

POL 03: Introduction to International Relations

Spring 2012

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TR: 8-9.50

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Course Description:

This course will present a broad overview of the field of international relations. The study of international relations concerns itself with major political, military, economic and cultural factors that affect interactions among states. We will introduce and discuss major concepts, actors and events that shape the structure of contemporary and historical international politics. In lecture, we will also introduce and develop in detail key theories used in the academic study of international relations. This course will cover major tools and theories that can be used to understand international politics and actions taken by international leaders. The focus of the course will be on using the theories discussed in class to develop a deeper understanding of topics such as war, international trade, military alliances, nuclear weapons, and others. This is an introductory course and no prerequisite is required.

The discussion in this course will provide a general overview of the historical development of the current international system and the key factors that continue to influence international relations today. The topics covered will focus on critical international processes and events, such as war, international trade, political economy, international cooperation and formulation of foreign policy. We will also discuss some of the major theories of international politics, such as realism, liberalism and constructivism. This course is aimed at improving student's substantive knowledge of international relations as well as providing the necessary tools and historical background to think critically and analytically about international events and relations among states. By the end of the quarter, students should be able to identify key theories of international politics and apply these theories to understand and analyze contemporary international relations.

Course Requirements:

The course grade will be based on the following requirements

1. Midterm (May 8) 30%
2. Research Paper (May 24) 35%
3. Final (June 11) 35%

Exams will consist of a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions covering material from lecture and reading assignments. The midterm exam will also include a number of questions related to world events that have received extensive media coverage in the previous 5

weeks of the quarter. For this reason, it is highly recommended to read a publication from the newspapers list in the below section on a daily basis.

The research paper will be a brief assignment of around 1000 words on a topic to be posted on SmartSite during the quarter. Late assignments will be marked down a letter grade for every day late. Cases of plagiarism or cheating will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs.

Readings:

Assigned readings are to be completed prior to the assigned date. Readings will consist of assigned textbook chapters as well as electronic resources. Electronic resources will be posted on SmartSite.

Required Text:

Bruce Russett, Harvey Starr, and David Kinsella 2011. *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*. New York: Wadsworth Publishing—10th edition (RSK)

Newspapers:

The midterm exam will also include questions related to world events receiving major coverage in the below news organizations.

- The New York Times
- Financial Times
- Washington Post
- Wall Street Journal
- Der Spiegel
- Los Angeles Times
- BBC
- CNN
- Reuters
- Associated Press

Topics and Course Schedule:

April 5: Introduction, syllabus, theory

April 10: Historical Development of the International System

RSK Chapter 3

- 30 Years War
- Treaty of Westphalia
- Sovereignty
- Rise of nation-states & nationalism
- Napoleonic Wars
- 19th century international politics

- Cold War and 20th century international politics

April 12: Realism

RSK Chap 2, pp 21- 28

Jervis, Robert. 1978. "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma." *World Politics* 30(2)

- International anarchy
- Security Dilemma
- Balance of power
- Military alliances
- Offensive vs Defensive realism

April 17: War

RSK Chap 7, pp 159-174

RSK Chap 5, pp 110-122

- Motivation for War
- Power transition
- Distribution of Power
- Diversionary war

April 19: War continued

RSK Chap 8, pp 198-203, pp 214-226

Keir Lieber and Darryl Press. 2006. "The Rise of U.S. Nuclear Primacy" *Foreign Affairs*

- Nuclear weapons
- Deterrence
- Alliances

April 24: Liberalism

RSK Chap 10, pp 257-269

RSK Chap 3, pp 57-64

RKS Chap 8, pp 206-213

- Prisoners Dilemma
- Non-state actors
- Relative and Absolute gains
- International Cooperation
- International Institutions

April 26: Domestic and International Institutions

RSK Chap 10, pp 270-286

RSK Chap 5, pp 123-128

- Importance and role of institutions
- Domestic and international institutions
- The UN
- WTO, IMF and World Bank
- Institutions in history
- Democratic peace

May 1st: Constructivism

Samuel Huntington .1992. "The Clash of Civilizations" Foreign Affairs

RSK Chap 6, pp. 146-150

RSK Chap 5, pp. 99-105

- Nature of identity
- International society
- Clash of civilizations
- International cooperation as identity

May 3: Midterm review

May 8: Midterm

May 10: Power

RSK Chap 4

- Nature of power
- Material power
- Non-material power
- Resolve

May 15: Foreign Policy

RSK Chap 5 pp 106-109

RSK Chap 6

- Formation of foreign policy
- Perspectives on foreign policy
- Domestic and international influences
- Foreign aid
- Diplomacy

May 17: Human Rights

RSK Chap 9

- Sovereignty and human rights
- International law
- International intervention
- Peacekeeping

May 22: International Political Economy

RSK Chap 11

- Trade and trade policy
- Interdependence
- Economic policy tools

May 24: Roots of the Financial Crisis (Research Paper due)

May 29: Globalization and the EU

RSK Chap 12

- Globalization
- Integration
- Common market
- EU monetary policy

May 31: Development

RSK Chap 13

- North-South gap
- Dependency theory
- Dependent development
- Democracy and development

June 4: Environment

RSK Chap 14

- Population
- Sustainability
- Collective Goods
- Collective action problems

June 7: Final review

June 11: Final Exam (6-8pm)