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

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. **Periodic unannounced Quizzes – 10 percent of the grade.** I drop the lowest grade. No quizzes after Thanksgiving. I do not give make-up quizzes.

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

3. **A 5-8 page paper – 20% of the grade.** Use what you learned in class on some aspect of American foreign policy or international relations. Submit a written topic to me for approval. I suggest you pick it early. Paper due date is December 4 via e-mail.

4. **An in-class final – 35 percent of the grade.** Same format as midterm.

5. **Attendance and participation – 10% of the grade.**

A note on success.

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 afraid of making a mistake.

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 60%. 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

Levels of Analysis – This section considers how you are looking at something, i.e. what level of analysis are you using to consider an event and make policy choices based on that. The issue is critical: if you consider policy options based on an international systems level of analysis and your opponent considers only a state-centric level, fruitful negotiations may be impossible.

August 26, 28: Introduction, Levels of Analysis, and Anarchy

Reading  
Joseph Nye: Understanding International Conflicts, Ch. 2.  

Suggested  

International Relations Theories – Scholars and practitioners of international relations try to do two things: understand why an unwanted event occurred and come up with some predictive theory to determine how such an event could be avoided in the future. Accordingly, they use a variety of theories they believe determine when such events occur.

September 2 & 4  
The Struggle for Power & International Relations Theories

Reading  
Kenneth Waltz: “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics” A & J.  
*Stephen Walt: “International Relations: One World, Many Theories” in Foreign Policy, Spring 1998.

September 9 & 11  
Realism and Neorealism

Reading  

September 16  
The Constructivist Critique of Neorealism

Reading  
Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It’” A & J.
Syllabus POSC 272, Fall 2012, Dr. Paul E. Schroeder

September 18: Democratic Peace Theory

Reading
Michael W. Doyle: “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs” A & J.

Using Theories – How are these theories applied in discovering how events occurred in the past?

September 23 State-Level Causes: Balance of Power and the First World War

Reading
Joseph S. Nye, Jr.: “The Balance of Power and World War I” in Understanding International Conflicts, Ch. 3.

September 25 Failure of Collective Security & World War II

Reading
Joseph S. Nye, Jr. Understanding International Conflicts, Ch. 4.

September 30 Cold War & Containment

Reading
*X (George Kennan): “The Sources of Soviet Conduct” in Foreign Affairs, July 1947.
Joseph S. Nye, Jr.: Understanding International Conflicts: Ch. 5.

October 2 Cuba

Reading
Michael Dobbs: One Minute to Midnight, Chs. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 13, and 14.
*Graham Allison: "The Cuban Missile Crisis at 50" in Foreign Affairs, July/August 2012.
October 7  Proxy Wars, China, and a Stand-off.


American Primacy – After the Cold-War American found itself the only superpower remaining. What opportunities did it have to usher in a long period of peace? What opportunities were squandered. How could the only superpower operate in this new world? This section looks at key issues from the end of the Cold War to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. We will consider what the new world looked like, how American power was viewed by others, and the use of coercive diplomacy.

October 9 & 14  American Primacy After the Cold War

Joseph Nye: Understanding International Conflicts, Chapter 6


October 16:  Coercive Diplomacy

Robert J. Art: The Four Functions of Force” in A & J.

October 21  Midterm Exam

October 23  In-class Midterm Exam

October 28  Fall Break

The Post 9/11 World – The terrorist attacks on 9/11 was a watershed event, not only for the United States but for the rest of the world as well. The attacks gave policy primacy to the Neo-Conservatives, who advocate war as a diplomatic tool; unleashed
American military power in the Middle East, and brought down upon the United States international opprobrium. This section considers these issues.

October 30 The Neo-Conservatives

Reading  
*Joseph S. Nye, Jr.: Soft Power, Chapter 1.  

Suggested  

November 4: Terrorism

Reading  

Suggested  

November 6: Decision to Invade Iraq

Reading  

Suggested  
November 11: The Occupation of Iraq

Reading  

Suggested  
*Charles W. Kegley & Gregory Raymond: After Iraq.

November 13: Iraq (Again) and Afghanistan Pull-Out

Reading  

Global Issues – Numerous issues confront the world today that go beyond a state’s domestic affairs. The world now is globalized and interdependent. Is this good or bad? The so-called Third world is developing rapidly. How does the developed world help? How does it compete? In the midst of development comes severe pollution, and with that, the growth of a new civil society wanting to tackle global problems one village at a time. This section considers some of these issues.

November 18: Globalization

Reading  
*Joseph Stiglitz: Globalization and Its Discontents, Chapter 4.

Suggested  
November 20: North-South Relations

Readings  
*William Easterly: The Elusive Quest for Growth, Chapter 2.  
*William Easterly: The White Man’s Burden, Why the West’s Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good, Chapter 1, Penguin Books, 2006.

November 25  Tragedy of the Commons

Reading  
Garrett Hardin: “The Tragedy of the Commons” A & J.  
*Elizabeth Economy: The River is Black, Cornell University, 2004, Chapters 1, 3, 5 & 6.

November 27  Thanksgiving

December 2: The Growth of Civil Society

Reading  
Margaret Keck & Kathryn Sikkink: “Transnational Advocacy Networks,” A & J.  
Sebastian Mallaby: “NGOs Fighting Poverty, Hurting the Poor,” A & J.  
Joseph S. Nye, Jr.: Understanding International Conflicts, Ch 8.

December 4  Review for the final

December 10  Final Exam, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.