

Political Science 172
Introduction to International Relations
Autumn 2014

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 3-4 p.m. or by appointment.

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

1. Barbara Tuchman: *The March of Folly*, Galantine Books, 1984.
2. Michael Dobbs: *One Minute to Midnight*, Vintage Books, 2008.
3. Robert Art & Robert Jervis: *International Politics*, 12th Edition, Longman, 2011.
4. Joseph Nye: *Understanding International Conflicts*, 7th Edition, Longman, 2009.
5. Alexander George: *Forceful Persuasion*, United States Institute of Peace, 1991.

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.
***Paul Schroeder:** "A Life, Wasted" in *The Washington Post*, January 6, 2006.
***Geoffrey Blainey:** *The Causes of War*, 3rd Edition, Ch 3.
John J. Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power" A & J.

Suggested ***Betty Glad:** "Why Tyrants Go Too Far: Malignant Narcissism and Absolute Power" in *Political Psychology*, 23 (2002), pp 1-34.

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 **Robert, " A Jervis:** "Offense, Defense, and The Security Dilemma A & J.
***Kenneth Waltz:** "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory" in *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*, Rotberg & Rabb, eds.

September 16 The Constructivist Critique of Neorealism

Reading **Alexander Wendt,** "Anarchy is What States Make of It" A & J.

September 18: Democratic Peace Theory

Reading ***Bruce Russett**: “*Grasping the Democratic Peace*, Princeton University Press, 1993, pp. 24-42.
Michael W. Doyle: “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs” A & J.
***Christopher Layne**: “Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace” in *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 2 (Autumn 1994).

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.
***Marc Trachtenberg**: “The Meaning of Mobilization in 1914” in *International Security* 15 (3) (winter 1990/91), pp 120-150.
***Scott Sagan**: “1914 Revisited: Allies, Offense, and Instability,” *International Security* 11 (2) (Autumn 1986) pp. 151-175.

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.
* **Edward Judge & John Langdon**, “The Truman Doctrine, The Marshall Plan, and Containment” in *A Hard and Bitter Peace*.
Joseph S. Nye, Jr.: *Understanding International Conflicts*: Ch. 5.

October 2 Cuba

Reading **Michael Dobbs**: “The Price of a 50-Year Myth” in *The New York Times*, October 15, 2012.
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.
Benjamin Schwartz: “The Real Cuban Missile Crisis” in *The Atlantic*, Jan/February 2013.

October 7 Proxy Wars, China, and a Stand-off.

Reading ***Andrew Mumford**: *Proxy Warfare*, 2013. Introduction, Chap 3, & Conclusion.

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

Reading ***Francis Fukuyama**: “The End of History,” *The National Interest*, 1989..
***Samuel P. Huntington**, “The Clash of Civilizations” in *Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993.
Joseph Nye: *Understanding International Conflicts*, Chapter 6
***G. John Ikenberry**: “The Myth of Post-Cold War Order,” in *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 1996.
***Stephen M. Walt**: The Problem of American Power in *Taming American Power*, pp. 13-62.
***Andrew Bacevich**: *The New American Militarism*, “Wilsonians Under Arms.”

Suggested ***Kenneth Waltz**: “Structural Realism After the Cold War” in *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 1, Summer 2000.
Kenneth Oye: “The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics” in *A & J*, pp. 79-92.

October 16: Coercive Diplomacy

Reading **Alexander George**: *Forceful Persuasion*. Entire book.
Robert J. Art: “The Four Functions of Force” in *A & J*.
***Robert Art and Patrick Cronin**: “Coercive Diplomacy against Iraq, 1990-1998” in *The United States and Coercive Diplomacy*.
***Bruce Jentleson**: “Coercive Diplomacy: Scope and Limits in the Contemporary World” in *Policy Analysis Brief*, The Stanley Foundation, December 2006.

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 ***Stefan Halper & Jonathan Clarke**: "Neoconservatives: A New Political Interest Group," pp. 9-39.
***Joshua Muravchik & Stephen Walt**: "The Great Debate: the Neocons vs. The Realists" in *The National Interest*, No. 27, September/October 2008
***Joseph S. Nye, Jr.**: *Soft Power*, Chapter 1.
***Frederick Kagan**: "Choosing Victory" in *AEI Online*, December 14, 2006.

Suggested ***Francis Fukuyama**: *America at the Crossroads*, 2006.

November 4: Terrorism

Reading **Bruce Hoffman**: "What is Terrorism?" in A & J pp. 185-195.
***Seth Jones & Martin Libicki**: *How Terrorist Groups End*, Chapter 2, Rand Corporation, 2008.
***Barry Posen**: "The Struggle Against Terrorism: Grand Strategy, Strategy, and Tactics" in *International Security*, 26 (3) winter 2001-02) pp. 39-55
***Barry Rosen**: "The Case for Restraint" in *The National Interest*, November/December 2007.

Suggested ***The Foundation of the New Terrorism, 9/11 Commission Report**, pp. 47-70. Online at <http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/911Report.pdf>.

November 6: Decision to Invade Iraq

Reading ***Kenneth M. Pollack**: "Next Stop Baghdad?" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 81, Issue 2 (March/April 2002).
***Stephen Walt & John Mearsheimer**: "An Unnecessary War," *Foreign Policy* (January/February 2003).
Barbara Tuchman: "Pursuit of Policy Contrary to Self-Interest" in *The March of Folly, From Troy to Vietnam*, Ballantine Books, 1985.

Suggested ***Geoffrey Blainey**: *The Causes of War*, 3rd Edition, Ch 9.

November 11: The Occupation of Iraq

Reading ***Kenneth M. Pollack**: “Spies, Lies, and Weapons: What Went Wrong,” *The Atlantic Monthly*, Vol. 293, Issue 1 (January/February 2004).
***Paul Schroeder & Norman Robbins**: “Alternatives With American Withdrawal, *Families of the Fallen for Change*, October 8, 2006.
***Stephen Biddle, Michael O’Hanlon, and Kenneth Pollack**, “How to Leave a Stable Iraq,” *Foreign Affairs*, (September/October 2008).
***Marc Lynch**. “Politics First,” *Foreign Affairs* (November/December 2008).
***Jonathan Pollack**: “The Battle for Baghdad” in *National Interest*, September/October 2009.

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

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

Reading ***Barnett Rubin & Ahmed Rashid**: “From Great Game to Grand Bargain,” *Foreign Affairs*, (November/December 2008).
***Kim Baker**: “Letter from Kabul” in *Foreign Affairs*, November 30, 2009.
***Michael O’Hanlon**: “Staying Power,” *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2010.
Stephen Biddle, Fotini Christia & Alexander Thier: “Defining Success in Afghanistan” in *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2010.

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 Nye**: *Understanding International Conflicts*, Chapter 7.
***Joseph Stiglitz**: *Globalization and Its Discontents*, Chapter 4.

Suggested ***Joseph Stiglitz**: *Making Globalization Work*, Chapter 3.

November 20: North-South Relations

Readings **Bruce R. Scott:** “The Great Divide in the Global Village,” A & J.
***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.