The goal of this class is to examine, and explain, patterns of behavior in world politics. We will focus largely on the causes and consequences of war, as well as the conditions for peace. To that end, the course will be divided, roughly, into three sections. In the first, we begin with the central observation that the international system is anarchic: there is no world government to protect states from attack, enforce the agreements they make with one another, or punish them if they use violence to achieve their goals. In this section we will concentrate on a body of theory known as realism, which views international politics as inherently dangerous because of the absence of a powerful global authority. We will then study the most important 20th century conflicts – the two World Wars and the Cold War. The second section will examine alternatives to realism, which attempt to show how states can overcome the problems of international anarchy in order to achieve cooperation, and even peace. In the third section we turn to current challenges in international politics, looking at issues such as climate change, ethnic conflict, globalization, and terrorism.

REQUIRED READINGS


There will be a few additional sources that you will need to use to obtain your readings:

Additional readings will be marked with a ** and will be made available to you through the library’s course reserves (http://library.case.edu/ksl//reserves/index.html).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your main responsibility will be to have completed all of the required reading prior to class and to be prepared to discuss them. Informed, quality participation is necessary during discussions, group work, etc. It is essential that you come to class having done the readings, and ready to talk about them –simply being present does not earn you a high participation grade.
Each class will begin with a brief discussion of pertinent current events. Because understanding current events is critical to the study of international relations, I require that you read the international or world section of at least one newspaper daily. Appropriate news sources include but are not limited to the: *Washington Post, New York Times, Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, Economist, Guardian, LA Times, Christian Science Monitor, and Times (London).* The daily news brief provides you with a great opportunity to raise your participation grade. I would encourage you to supplement your news intake by reading blogs, but you SHOULD NOT rely solely upon blogs for your news. They should only complement what you read from direct news outlets. Because the material covered in the news briefs is important, it may be included on your exams. Moreover, each student is required to lead one day’s discussion (which will be assigned) of the news by presenting a relevant story, and turning one-paragraph summary which includes a description of the news event, an analysis of the periodical’s coverage of the event (i.e. is it biased?), as well as an discussion tying this event to material discussed in class. The news presentation will count towards the class participation grade.

Your grade will be based on class participation and attendance, an analytical paper due at the beginning of class on February 13th, a midterm on March 6th, and a final exam on May 1st.

- Class Participation: 15%
- Paper: 25%
- Midterm: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%

Students are required to uphold and comply with Academic Integrity Policy of the University, which can be viewed here:
http://www.case.edu/provost/ugstudies/acintegrity.htm

Monday January 12: Introduction
   This is not required by highly recommended, especially if you have not taken another IR course.

Wednesday January 14: Classical Realism
2. **E.H. Carr, Twenty Years Crisis, Chapter 5 the Realist Critique, pp. 63-88

Friday January 16: Neorealism

**Monday January 19: NO CLASS MLK Jr. Day**

**Wednesday January 21: Defensive & Offensive Realism**
2. **John J. Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions,” International Security, Vol. 19, No. 3 (Winter 1994/95), pp. 9-14. [You may want to print out the entire article, we will be reading the other sections in the following weeks.]**

**Friday January 23**
NO CLASS

**Monday January 26: Realism and the Origins of the First World War.**

**Wednesday January 28: The Second World War**

**Friday January 30: The Origins of the Cold War.**

**Monday February 2: The Constructivist Critique of Neorealism**

**Wednesday February 4: The Democratic Peace**

Friday February 6: Critiquing Democratic Peace Theory

Monday February 9: The End of the Cold War

Wednesday February 11: Achieving cooperation under Anarchy

Friday February 13: Neoliberal Institutionalism
****PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS****

Monday February 16: NO CLASS

Wednesday February 18: Coercive Diplomacy

Friday February 20: Coercive Diplomacy and the First Gulf War

Monday February 23: Nuclear Deterrence in South East Asia
3. **Glenn Snyder, Deterrence and Defense

Wednesday February 25: Nuclear Proliferation & the Threat of Loose Nukes
Friday February 27: The U.S.’s Unipolar Moment

Monday March 2: Challenges to US Primacy: Soft Balancing?

Wednesday March 4 Review

Friday March 6 MIDTERM

March 9-13: Spring Break NO CLASS

Monday March 16: International Political Economy

Wednesday March 18 North-South Relations

Friday March 20: Globalization

Monday March 23 Environmental Degradation
IN CLASS SIMULATION PLEASE BRING LAPTOPS, IF POSSIBLE

Wednesday March 25: The Consequences of Climate Change

Friday March 27: New Actors in World Politics?

Monday March 30: Ethnic Conflict & The Conflict in Darfur

Wednesday April 1: The Rise of China

Friday April 3 NO CLASS

Monday April 6: Terrorism

Wednesday April 8: Al Qaeda

Friday April 10: The Current Shape of Al Qaeda
1. **Bruce Riedel, “Al Qaeda Strikes Back,” Foreign Affairs, May/June 2007.**
2. **Marc Sageman, Leaderless Jihad**

Monday April 13: Neoconservatives

Wednesday April 15: Democracy Promotion

**Friday April 17: Decision to Invade Iraq**
1. **Kenneth M. Pollack, “Next Stop Baghdad? (United States’ foreign policy)” Foreign Affairs Vol. 81, Issue 2 (March/April 2002).**
2. **Stephen M. Walt and John J. Mearsheimer, “An Unnecessary War (U.S.-Iraq Conflict),” Foreign Policy (January/February 2003).**
4. **Olivier Roy, The Politics of Chaos in the Middle East, pp. 11-32.**

**Monday April 20: The Occupation of Iraq**

**Wednesday April 22: The Nexus Between Afghanistan and Pakistan**
2. **Bruce Riedel, “Pakistan and Terror: The Eye of the Storm,” ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 618, (July, 2008), pp. 31-45.**

**Friday April 24: The Challenge of Iran**
2. **TBA**

**Monday April 27: Conclusions**

**FINAL EXAM: Friday May 1: 10:00-11:30**