Traditional, the study of International Relations considers patterns of behavior between states, largely issues pertaining to or avoiding war. While war continues to be a concern of the field, issues regarding sustainability have become equally paramount. This course considers traditional issues of state-to-state relations and the causes of war, but also examines sustainability in terms of the environment, globalization, and development issues. The course also examines the role of state-less actors as variables in determining behavior of international actors.

The course examines two overlapping issues. The first is international relations theory, e.g. realism, and how this has been used and redefined. We will also examine the End of History, the Clash of Civilizations, Democratic Peace Theory, and neo-conservatism. We will examine the nature of conflict that inform our understanding of these, including the two World Wars, the Cold War, and the Iraq/Afghanistan wars.

The Second issue looks at international relations that cross state boundaries, including stateless actors and terrorism, globalization, environmental degradation, climate change, and the rise of new states, e.g. China, as a potential global power.

Books to Purchase


Art & Jervis is indicated in the reading assignments as A & J. Additional readings marked with an asterisk below are available on Blackboard.
Course Requirements

Do you want an “A” in this course? The key is to have done the required reading prior to each class session to score well on quizzes and to be prepared to participate in class discussions. Grades in both categories do affect your grade.

Your grade will be determined by the following:

1. **Weekly Tuesday Quizzes – 10 percent of the grade.** I drop the lowest grade. No quizzes after Thanksgiving. I do not give make-up quizzes.

2. **Attendance and participation – 10 percent of the grade.** I take attendance and note participation.

3. **An in-class midterm – 25 percent of the grade.** Format is either multiple choice, true/false, short answer or a combination of these.

4. **An in-class final – 35 percent of the grade.** Same format as midterm. The final covers the entire course.

5. **A 8-10 page paper – 20 percent of the grade.** Write a 8-10 page paper, New Times Roman 12-point font with one inch margins. A proper bibliography and citations must be included (but do not count as the 8-10 pages). The paper is on an aspect of American foreign policy or international relations. Students will select a topic by draw. Paper due date is December 3 via e-mail to pes15@case.edu. There is a 5% deduction of grade per day for late papers.

Electronics

I do not permit the use of electronic devices in class. This includes computers, laptops, tablets, and cell phones. These are wonderful devices but they moderate are ability to learn how to listen.
A note on success.

If you come to class but do not do the readings, you're likely grade will be 50%.
If you do the readings but do not come to class, your likely grade will be 50%.
If you do the readings and come to class, your likely grade will be much higher.

Some students who scored “A” on all work earned a B in the course because they did not attend class regularly or did not participate in discussions. I do take attendance each class. I also note participation. I call students by name when asking questions. Sitting quietly and saying nothing when questions are posed to you indicates you are not prepared. Do not be afraid of making a mistake because the one who never makes a mistake never makes anything.
**Course Schedule**  
Tentative, Subject to Change

**August 25**  
Course Introduction  

*Reading*  

**August 27 & September 1: Anarchy & Levels of Analysis**  
This section considers how you are looking at something, i.e. what level of analysis are you using to consider an event and make policy choices based on that. The issue is critical: if you consider policy options based on an international systems level of analysis and your opponent considers only a state-centric level, fruitful negotiations may be impossible.

*Reading*  
Joseph Nye: *Understanding International Conflicts*, Ch. 2  

**September 3, 8 , 10, 15, 17 & 24: The Struggle for Power & International Relations Theories**  
Scholars and practitioners of international relations try to do two things: understand why an unwanted event occurred and come up with some predictive theory to determine how such an event could be avoided in the future. Accordingly, they use a variety of theories they believe determine when such events occur.

**September 3** The Struggle for Power & International Relations Theories  

*Reading*  
Kenneth Waltz: “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics” A & J.  
*Stephen Walt: “International Relations: One World, Many Theories” in Foreign Policy, Spring 1998.

**September 8** Realism and Neorealism  

*Reading*  

**September 8** Quiz Number One on Postman, Weiner, Nye, Mearsheimer, Waltz and Walt
September 10  The Constructivist Critique of Neorealism

Reading  Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It” A & J.

September 15:  Democratic Peace Theory

  Michael W. Doyle: “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs” A & J.

September 15:  Quiz Number Two on Jervis, Waltz and Wendt

September 17 & 22:  Coercive Diplomacy

  Robert J. Art: The Four Functions of Force” in A & J.

September 22:  Quiz Number Three on Russet, Doyle and Layne

September 24, 29, October 1, 6, & 8:  Using Theories

How are these theories applied in discovering how events occurred in the past?

September 24  State-Level Causes:  Balance of Power and the First World War

Reading  Joseph S. Nye, Jr.: “The Balance of Power and World War I” in Understanding International Conflicts, Ch. 3.

September 29  Quiz Number Four on Nye, Trachtenberg and Sagan

September 29  Failure of Collective Security & World War II

Reading  Joseph S. Nye, Jr. Understanding International Conflicts, Ch. 4.
October 1  Cold War & Containment

Reading
* X (George Kennan): “The Sources of Soviet Conduct” in Foreign Affairs, July 1947.
Joseph S. Nye, Jr.: Understanding International Conflicts: Ch. 5.

October 6  Cuba

Reading
Michael Dobbs: One Minute to Midnight, Chs. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 13, and 14.
*Graham Allison: "The Cuban Missile Crisis at 50" in Foreign Affairs, July/August 2012.

October 6  Quiz Number Five on Nye and Judge/Langdon

October 8: Proxy Wars, China, and a Stand-off.

Reading

October 13  Review for the Midterm

October 13  Quiz Number Six on Dobbs (both), Allison and Schwartz

October 15  In-Class Midterm

October 20  Fall Break

October 20  No Quiz
October 22, 28 & 29 American Primacy

After the Cold-War American found itself the only superpower remaining. What opportunities did it have to usher in a long period of peace? What opportunities were squandered. How could the only superpower operate in this new world? This section looks at key issues from the end of the Cold War to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. We will consider what the new world looked like, how American power was viewed by others, and the use of coercive diplomacy.

October 22, 27 & 29 American Primacy After the Cold War

Reading
Joseph Nye: Understanding International Conflicts, Chapter 6

October 27 Quiz Number Seven on Fukuyama and Huntington

November 3, 5, 10, 12, & 17 The Post 9/11 World

The terrorist attacks on 9/11 was a watershed event, not only for the United States but for the rest of the world as well. The attacks gave policy primacy to the Neo-Conservatives, who advocate war as a diplomatic tool; unleashed American military power in the Middle East, and brought down upon the United States international opprobrium. This section considers these issues.

November 3 The Neo-Conservatives

Reading
*Joseph S. Nye, Jr.: Soft Power, Chapter 1.

November 3 Quiz Number Eight on Ikenberry, Walt and Bacevich
November 5: Terrorism


November 10: Decision to Invade Iraq

*Charles Lewis: 935 Lies, Prologue.

November 10 Quiz Number Nine on Halper & Clarke, Muravchik & Walt, Kagan, Jones & Libicki, and Posen

November 12: The Occupation of Iraq

November 17: ISIS & Iran

Reading

“Back to Iraq” in *The Economist*, August 16, 2014
“Engaging the Enemy” in *The Economist*, August 16, 2014

November 17
Quiz Number 10 on Pollack (all), Walt & Mearsheimer, Biddle et al. and Lynch

November 19, 24, December 1 Global Issues –

Numerous issues confront the world today that go beyond a state’s domestic affairs. The world now is globalized and interdependent. Is this good or bad? The so-called Third world is developing rapidly. How does the developed world help? How does it compete? In the midst of development comes severe pollution, and with that, the growth of a new civil society wanting to tackle global problems one village at a time. This section considers some of these issues.

November 19: Globalization

Reading


November 24 Tragedy of the Commons

Reading

*Garrett Hardin*: “The Tragedy of the Commons” A & J.

November 24 Quiz Number Eleven on Bacevich (“War Without Exits”), Nye and Stiglitz.
November 26 & 27  Thanksgiving

December 1      The Rise of China

*Reading*  

December 1      No Quiz

December 3      Review for the final

December 3      Research Paper Due via pes15@case.edu

December 10     December 15 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.