Introduction to International Relations (POSC 272)
Prof. Green
T/Th 2.45-4.00
Office Hours: T/Th 4-5PM, Mather 01.
Email: jfg38@case.edu
(as of 5 January 2010; I reserve the right to amend the readings)

Course description
This course is a survey of international relations. It will address the major questions about the ways that states interact: what is anarchy, and what are its consequences? Can we mitigate its effects, and if so how? Has globalization—the increasing flows of goods, people and knowledge across borders—changed the nature of the way states relate to each other? Has the rise of non-state actors diminished the authority of the state? This course will take up these large questions by examining the nature of anarchy and sovereignty and their effects in world politics. It will also ask under what conditions can international cooperation—through treaties, laws and less formal arrangements—help provide peace, security and prosperity. The course will cover the fundamentals of the discipline, including a review of the theoretical approaches and major questions in contemporary international relations. We will also look at specific issues in contemporary world politics such as human rights, environmental protection and other issues decided upon by the class.

Course Goals
By the end of this class, you should have an understanding of the major approaches to international relations. You should be familiar with the major issues in contemporary politics, and the political difficulties that surround them. You should be able to discuss these issues in written and oral forms.

Course Materials
*If you choose to buy online, please note that not all readings are the same across editions (though there is substantial overlap with recent editions).*

How to read for this class
There is a fair amount of reading for this class. Reading efficiently will be an important skill. After finishing each reading, you should be able to characterize the author’s main argument. Details are less important than the “big picture,” though the former should not be ignored.

You are expected to do all of the reading for each class. However, do not let the perfect be the enemy of the good; if you cannot complete all of the reading, try to do as much as you can. Read the assignments from Art and Jervis first.
Course Assignments and Evaluation

Class Participation: 15%
Mid-Term: 20%
Final Exam: 25%
Papers: 20%
In-class presentation: 20%

Class Participation: The best way to improve your grade is to come to class and participate. I will take attendance on an unannounced basis.

Exams: There will be a mid-term exam on 3 March, and a final exam on 28 April. Both will cover basic concepts and readings. The format will be a mix of short answers and essay questions. You will be expected to summarize arguments from the readings, and make your own arguments, based on the concepts we have discussed.

Papers: You will be expected to write two short papers during the course of the semester. The first is due on 8 February; the second is due on 29 March. Using two to three readings from the syllabus, the paper should describe a key problem in world politics, and at least two different interpretations of its causes, according to various theories of IR. The paper should be no less than 500 words, and no more than 750 words, and should be submitted via Dropbox by the end of the day. Papers that are not submitted by Dropbox by the end of the day will be considered late.

In-class presentations:
Each student will give a presentation in the last three weeks of class. Depending on the number of students and the diversity of interests, these may or may not be group presentations. Each presentation will describe a contemporary issue in modern politics, the major interest groups, some or all of the institutions involved in addressing the issue, and potential solutions to the problem. We will discuss presentations further as the class progresses.

Legal
1. All deadlines are final. For each day an assignment is late, a half grade will be deducted. This means if an A- paper is one day late, it will be a B+. If a B paper is two days late, it will be a C. THE ONLY exception to this rule is if you have a note from the Dean. Unless you have a note from the Dean, no extensions will be granted.
2. Please read the policy on academic honesty and plagiarism. (http://www.case.edu/provost/ugstudies/acintegrity.htm). Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating on examinations, etc.) is a serious offense that can result in loss of credit, suspension, and possibly expulsion from the university. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.
3. An unexcused absence for an exam will result in a failing grade for that exam.
4. I reserve the right to consider extraordinary or unforeseen circumstances on a case-by-case basis.
5. Re-grade requests will be honored only if accompanied by a comprehensive written explanation of why you deserve a higher grade. Note that if accepted, a request for re-grading may result in the raising or lowering of your grade.

Other Class Policies
1. Please save paper; submit everything to me electronically VIA DROPBOX. Assignments that are emailed to me may disappear in the morass of my inbox, and thus may be considered late. Make things simple for both parties: submit via Dropbox.
2. Please turn off your cell phones.
3. During the semester I am prepared to meet by appointment with any and all students enrolled in this course. I would like especially to meet with students with disabilities who are registered with the Coordinator of Disability Services (368-5230) and who may need individual arrangements.
Part I: Anarchy and Order in the State System

Week 1: Introduction

11 Jan: Big Issues in World Politics: Why we study international relations

13 Jan: Theories in Social Science and Anarchy in the International System
1. **Read the syllabus carefully**

Week 2: Approaches to understanding anarchy and order: What explains state behavior?

18 Jan: Realism (continued) and Neoliberal Institutionalism

20 Jan: Neoliberal Institutionalism (continued) and Constructivism

Week 3: Mitigating Anarchy

25 Jan: Balance of Power and Alliances

27 Jan: International Cooperation
Part II: Making War and Keeping the Peace

Week 4: Making War

1 & 3 Feb:  When and why do states fight?

Week 5: Using Force in an Interdependent World

FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE

8 Feb:  Terrorism

10 Feb:  The UN Security Council and Preventive Use of Force

Week 6: Keeping the Peace

15 Feb:  Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Intervention

17 Feb:  Nuclear Deterrence and MAD

**Week 7:** Globalization and International Political Economy (Pt I)

22 Feb: What is IPE?


24 Feb: Implications of a globalizing economy


**Week 8:** Review and Midterm

1 Mar: Review

3 Mar: MIDTERM

**Week 9:** SPRING BREAK

**Week 10:** The Global Environment

15 Mar: Managing the Commons


17 Mar: The successes and failures of managing the Commons

Week 11: Looking beyond the State

22 Mar: NGOs in world politics

24 Mar: Corporate Social Responsibility: Private actors in world politics
3. Peruse one or more of the following websites:
   a. www.fsc.org
   b. www.fairtrade-labelling.org
   c. www.carbonfund.org

Week 12: Looking beyond the State

SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE

29 Mar: A New World Order?

31 Mar: Accountability in a globalized world

Week 13-14: Presentations

Week 15: Presentations, Wrap up and Exam review