating in any in class exercises and activities, which includes pop quizzes. Because participation is 15% of the grade and because we only meet once a week, attendance to all class sessions is strongly encouraged.

Exams: There are two in-class exams in this course: a mid-term exam (**February 28**) and a final exam (**May 1**). Both exams will consist of multiple-choice questions, short-answer identifications, and essay questions drawn from the class readings, lectures and discussions. Study guides will be distributed and review sessions will be held prior to the scheduled exams. Students are required to bring a blue book for the essay portion of the exams.

Paper #1 – Comparing IR theories: After we've discussed the three primary IR theories (realism, liberalism & constructivism) in class, students will have to write a 5-6 page paper. This paper must compare/contrast two of the IR theories, and must also have an argument about which theory best explains the world at present and why. This assignment is due at the beginning of class on **February 7**. A more detailed paper guideline will be handed out during the semester.

Paper #2 –Take a side: Debating a key issue: Students will write a 5-6 page paper on the debate over debt, aid, development and the role of the West. More specifically, does the West have a responsibility to provide aid to and/or forgive the debts of developing countries, and why? Students must pick a side of the debate to write on for the paper. This assignment will be used as the basis of a class debate. Attendance and participation in this class debate is a mandatory aspect of the assignment. The class debate and paper due date are the same - **April 3**. More detailed instructions and guidelines will be distributed during the beginning of the semester.

Additional details for both papers - Web sites can be an acceptable source of information (although not exclusively and not Wikipedia), however, most information used in the papers should be gathered from academic journals, books, newspapers like *The NY Times*, or weekly political magazines like *The Economist*. In addition, standard size 12 font, 1-inch margins, double-spacing,

and a consistent citation style are required. More detailed paper guidelines for the papers will be handed out during the beginning of the semester.

Policies & Miscellaneous

Make-up & Late Policies: Extensions and early/make-up exams are not allowed except in the case of extenuating circumstances. Determining whether a circumstance is ‘extenuating’ will be left to the discretion of the instructor, but definitely excludes sleeping late, forgetfulness, missing the bus, getting stuck in traffic, etc. In order for you to take an exam on a date other than that indicated in the syllabus, you must make arrangements with the instructor prior (i.e., at least a week) to the exam date. Late papers will be accepted but they will be subject to deductions. For each day late, 10% will be taken off of the final grade.

Academic Honesty: Academic honesty is expected in every aspect of this course. Cheating and presenting somebody else’s work or ideas as your own (i.e., plagiarism) are serious offenses. It is always important to give credit where credit is due so be sure to include citations whenever you draw on others’ work. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. Please refer to the University’s Student Code for information. You are responsible for knowing the content of the Code. It can be found online at <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>.

University Writing Center: This is a useful resource to help you become a better writer. Tutors can assist in multiple aspects of the writing process from developing ideas to revising paragraphs. Go early and go often to make the best use of this service. It is located on the 2nd floor of the Marriott Library on the main campus and can be contacted at 687-9122 or www.writingcenter.utah.edu.

Equal Access: The University of Utah and the Department of Political Science seek to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, please provide reasonable notice to the Center for Disability Services: 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. This information is available in alternative format with prior notification. For more information, you can also visit www.disability.utah.edu.

Schedule Changes: The course schedule is approximate and may be subject to modification during the semester. Announcements regarding any necessary changes to the syllabus will be made in class, and study guides and other material will also be handed out in class. This information will not be posted on a website, making it only available in class. You are responsible for getting this information.

Course Schedule & Reading Assignments

Week 1 - Introduction

1/10: Syllabus, Course Overview & A Brief History

Week 2 – Realism & Power

1/17: *Read:* Goldstein & Pevehouse, *International Relations* – Chapter 2

Read: Waltz, Kenneth N. 1988. The origins of war in neorealist theory. *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18 (4): 615-628. **

Week 3 – Liberalism & Other Theories

- 1/24: *Read:* Goldstein & Pevehouse, *International Relations* – Chapter 3
Read: Baldwin, David A. 1993. Neoliberalism, neorealism, and world politics. In *Neorealism and neoliberalism: The contemporary debate*. New York: Columbia University Press, 3-25. **
Read: Tickner, J. Ann. 2004. Feminist responses to international security studies. *Peace Review* 16 (1): 43-48. **

Week 4 – Review of theories & Foreign Policy

- 1/31: *Read:* Choose one or more of these theory reviews (also useful for paper #1) **
--Jervis, Robert. 2002. Theories of war in an era of leading-power peace. *American Political Science Review* 96 (1): 1-14.
--Snyder, Jack. 2004. One world, rival theories. *Foreign Policy* 145: 53-62.
--Walt, Stephen M. 1998. International relations: One world, many theories. *Foreign Policy* 110: 29-45.
Read: Goldstein & Pevehouse, *International Relations* – Chapter 4
Read: Allison, Graham T. 2004. Essence of decision. In Marc Genest, *Conflict and cooperation: Evolving theories of international relations*. 2nd ed. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 460-485. **

Week 5 – International Conflict

- 2/7: *Read:* Goldstein & Pevehouse, *International Relations* – Chapter 5
Read: Huntington, Samuel. 1993. Clash of civilizations. *Foreign Affairs* 72 (3): 22-49. **

Theory Paper due

Week 6 – Military Force & Terrorism

- 2/14: *Read:* Goldstein & Pevehouse, *International Relations* – Chapter 6

Week 7 – Cooperation

- 2/21: *Read:* Goldstein & Pevehouse, *International Relations* – Chapter 7
Read: Keohane, Robert. 1998. International institutions: Can interdependence work? *Foreign Policy* 110: 82-96. **

Week 8 – Review & Midterm

- 2/28: **Midterm Exam**

Week 9 – International Political Economy (IPE)

- 3/6: *Read:* Goldstein & Pevehouse, *International Relations* – Chapter 8

Week 10 – Integration

- 3/13: *Read:* Goldstein & Pevehouse, *International Relations* - Chapter 10
Read: Article on EU-Turkey relations – TBA **

Week 11 – Spring Break (3/17-3/22)- No Class

Week 12 – Environment & Population

- 3/27: *Read:* Goldstein & Pevehouse, *International Relations* – Chapter 11
Read: Snow, Donald M. 2008. Warm and getting warmer: Global warming and the fate of the Kyoto Protocol. In *Cases in international relations: Portraits of the future*. 3rd ed. New York: Pearson Education, 227-241. **

Week 13 – North-South Gap

- 4/3: *Read:* Goldstein & Pevehouse, *International Relations* – Chapter 12
Debate Paper due

Week 14 – Development

- 4/10: *Read:* Goldstein & Pevehouse, *International Relations* - Chapter 13
Read: Williamson, John. 1993. Democracy and the ‘Washington Consensus’. *World Development* 21 (8): 1329-1336. **
Read: Easterly, William. 2007. The ideology of development. *Foreign Policy* 161: 31-35. **

Week 15 – Wrap up, Reflections & Review

- 4/17: Wrap up, reflect on future of IR and review for final exam

Final Exam: Thursday, May 1st, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Murray 106