

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
PS 205
WINTER 2009

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This course examines the relations among states and non-state actors around the world. Our objectives are to focus on 1) what those relations are – a descriptive task, 2) the politics and theoretical interpretations of those relations – an analytical task; and 3) the debates and controversies about what those relations should be – a prescriptive task. We will look at the history behind current international relations, the major concepts and theories that inform and explain international relations, and significant issues that occupy contemporary nation-states. The materials and assignments in this class are designed to give you the knowledge and the skills to accomplish these tasks successfully, and each of the lectures, readings, assignments and videos will help you to work toward these tasks simultaneously.

This course satisfies the Baccalaureate Core requirement for Social Processes and Institutions, which is based in an understanding that human beings are inevitably social, influencing and being influenced by social groups. The social sciences study social institutions and processes and deal with the human behaviors and values that form and change them, and are essential for an understanding of contemporary society.

The course will involve lecture, discussion, and film, as well as reading and writing assignments. Each offers a different way to approach the subject matter, and each provides something different to your understanding of events and ideas. Therefore, comprehending international politics requires you to actively participate in listening, looking, discussion, reading, and writing. Your success depends on your involvement.

Readings: The text for the course is Robert Art and Robert Jervis, *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 9th Edition, which is also on library reserve. Additional readings will come from other sources, which will be made available in a course reader. These additional course readings will be available on library reserve and on Blackboard. Materials must be read prior to class.

Assignments: The midterm exam will be on February 9. Article summaries are due in class every other Wednesday. The paper is due on March 2. The final exam is on March 18.

Course requirements:

Article summaries	20%
Paper	20%
Mid-term exam	30%
Final exam	30%

Please notify me on the first day of class if you have any alternative needs as a result of a disability.

Week 1

Jan. 5 Introduction

Jan. 7 The International System: Realism

Thucydides, "The Melian Dialogue" in reader.

Thomas Hobbes, "The State of Nature and the State of War," in reader.

John Mearshimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power" in Art and Jervis.

Kenneth Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics" in Art and Jervis.

Week 2

Jan. 12 **The International System: Liberalism**

John Ikenberry, "The Stability of the Post-Cold War Order" in reader.
Michael Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs, in Art and Jervis.

Jan. 14 **The Cold War**

Mr. X (George Kennan), "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," *Foreign Affairs*, July 1947, in reader.
N. Novikov, "The Novikov Telegram," in Kenneth Jensen, *Origins of the Cold War*, in reader.

Week 3

Jan. 19 **Holiday**

Jan. 21 **The Cold War**

Ronald Reagan, Address to the British Parliament, 1982, in reader.
John Lewis Gaddis, "The Long Peace" *International Security*, 1986, in reader.
Raymond Garthoff, *The Great Transition*, pp. 751-757, in reader.

Week 4

Jan. 26 **Globalization**

Martin Wolf, "Will Globalization Survive," in reader.
Rawi Abdelal, "Has Globalization Passed Its Peak?" in Art and Jervis.
Pankaj Ghemawat, "Why the World Isn't Flat," in Art and Jervis.

Jan. 28 **Beyond the Nation-State: International Organizations and Int'l Law**

Kofi Anan, "Reflections on Intervention," in Art & Jervis.
Steven Ratner, "International Law: The Trials of Global Norms," in Art & Jervis.

Week 5

Feb. 2 **Weapons of Mass Destruction – Deterrence, Arms Control and Proliferation**

Kenneth Waltz, "The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: More May Be Better," in reader.
Barry Posen, "A Nuclear Armed Iran," in Art and Jervis.

Feb. 4 **Terrorism**

Robert Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," in Art and Jervis.
Richard Betts, "The Soft Underbelly of Primacy," in reader.
Gregory Cause, "Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?" in Art and Jervis.

Week 6

Feb. 9 **Midterm Exam**

Feb. 11 **International Political Economy -- Perspectives**

Robert Gilpin, "Three Ideologies of Political Economy," in reader.

Week 7

Feb. 16 **International Political Economy – Trade and Finance**

Dani Rodrik, "Trading in Illusions," in Art and Jervis.
Bruce Scott, "The Great Divide in the Global Village," in Art & Jervis

Feb. 18 **International Political Economy – Development**

Thomas Oatley, *International Political Economy*, pp. 123-130 and 137-158, in reader.

Week 8

Feb. 23 **Democracy and Development...and Oil: Do They Go Together?**

Fareed Zakaria, *The Future of Freedom*, Chapter 2, in reader.
Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, "Development and Democracy," *Foreign Affairs*, 2005, in reader.

- Feb. 25 The Environment and Energy**
N. Gregory Mankiw, "One Answer to Global Warming: A New Tax," in Art and Jervis.
Elizabeth Economy, "The Great Leap Backward," *Foreign Affairs*, Sept/Oct 2007, in reader.
Charles Krauthammer, "The Net Zero Gas Tax" *The Weekly Standard*, January 5, 2009.

Week 9

- Mar. 2 The Arab-Israeli Conflict (Paper Due)**
Hussein Agha, "The Last Negotiation," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2002, in reader.
Dov Waxman, "From Conflict to Consensus," *Israel Studies*, Summer 2008, in reader.
- Mar. 4 America the Superpower and the Contemporary International System**
John Ikenberry, "Rising Powers and Global Institutions," in Art and Jervis.
Ivo Daalder and James Lindsay, "Democracies of the World, Unite," in Art and Jervis.
Charles Krauthammer, "The Unipolar Moment Revisited," in reader.

Week 10

- Mar. 9 The Rise of China and the Contemporary International System**
Zheng Bijan, "China's Peaceful Rise," *Foreign Affairs*, Sep/Oct 2005, in reader.
Richard Betts and Thomas Christensen, "The Rise of China," in reader.
- Mar. 11 Catch up and Review for Final**

Final Exam: Wednesday, March 18, at Noon (Same room we always use for class.)

Article Summaries

Your assignment is to complete a summary of the assigned articles. You do not have to submit a summary of every article, only two articles for each day readings are assigned. You may choose which articles to summarize. The idea is for you to gain an understanding of the arguments and main ideas of each and to be able to explain how the authors support their arguments.

Be certain that each summary answers the following:

- What are the author's main arguments?
- What are the points (or subpoints) the author uses to make these arguments?
- How are these points and the main arguments supported? (What is discussed? What is offered as evidence?)

Each summary should be about a paragraph in length (so you should be able to get 2 to a page – single spaced).

The summaries are due every other Wednesday in class, with the first set due on January 14.

Exams

The exams will consist of several questions based on readings and lectures. The format will include questions requiring a short answer (and maybe one essay).

Paper

Your assignment is to write a paper that answers the following question:

- What is the most serious threat to international security and stability?

The paper is due no later than March 2. It should be 600-700 words, and it should analyze the problem you are focusing on while answering the question. (The paper should not simply be a history or description of the problem, but an analysis of why it is such an important problem.)

The focus of this assignment is not on extensive research (you will still need to complete research), but on clear, crisp writing. Every paragraph, every sentence, every word, has to count.

As part of this assignment, you must have your topic cleared by the professor, and you must meet with the professor to review a draft of your response. This draft is not an outline, but an actual draft of your response, complete with references and citations. You will visit the professor during office hours or make an appointment to review the draft. Meetings must take place no later than February 26. At this appointment, the professor will review your writing, use of references, grammar, and offer suggestions on how to improve your writing.

- Topic cleared: No later than Feb. 2
- Draft reviewed: No later than Feb. 26
- Paper due: No later than March 2

Sources—You are required to use at least three sources outside of the class readings, and to provide a bibliography. (Feel free to use as many course readings as you want; be certain to include them in the bibliography.) Sources can include only books or peer-reviewed journal articles. You cannot cite newspapers, magazines, Wikipedia, etc., though you may use them for background and information.

You may not use direct quotations in your paper to refer to material that is not your own. You must reword the information and then provide the appropriate parenthetical citation and a bibliographic entry.

Citations—You must provide parenthetical citations when appropriate. The format should be: (Author's last name, Year).