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PSC 130E.01: International Relations

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Professor Paul Haber Phone: 243-4862 Email: paul.haber@mso.umt.edu
Political Science Department, course #130e
Fall 2007
Meets: Tuesday and Thursday 9:40 – 11:00
Office Hours in LA 355. Tuesday and Thursday 12:30 - 2:00 and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Jill Hanson jill.hanson@umontana.edu
Office hours in Corbin 347: Tuesday 11:00-12:30 and Wednesday 2–3:30 and by appointment.

Required texts (The Nye and Johnson books come as a package for the cost of the Nye book. Available at the UC Bookstore. One copy of each on two hour reserve at the library.):

Joseph Nye. *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History*. Longman Publishers, 2007 (sixth edition).

Loch Johnson. *Seven Sins of American Foreign Policy*. Longman Publishers, 2007.

A number of articles will be put on reserve at the Mansfield Library and/or placed on Blackboard (for Blackboard instructions, refer to separate instruction sheet). Details will be announced in class.

This is an introductory course. The goal of the class is to introduce students to the serious study of international relations. By serious study I mean an approach to international relations that explores a creative and rigorous interplay between theory and history. It means an approach that focuses on the realities of power: power derived from military might, population, technology, land mass, and population to be sure, but also an approach that considers the influence of ideas and values on public policy decisions. Particularly relevant here would be considerations of science on global environmental decisions and ethical considerations across the public policy map. What role has ethical and rational logics played in decision-making in the past and what role could or should they play in the future?

This class is designed to prepare citizens to be able to intelligently follow and participate in the making of foreign policy. Equipped with theory and history, citizens are in a much better position to understand and advocate for particular decisions. The first part of the class is designed to provide some of this theoretical and historical equipment. The second half challenges us to think about particular case studies.

Students are required to read all assigned readings **carefully and before the class period for which they are assigned**. **Students are also required to follow international news coverage in the New York Times throughout the semester**. We will discuss and debate issues raised by the readings in class. It will be near to impossible to follow – let alone participate – in these discussions if you have not already read the material. John Spaulding will be regularly available to discuss the reading and lectures with individuals and groups. Students are strongly encouraged to make use of this opportunity, especially if you are having difficulty understanding the material. Start early and go often. Do not wait until you are in a crisis situation because it is often too late at that point to improve as much as would have been possible if you had addressed your confusions earlier.

Students are also **required** to follow current international events with attention to detail. There are a number of ways to do this. Perhaps the best and easiest is to subscribe to the New York Times (print or electronic edition). Another good way to do this is to subscribe to The Washington Post national weekly edition. Reading the Missoulian does not get the job done. One can supplement reading either the New York Times or the Post with other publications that focus on international affairs. Some suggestions include Harper's, Atlantic Monthly, New York Review of Books (available for free on line), Foreign Affairs, and Foreign Policy.

Your grade will be based on three exams (each exam is worth 1/4 of total grade), and about half a dozen quizzes (together worth 1/4 of total grade). Exams and quizzes will be based on assigned readings, lectures, class discussions, films, and guest speakers. There will be no make-ups for quizzes. If you are not in class on a quiz day you will receive a zero. Sometimes the dates for quizzes will be announced in class, other times they will not. Your lowest two grades on these quizzes will not count toward your grade. Make-up exams will be allowed, but only with a doctor's note, or for non-medical emergencies, with a typed statement addressed to the professor. Students should not make a habit of missing class: your grade will likely suffer.

If you miss a film showing, you are responsible for locating a copy of the film and watching it on your own. If you miss a guest speaker, you are responsible for finding out what was discussed. If you are going to miss an exam due to illness or emergency, you must contact the professor **before the exam** date and arrange a makeup. If you do not, you will not be able to make up the exam and will receive an F grade for that exam.

It may become necessary, over the course of the class, to rearrange assignments or alter the schedule. Any changes in scheduling will be announced in class. If you miss class, you are responsible for checking with another student or the TA for lecture notes and any announcements that may have been made regarding scheduling or assignments. I do not post nor do I lend out copies of my lecture notes.

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAM SCHEDULE

August 30	Nye, chapter 1
September 4	Nye, chapter 2
September 6	Nye, chapter 3
September 11	Nye, chapter 4
September 13	Nye, chapter 5
September 18	Nye, chapter 6
September 20	Nye, chapter 7
September 25	Nye, chapter 8
September 27	Nye, chapter 9
October 2	Exam 1

October 4	Johnson, chapter 1
October 9	Johnson, chapter 2
October 11	Johnson, chapter 3
October 16	Johnson, chapter 4
October 18	Johnson, chapter 5
October 23	Johnson, chapter 6
October 25	Johnson, chapter 7
October 30	Exam 2

November 1	To be announced
November 6	To be announced
November 8	To be announced
November 13	To be announced
November 15	To be announced
November 20	To be announced
November 22	Holiday
November 27	To be announced
November 29	To be announced
December 4	To be announced
December 6	Exam 3