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

The course examines three main issues. **The first** is international relations theory, e.g. realism, and how this has been used and redefined. We will examine the nature of conflicts that inform our understanding of realism, including the two World Wars, the Cold War, and the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

**The Second** is alternatives to realism, including the *End of History*, the *Clash of Civilizations*, Democratic Peace, and neo-conservatism.

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

These issues overlap, so keep them in mind as the course progresses.

**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 Requirement**

_It is a wise student who keeps up with reading assignments and comes to class._

The **key** to success in this course is to have done the required reading **prior to** each class session and to be prepared to participate in class discussions.

Your grade will be determined by the following assignments:

1. **Monday Short Answer Quizzes** – **20 percent of the grade.** I drop the lowest grade. **No quiz after Thanksgiving.** Occasionally Monday quizzes are given on Wednesday so you should not miss class. **I do not give make-up quizzes.**

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

3. **An in-class final** – **45 percent of the grade.** Same format as midterm.

4. **Attendance and participation** – **10% of the grade.** Some students who scored “A” on all work received a B for the course because they did not attend class regularly or did not participate in discussions. I do take attendance each class. **UNDOCUMENTED ABSENCE IS A DEDUCTION OF 5% PER DAY ABSENT.** I also note participation. I ask questions. Sitting quietly and saying nothing when questions are posed to you indicates you are not prepared. **DO NOT BE SHY!**

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. I do not grade on a curve.
Course Schedule
Tentative, Subject to Change

NOTE: A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT WILL HAVE DONE THE ASSIGNED READINGS BEFORE THE DATE ON WHICH THEY ARE ASSIGNED.

August 27: Introduction

1. Scope of Course

August 29 & 31 Section 1 Anarchy & Levels of Analysis

Reading for the section


September 5 & 7 Section 2: Theories & The Struggle for Power

Reading for the section


September 10 & 12 Section 3: Realism and Neorealism

Reading for the section


September 14 Section 4: The Constructivist Critique of Neorealism

Reading for the Section

September 17 & 19  Section 5:  Democratic Peace Theory

Reading for the section


September 21 & 24  Section 6:  State-Level Causes:  Balance of Power and the First World War

Reading for the section

1. Joseph S. Nye, Jr.: Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History, Ch. 3.

September 26  Section 7:  Failure of Collective Security & World War II

Reading for the section

September 28, October 1 & October 3 Section 8: Containment, Cold War and Cuba

Reading for the section

5. *Graham Allison: "The Cuban Missile Crisis at 50" in Foreign Affairs, July/August 2012.

October 5, 8 & 10 Section 9: After the Cold War & American Primacy

Reading for the section

October 10 & 12  Section 10:  Coercive Diplomacy

Reading for the section


October 17 & 19  Section 11:  Terrorism & Competitive Authoritarianism

Reading for the section


October 22  Fall Break

October 24  Section 12: Decision to Invade Iraq

Reading for the section


**October 26 Section 13: The Occupation of Iraq**

*Reading for the section*


**October 29 & 31 Section 14: Afghanistan & Pakistan**

*Reading for these section*

November 2  Section 15: The Neoconservatives

Reading for the section


November 5  Section 16: Global Issues – Globalization

Reading for the section


November 7 & 9  Section 17: Global Issues – North-South Relations

Readings for the section


November 12, 14, 16  Section 18: Global Issues – Tragedy of the Commons

Reading for the section


**November 19, 2011**  
**Film (Optional)**

**November 21, 23  No Class**

**November 26 & 28 Section 19: Global Issues: The Growth of Civil Society**

**Reading for the Section**


**November 30 & December 3 Section 20: Institutions & A New World Order**

**Reading for the section**

1. Robert Nye: Understanding International Conflicts, Ch. 9

**December 5 Section 21: New Actor in World Politics**

**Reading for the section**


**December 7**  
**Review for the final**

**December 13**  
**Final Exam at 8:30 a.m.**