POSC 272
Introduction to International Relations
Fall 2008

Stacie Pettyjohn
stacie.pettyjohn@case.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-3:30
Mather House 219
Phone: 216-368-5265.

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:

1. First, through the library’s website you will need to access JSTOR to download articles. These readings will be marked with “JSTOR” on the syllabus. (http://www.jstor.org)

2. Second, by accessing the library’s ejournal website and searching for the journal listed on the syllabus, you can download the articles marked “EJOURNAL.” (http://lu4ld3lr5v.search.serialssolutions.com/)

3. Finally, other 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 guarantee 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.

Your grade will be based on class participation and attendance, an analytical paper due at the beginning of class on September 30th, a midterm on October 9th, and a final exam on December 11th.

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

August 26: Introduction and overview of major concepts.

August 28: The Realist tradition.

print out the entire article, we will be reading the other sections in the following weeks.]

September 2: Realism and the origins of the First World War.


September 4: The Second World War


September 9: The Origins of the Cold War.


September 11: The Constructivist Critique of Realism & The End of the Cold War


September 16: Achieving cooperation under Anarchy: the role and function of international institutions.


September 18: The Democratic Peace

3. (JSTOR) Christopher Layne, “Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace,” International Security, Vol. 19, No. 2 (Autumn 1994) pp. 5-15, 38-49 (pp. 16-37 are optional, but read them if you are interested in the cases Layne uses to argue that DPT is incorrect).

September 23: The Role of Individuals


September 25: Coercive Diplomacy


September 30: U.S Primacy: Do we want it, can we have it?

PAPER DUE at the beginning of class


October 2: Nuclear Weapons, Nuclear Deterrence, and Nuclear Peace?


**October 7: International Political Economy and North-South Relations.**


**October 9: MIDTERM**

**October 14: Globalization and Interdependence.**


**October 16: New Actors in World Politics?**


**October 23: Ethnic Conflict.**


October 28: The rise of China and potential problems in South East Asia.


October 30: The Environment and Climate Change


November 4: Failed States & Terrorism


November 6: Al Qaeda

5. (EJOURNAL) Marc Sageman and Bruce Hoffman, “Does Osama Still Call the Shots?,” Foreign Affairs, (July/August 2008).
November 11: The Decision to Invade Iraq in 2003


November 13: The Occupation of Iraq


November 18: The Challenge of Iran

2. (EJOURNAL) Scott D. Sagan, “How to Keep the Bomb From Iran,” Foreign Affairs (September/October 2006)
4. **Norman Podhoretz, “The Case for Bombing Iran,” Commentary (June 2007)

November 20: US Democracy Promotion


November 25: The Nexus Between Afghanistan and Pakistan

December 2: Nuclear Proliferation & The Threat of Loose Nukes


December 5: Conclusion

December 11: FINAL EXAM 12:30-2:00