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PSC 495.02: International Politics after the Cold War

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International Politics after the Cold War is a seminar designed to provide students with an opportunity to carefully and thoroughly read, discuss and write about three books on recent developments and future prospects in international politics, in an effort to get a sense of where global politics is heading in the aftermath of four decades of the U.S.—Soviet, bipolar, Cold War period.

The three books assigned to students in this seminar are:

Jeffrey E. Garten, *A Cold Peace: America, Japan and Germany and the Struggle for Supremacy*
Paul Kennedy, *Preparing for the Twenty-First Century*
Zbigniew Brzezinsky, *Out of Control: Global Turmoil on the Eve of the 21st Century*

Students will be expected to complete the reading assigned for each seminar meeting, and to be prepared to discuss, question and assess the assignment in class. Students are required to prepare a six page precis of each assigned book. The precis will include: 1) a description of the thesis of the book; 2) a description of the arguments and evidence the author uses in support of the thesis; and 3) an evaluation of a) the logical validity of the book, and b) the value of its contribution to an understanding of international politics in Asia.

Grades for the course will be based on the grades of the three precis, with each precis counting for one third of the course grade. In order to receive full credit, precis must be turned in on time, be within the six page limit, and be grammatically and typographically correct. Precis that are turned in late, exceed the page limit, or have excessive errors will be penalized.