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PSC 130E.01: International Relations

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
Department of Political Science

Political Science 130E
Introduction to International Relations
Summer, 2001

F.L. Grieves
Office: LA 350
Hrs:

Course purpose is to review the evolution of the nation-state system and survey the contemporary international actors, issues and forces for stability and change.

Course objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to demonstrate 1) factual knowledge of the historical-cultural context of modern international relations, 2) familiarity with the major issues and forces engaging present international actors, and 3) an understanding of the mechanisms for managing international relations.

In confronting the ethics focus of the course, the student should be able to demonstrate an introductory-level understanding of:

1. national sovereignty, the Westphalian system and individual rights;

2. the nature and bases of international political morality (realists, idealists, communitarians, cosmopolitans);

3. the sources of political morality: foundationalism (Aquinas, Locke, Kant), constructivism (Rawls) and consensualism (international law and ius cogens);

4. the challenges of cultural pluralism and the question of a shared, universal morality;

5. strategies of ethical decision-making: ends-based action (consequentialism or teleological ethics--Bentham), rules-based action (deontological thinking--Kant) and tri-dimensional ethics (Stanley Hoffmann);

6. statesmanship and moral choice.

The achievement of these objectives will be measured by a midterm and a final reviewing course material and the ethical principles covered, and an essay taking a position on one of the ethics case studies discussed in Mark Amstutz's International Ethics.

1. Basic reading for the course will be assigned from:

-Dan Caldwell, WORLD POLITICS AND YOU (Prentice Hall, 2000)

-Mark Amstutz, INTERNATIONAL ETHICS: CONCEPTS, THEORIES AND CASES IN GLOBAL POLITICS (Rowan & Littlefield, 1999)

2. In addition, regular reading of a daily newspaper (and/or weekly news-magazine) is expected.

3. There will be a 1 hour midterm (90 points): June 13 (Wed); and a 1 hour final exam (100 points): June 29 (Fri). A 3-5 page ethics essay, double-spaced, typed (10 points) is due June 18 (Mon).

Grading Scale: 90s=A, 80s=B, 70s=C, 60s=D, 59 & below=F)

Course Outline

Reading (Caldwell=C)
(Amstutz=A)

I. INTRODUCTION

- a. What are "International Relations?" C, Ch. 1
- b. Problem of Theory A, Ch. 1
- c. National might and human values

II. HISTORICAL CONTEXT FOR PRESENT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- a. Roman Empire C, Ch. 2, 3, 4
- b. Holy Roman Empire A, Ch. 3
- c. Peace of Westphalia (emergence of the state)
- d. Problem of Sovereignty
- e. Balance of Power/"Classical Politics"

III. NATURE OF MODERN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- a. Dilemma of International Relations C, Ch. 5,7,8,
1) Struggle for Power v. Struggle 11,12,13
for Order A, Ch. 2,5,6
- b. The Bomb: Moral views on war & peace
in the Nuclear Age
- c. Cold War: Ideology and Politics
- d. The "third world" - "Haves" v. "Have Nots"

IV. THE SEARCH FOR WORLD ORDER

- a. International Law: law & justice C, Ch. 10,6,9,
- b. International Organization: allocating 12,14,15
values A, Ch. 4,7,8,9
- c. International Politics/Diplomacy: ethics
& statesmanship
- d. Prospects for World Order: ethical
relationships & choices--do ethics matter?

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