

# POLS 270: Introduction to International Relations, Fall 2009

Department of Political Science, Southern Illinois University

## 1 Instructor Information

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or by appointment

Classroom: Quigley Hall 140B

## 2 Course Overview & Objectives

The purpose of this course is to explore the fundamental concepts in the field of international relations and how to think about the relationship among these concepts. You will learn the three major approaches to thinking about international relations and how these approaches explain terrorism, globalization, environmental cooperation, respect for human rights, and many other phenomena. You will learn how to sort through arguments about these topics and make informed decisions about these processes. You also will learn how these concepts have developed and evolved throughout history for the purposes of generating hypotheses about the future of international relations.

## 3 Course Format

The course is structured to consider various theoretical approaches in the study of international relations. In the first third of the term, we consider approaches to the study of international security. We look more closely at international political economy in the second third. The final portion explores the global environment, human rights, global governance, and nonstate actors. The readings largely will be drawn from the textbook, although I will also assign short readings from journals like: *Foreign Policy* and *Foreign Affairs*.

I hope that our sessions will be engaging, informative, and participatory. I eschew a strict lecture format. Instead, we will engage in a variety of activities including lectures, personal writing exercises, partner and group work, class discussions, video clips, demonstrations, problem-solving activities, debates, and other critical thinking exercises. I value and will solicit your input on class activities both at the beginning of the semester as well as around midterm. I will make every reasonable effort to incorporate these ideas in the classroom.

## 4 Requirements

### Required Texts

1. Nau, Henry R. 2009. *Perspectives on International Relations*, 2nd edition. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press.

All of the books are available at the bookstore and online. You can find all of the books on Amazon.com or Addall.com at a reduced price.

Many of the articles for the class will be on reserve at the library. You can also find most of the journal articles on JSTOR ([www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)). I will also place readings on blackboard that are not available on JSTOR, and these are noted in the syllabus (\*). I expect you to read a newspaper everyday. You can choose any paper you would like, but I would recommend the New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)) or Christian Science Monitor ([www.csmonitor.com](http://www.csmonitor.com)) as they generally have the best coverage of international events. Current political developments that relate to international relations are likely to be used as test material.

## Assessment

### 1. Attendance and Participation (20%)

Attendance and participation are required. I may call on you randomly so you need to be prepared each day. Each day you will receive a point for showing up and one for participating.

### 2. Tests (50%)

The tests are a mixture of multiple choice and essay. There are two exams (15% each) and a final (20%). The final is cumulative.

### 3. Theory Paper (15%)

Analyze a current issue that is unrelated to international politics (read Jay-Z IR Theory). Compare how three theories of international relations would explain the situation and identify which theory provides the *best* explanation. The paper should be 4-6 pages, times-new roman, 12 point font. I will provide a rubric with more details about how the essay is scored.

### 4. Op-Ed Analysis Papers (15%)

Over the course of the semester, you will read editorial pages of major newspapers and choose five articles to analyze. In each article you should identify the perspective of the author (i.e. Realist, Liberal, or Constructivist), use evidence to support this claim, then respond to the piece from one of the other perspectives. Each response should be one page for a total of five pages.

## 5 Course Policies

### Assessment Scale

A	100-90	B	89-80	C	79-70	D	69-60	F	59 or below
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### Make-up Exams and Assignments

Unexcused absences from exams, debates or quizzes will result in a 0 for the assignment. The format of make-up tests will be several long essays.

To qualify for a make-up test or quiz a student must:

1. notify me of the absence in advance (e-mail or call me)

2. provide documentation

## Academic Honor Code

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in Southern Illinois University-Carbondales Student Conduct Code (Section II, Article A). Plagiarism is the most serious academic offense. Violations of this code can lead to failure of the course and a hearing with the university's judicial board to suspend you from the university.

## Classroom Courtesy

Classroom courtesy is an essential component of creating an effective learning environment. All students have the right to learn without unnecessary distractions. These distractions include: cell phones, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the instructor), reading newspapers, falling asleep, etc. If you need a cell phone for emergency purposes, leave it on vibrate. Entering and leaving are also significant sources of distraction. It is your responsibility to be on time and to stay for the entire period. In circumstances where you need to leave early, tell the instructor beforehand. Repeated disruptions of class will lead to a reduction in your final grade.

Most importantly, class discussions of the issues in political science can lead to strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussion must be respectful and scholarly.

## Scholarly Comments

- are respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement
- are related to class and/or the course material
- focus on advancing the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs, and
- are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

## Unacceptable Comments

- are personal in nature. This includes attacks on a persons appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs.
- include interrupting the instructor or other students. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized.
- often use the discussion to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. If political discussions arise, they must be discussed in a scholarly way (see above).
- may include using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students and being threatening in any manner.
- include ignoring the instructors authority to maintain the integrity of the classroom environment.

## Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

## 6 *Tentative* Course and Reading Schedule

Readings for this course may be changed. For the most part this will not happen, but if so, I will give as much notice as possible. Items marked with a \* are available on Blackboard.

### Week 1—International Relations: Concepts, Methods, and Approaches

Mon. Aug. 24—Introduction to International Relations

- Introduction
- Discuss course expectations

Wed. Aug. 26—What is International Relations?

- Nau, Introduction

Fri. Aug. 28—How to Think About International Relations: The Realist Approach

- Nau, pp. 21-34

Recommended reading:

- Neorealism and its Critics—Robert Keohane
- Theory of International Politics—Kenneth Waltz
- The Tragedy of Great Power Politics—John Mearsheimer

Mon. Aug. 31—How to Think About International Relations: The Liberal Approach

- Nau, pp. 35-44

Recommended reading:

- Strategic Choice and International Relations—David Lake and Robert Powell
- After Hegemony—Robert Keohane
- “Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics”—Andrew Moravcsik

Wed. Sept. 2—How to Think About International Relations: Identity, Critical Approach, and Levels of Analysis

- Nau, pp. 44-66

Recommended reading:

- Social Theory of International Politics—Alexander Wendt
- Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics—Cynthia Enloe

Fri. Sept. 4—Evaluating Arguments About International Relations

- \*Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, *Principles of International Politics*, 53–68.

Recommended Reading:

- The Structure of Scientific Revolutions—Thomas Kuhn
- The Logic of Scientific Discovery—Karl Popper
- The Methodology of Scientific Research Programs—Imre Lakatos

Mon. Sept. 6—NO CLASS—LABOR DAY

Wed. Sept. 8—Evaluating Arguments About International Relations (Continued)

- \*Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, *Principles of International Politics*, 69–83.

### International Conflict & War

Fri. Sept. 10—The Causes and Origins of World War I

- Nau, Chapter 3

Mon. Sept. 13—Simulation

- International Negotiations

Wed. Sept. 15—The Causes and Origins of World War II

- Nau, Chapter 4

Fri. Sept. 17—Class Discussion—US Foreign Policy and US Power

- American Primacy Debate and Jay-Z
- [http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/07/27/nibbled\\_to\\_death\\_by\\_ducks](http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/07/27/nibbled_to_death_by_ducks)
- [http://drezner.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/07/23/a\\_tangible\\_measure\\_of\\_obamas\\_soft\\_power](http://drezner.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/07/23/a_tangible_measure_of_obamas_soft_power)
- <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/64966/leslie-h-gelb/necessitychoiceandcommonsense>

Mon. Sept. 21—The Origins and End of the Cold War

- Nau, Chapter 5

Recommended Reading/Watching:

- The Cold War: A New History—John Lewis Gaddis
- Movie: Thirteen Days
- Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis—Graham T. Allison and Philip Zelikow

Wed. Sept. 23—A New World Order?

- Nau, Chapter 6

Recommended Reading/Watching:

- The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order Samuel P. Huntington
- Jihad Vs. McWorld—Benjamin Barber
- The End of History and the Last Man Francis Fukuyama
- Blackhawk Down

Fri. Sept. 25—MOVIE: *Ghosts of Rwanda*

Mon. Sept. 28—MOVIE: *Ghosts of Rwanda*

Wed. Sept. 30—Terrorism and Conflict Today

- Nau, Chapter 7

Recommended Reading/Watching:

- Dying to Win—Robert Pape
- The Siege
- The Dancer Upstairs
- Paradise Now

Fri. Oct. 2—Terrorism and Conflict Today (Continued)

- Nau, Chapter 7
- [http://duckofminerva.blogspot.com/2009/07/useitorloseit\\_27.html](http://duckofminerva.blogspot.com/2009/07/useitorloseit_27.html)

Recommended Reading/Watching:

- Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War—James Fearon and David Laitin
- Blood Diamonds
- The Last King of Scotland

Mon. Oct. 5—Review for Exam #1

Wed. Oct. 7—Exam #1

### **International Political Economy**

Fri. Oct. 9—The History of Globalization

- Nau, Chapter 8

Mon. Oct. 12—How Globalization Works

- Nau, Chapter 9

Wed. Oct. 14—Class Discussion: Is Globalization in Retreat?

- <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65153/roger-c-altman/globalization-in-retreat>

- <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65158/ethan-b-kapstein/africas-capitalist-revolution>
- <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/62273/rawi-abdelal-and-adam-segal/has-globalization-passed-its-peak>

Fri. Oct. 16—Trade, Investment, and Finance

- Nau, Chapter 10

Mon. Oct. 19—Class Discussion: Is Free Trade Good for the US?

- <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/37402/robert-b-reich/beyond-free-trade>
- <http://www.hoover.org/publications/digest/3550727.html>
- [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story\\_id=3649](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=3649)

Wed. Oct. 21—Development in Asia & Latin America

- Nau, Chapter 11

Fri. Oct. 23—Development in Asia & Latin America (Continued)

- Nau, Chapter 11

Mon. Oct. 26—Class Discussion: Should the US Help Latin America Today?

- Development and Democracy
- Brazil's Big Moment
- Democratization and Its Discontents
- US-Latin American Relations

Wed. Oct. 28—Development in Africa & the Middle East

- Nau, Chapter 12

Fri. Oct. 30—Global Inequality, Imperialism & Injustice

- Nau, Chapter 13

Mon. Nov. 2—MOVIE: This is What Democracy Looks Like

Wed. Nov. 4—MOVIE: This is What Democracy Looks Like

Fri. Nov. 6—Review for Exam #2

Mon. Nov. 9—Exam #2

Wed. Nov. 11—NO CLASS/VETERANS DAY

## Human Rights, the Environment, Nonstate Actors, and Global Governance

Fri. Nov. 13—World Environment

- Nau, Chapter 14

Mon. Nov. 16—Global Civil Society

- Nau, Chapter 14

Wed. Nov. 18—Human Rights

- Nau, Chapter 14
- Browse Amnesty International's site and see which type of rights they list as "human rights."

Fri. Nov. 20—Class Discussion: Are Human Rights Universal?

- Human Rights as Universal
- Are Human Rights Universal?
- Cultural Relativism and Universal Rights
- The Challenge of Relativism

Nov. 21 – Nov. 29—NO SCHOOL—THANKSGIVING BREAK

Mon. Nov. 30—Global Governance

- Nau, Chapter 16

Wed. Dec. 2—The UN

- Nau, Chapter 16

Fri. Dec. 4—Class Discussion: Do We Need International Institutions?

- Reform the UN
- Why the UN has Failed, pgs 1-16.
- The State is Dead, Long Live the State

Mon. Dec. 7—The Democratic Peace

- Nau, Conclusion

Wed. Dec. 9—The Democratic Peace Continued

- Democratizing Peace?
- Iraq and the Democratic Peace
- Is Condi Rice a Bad Political Scientist?

Fri. Dec. 11—Review for Final Exam

Thurs. Dec 17—FINAL EXAM, 12:50-02:50 PM