This course is an introduction to the study of world politics. It begins with concepts and problems that shape the contemporary field of international relations. Students will then become familiar with some of the major IR theories and apply them to historical and contemporary case studies. Topics include: World War II and the origins and end of the Cold War; the US in world politics, 9/11 and its international effects; cooperation in Europe and war in central Africa; governance of the global economy and the international distribution of wealth; and terrorist networks, nuclear proliferation and religion’s role in global politics.

**Readings:**
The following required textbook is available at the bookstore.


The other readings are available electronically either via the E-Journal Portal of the Kelvin Smith Library website or on the class Blackboard website, in which case I put “Blackboard” after the citation.


**Course Requirements and Assignments:**
Students are responsible for all assigned readings and must attend lectures. The three exams will cover content from the readings, lectures and discussions.

1) In-Class Exam (25%), September 25.
2) Take-Home Exam (30%), Due November 6.
3) Final Exam (40%), December 18.
4) Attendance/Participation (5%) – Five unexcused absences will result in a zero for this category. Excused absences require prior consultation and/or a doctor’s note.
Course Policies:

All graded work must be completed in accordance with the Case Academic Integrity Standards.

Unexcused absences from exams will be penalized.

Please feel free to drop in during my office hours. I encourage all students in this course to do so, especially individuals with disabilities who are registered with the Coordinator of Disability Services (368-5230) and may need individual arrangements. I am happy to make individual appointments for students with scheduling conflicts. The best and quickest way to reach me is via email. If you send a message, please put the course number in the subject heading (i.e. “POSC 272”).

Topics and Reading Assignments:

Part I: Introduction to the Study of World Politics

Session One: Introduction: A More Dangerous World (8/28)

Session Two: International Relations and the Social Sciences (8/30)
Goldstein, International Relations, 3-5 and 17-49.

Sessions Three and Four: Who are the actors and how are they related? (9/6 & 9/11)
Goldstein, 10-15.
Deborah Avant, “Private Military Companies and the Future of War,” E-Notes, Foreign Policy Research Institute, April 2006. (Blackboard)
Sessions Five and Six: Levels of Analysis and Driving Forces (9/13 & 9/18)

Part II: Approaches to International Politics

Session Seven: In-Class Discussion (9/20)
No additional readings.

Session Eight: IN CLASS EXAM (9/25)

Session Nine: No Lecture. Class to be rescheduled. (9/27)
Goldstein, 55-61.

Sessions Ten and Eleven: Realism and Power (10/2 & 10/4)
Goldstein, 62-94.

Sessions Twelve and Thirteen: Cooperation among States (10/9 & 10/11)
Goldstein, Chapter 101-5 and 380-93.
Session Fourteen: Commercial Liberalism (10/16)

Session Fifteen: Democratic Peace Theory (10/18)
Goldstein, Chapter 4, 160-163.

No Class: Fall Break (10/23)

Session Sixteen: The Constructivist Challenge (10/25)
Goldstein, 119-121.

Session Seventeen: Foreign Policy Approaches and International Spillovers (10/30)
Goldstein, 139-160.

*** Take-Home Exam Given Out ***

Session Eighteen: In-Class Discussion (11/1)
No additional readings.

Session Nineteen: TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE (11/6)
Part III: The US and World Politics

Session Twenty: The Bush Doctrine (11/8)
George Bush, “The National Security Strategy of the United States of America” (Sep 2000), 1-35. (Blackboard)
Francis Fukuyama, “The Neoconservative Moment,” The National Interest 76 (Summer 2004), 57-68.

Session Twenty-One: Effects of Bush Doctrine (11/13)
Foreign Policy and Center for American Progress, “The Terrorism Index,” Foreign Policy, July/August 2006, 49-55.

Session Twenty-Two: Security Dilemmas and Counterbalancing (11/15)

Part IV: Special Topics

Session Twenty-Three: International Politics of Regions (11/20)

Session Twenty-Four: Nuclear Weapons (11/22) (Wednesday before Thanksgiving)
Goldstein, 231-45.
Reading on Iran and North Korea’s nuclear aspirations, TBA.
Session Twenty-Five: States and the Global Economy (11/27)

Session Twenty-Six: Governance of the Global Economy (11/29)
Readings on the Doha Round’s Collapse, TBA.

Session Twenty-Seven: Terrorism (12/4)

Session Twenty-Eight: Religion and Global Politics (12/6)

Final Exam: December 18, 8:30-11:30