

Spring 2-1-2010

PSC 230X.01: International Relations

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Political Science 230X
Spring 2010
T/Th 12:40-2:00
SS 352

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Office Hours: T/Th 5:15-6:30 & by appt

Introduction to International Relations

Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces the study and practice of international politics. It examines the way that states and other international actors interact in their pursuit of security and prosperity, as well as the theoretical tools scholars use to understand why states and other international actors interact as they do. With this practical and theoretical background, you will be able to:

- understand the causes of international conflict and cooperation, including international causes such as the balance of power, and transnational causes such as economic interdependence and environmental conditions;
- explain similarity and variety in the foreign policies of states;
- apply international-relations theories to explain international-political history and predict the important international issues of the coming decades; and
- develop and support arguments about how and why individuals, states, and other international actors do, will, and should address important international issues.

General Education Objectives

To receive General Education credit for the Global and Indigenous (X) requirement, you must take the course for a traditional letter grade and receive a C- or better.

Note: this course does NOT satisfy the Ethics (E) requirement.

Teaching Assistants

There are two teaching assistants for this course. They are a good resource for you. Feel free to talk with them before and after class or during their office hours.

Nathan Bilyeu (entire semester)
Office: Corbin 345
Office Hours: M/W 10:30-11:30
nathan.bilyeu@umontana.edu

Jessica Lawson (through paper assignment)
Office: Corbin 345
Office Hours: T/Th 2-3 & W 1-2
jessica.lawson@umontana.edu

Texts

There is one required book, which is available for purchase at the UM Bookstore:

- Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse, *International Relations, 2008-2009 Update* (8th Edition), Pearson Longman publishers, ISBN-10: 0-205-58595-7.

In addition to reading this book as noted on the schedule below, you are required to keep up with and develop an in-depth understanding of current international-political actors, events, issues, and problems by reading the *New York Times* (<http://www.nytimes.com>) on a daily (Monday - Friday) basis.

Other ways to keep up with current events are to:

- Read other national daily newspapers such as the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Wall Street Journal*, as well as international papers such as the *London Times*, *Guardian*, and *Le Monde* and compilations of international news such as <http://worldpress.org/>
- Read weekly news magazines such as *The Economist*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *US News and World Report*. See also monthly journals such as *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, and *The National Interest*.
- Listen to National Public Radio programs such as “Morning Edition,” BBC World Service,” and “All Things Considered” on KUFM 89.1 (for schedule, go to <http://www.mtpr.net/>).
- Watch national nightly and weekly television news programs. On PBS, these include “PBS NewsHour,” “BBC World News,” “Worldfocus,” and “Frontline,” which are available on both KUFM Channel 11 (<http://www.montanapbs.org/>) and KSPS Channel 32 (<http://ksps.org/>). The ABC, CBS, and NBC evening news, as well as ABC’s “Nightline,” can also be helpful.

Whenever possible I encourage you to consult these and other additional sources. Please note, however, that they will not substitute for daily reading of the *New York Times*. Because it is the single best source for in-depth international coverage and a wide range of opinion, current event questions on the midterm and final will be based on the *New York Times*.

Course Requirements

You are expected to attend class regularly and complete all of the assigned reading, including the previous day’s *New York Times*, before each class. Your grade in the class will be determined as follows:

- 25% research paper (due at the beginning of class on Thursday, March 4)
- 35% midterm (Thursday, March 25, in class)
- 40% final (Monday, May 10 from 1:10 - 3:10)

In the research paper, you will analyze a current international conflict in terms of the various levels of analysis and theories of international politics discussed in class. Papers must be typewritten, double-spaced, and between 3-5 pages. They must cite at least three articles from approved newspaper or magazine sources. Papers will be graded on the extent to which they fulfill the assignment and the accuracy, clarity, and thoughtfulness with which they are written. A detailed paper assignment will be distributed in class.

The midterm and final exams will test your understanding of and ability to analyze material from the book and readings, lectures, and *New York Times*. They will consist of multiple choice questions, short answers, and essay questions. Be prepared to recall what you have learned and to write clear, thoughtful, and well-supported answers to challenging questions.

Grades

The plus/minus grading system will be used. Grades may be curved, but the following distribution is the lowest I will use (*i.e.*, if you earn 93% of all possible points you are assured of an A in the course):

93-100	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-
87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	0-59	F

For UM’s policy on incompletes, please see the Course Catalog, <http://www.umt.edu/catalog/acad/acadpolicy/default.html>

Academic Honesty

Students must practice academic honesty and should be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php

Students who engage in academic misconduct such as plagiarism (representing another person's work as their own) will receive a 0 for the assignment in question and may be subject to a disciplinary sanction by the university.

Make-Up Policy

Make-up exams will be scheduled only for students directly involved in extreme, documented emergencies. Late papers will be accepted only in these conditions, as well. If you find yourself in the midst of an emergency, you must notify me as soon as possible (in advance of the exam or due-date if possible) that you will be unable to attend the scheduled exam or submit the paper on time. To do so, call me or send me an email explaining the circumstances of your emergency and giving me a way to contact you. I reserve the right to deny requests and require makeup work substantially different from the original assignment.

Note: Because I accept make-up work only in the event of extreme, documented emergencies, if you miss an exam or fail to submit a paper for any other reason you will receive a 0 for the assignment. This will put you at risk of failing the course.

Drop Policy

The 15th day of the semester is the last day to drop the class or change the grading option without my signature on an override form. If you wish to drop or change the grading option after that, you must provide documentation of an emergency or other serious situation in which you are directly involved that has made it impossible for you to complete the course.

Disabilities

Students with disabilities should apprise me of their needs by presenting me with a current letter from Disability Services at least two weeks before the paper or exam on which they wish to be accommodated.

Course Communications

Throughout the course, I will communicate with you by email and by posting announcements and materials on the Blackboard website, which you can access at <https://courseware.umt.edu/webapps/login>

I will also email you from time to time. To ensure that you receive my emails, you should either check your UM email account on a regular basis or have your UM email forwarded to an account you do check regularly.

Study Tips

To do well in this class, it is not enough simply to attend class. You must also do the readings and think about what the lectures and readings are arguing, determine how they relate to one another, and practice applying the concepts and theories to understand international history and current events. Here are some tips for doing so:

1. *Do the assigned reading (including the previous day's NYT) before class.*
 - a. Begin by reading the textbook chapter. As you read, highlight, underline, and make comments or ask questions in the margins. This is an essential part of reading.
 - b. After reading the chapter, review your highlighting, underlining, comments, and questions. As you do so, outline the chapter in your own words on a separate piece of paper.
 - c. Compare your notes to the chapter summary, and revise them so they are clear and complete.
 - d. Without looking at your notes, quiz yourself on the key terms and critical thinking questions. Write down your answers. Then review your notes and amend your answers.
 - e. Read the additional readings. Again, highlight, underline, and record your comments and questions. Review and outline the reading. Summarize the author's argument in a sentence or two.
 - f. Make notes about how the text and additional readings fit together. For example:
 - i. How do the various authors define key terms (such as power, security, development)?

- ii. Are the authors arguing from similar or different levels of analysis? Do they espouse similar or different theoretical perspectives? How can you tell?
- iii. To which historical examples do the authors refer?
- iv. Which of the readings is most helpful? Most interesting? Most persuasive? Why?
- g. Make notes about current events that relate to these readings.
- h. Write down your comments and questions about the readings and current events. Discuss them with a friend or get more information by following the links in the Goldstein book.
- i. Bring your notes and questions to class.

2. *Attend lectures.*

- a. Print the lecture notes and key terms from the Blackboard website, and bring them to class.
- b. Take notes. Use the lecture outlines to help you organize your lecture notes. Because the outlines simply list topics in the order they will be discussed, they will not substitute for your own detailed notes.
- b. Ask questions and participate in discussions.

3. *Review your lecture notes and integrate them with your reading notes.*

- a. Review your lecture notes. Underline key terms, and record your questions and comments.
- b. Make notes about how the readings and lectures fit together. For example:
 - i. Did the lecture clarify the meaning of key terms? Did it introduce new key terms?
 - ii. Was the lecture an example of a particular theoretical perspective?
 - iii. To which historical examples did the lecture refer?
 - iv. Did the lecture present facts that support or weaken a particular theoretical argument?
- c. Define any new key terms and revise your answers to the critical thinking questions.
- d. Review your questions about readings and current events. Which of these can you answer now? What new questions were raised by lecture? Write them down, discuss with a friend, and bring them to class or office hours.

4. *Prepare for the midterm and final by practicing short answer and essay questions.*

- a. Short answer questions will ask you to define and give an example of a term, define and explain the significance of a term, compare and contrast two terms, or something of that nature. 1-2 paragraphs should suffice. You will have about 10 minutes per question.
- b. The essay question will ask you to write an essay (with introduction, thesis statement, argument, evidence, and conclusion) in which you analyze an international political issue and compare and contrast your argument to the arguments of other scholars. You will have about 30 minutes per essay. Practice by answering the policy perspectives, thinking theoretically, and other questions in the book.

Course Outline and Schedule

Readings marked “Goldstein” are in the textbook. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are on the Blackboard website. If you have trouble accessing them there, go to the UM library homepage (<http://www.lib.umt.edu/>), click on “Journals,” type in the name of the newspaper or journal, select the electronic index that contains the issue in which the article appeared, and search for the article using the title and/or author’s name.

I. **International Politics: The Basics** (1/26-1/28)

Goldstein, “Careers in International Relations,” pp. xvii-xxi, and Chapter 1, “The Globalization of IR,” pp. 2-41.

As you read the section on history, find the countries being discussed in the maps of world regions (Goldstein, pp. xxii-xxx).

Start reading the NYT.

Follow the study tips (above).

II. Theoretical Perspectives on International Politics

A. Realism (2/2-2/4)

Goldstein, Chapter 2, "Power Politics."

*Benjamin Schwartz and Christopher Layne, "A New Grand Strategy," *The Atlantic Monthly*, January 2002 (7 pp).

B. Idealism

1. Liberalism (2/9-2/11)

Goldstein, Chapter 3, "Alternatives to Power Politics," pp. 82-93 only.

*Thomas L. Friedman, "It's a Flat World, After All," *New York Times* (magazine), April 3, 2005 (6 pp).

*Kofi A. Annan, "Strategies for World Peace: The View of the UN Secretary-General," *Futurist*, May-June 2002 (4 pp).

2. Critical/Revolutionary Theories

a. Marxism and Dependency Theory (2/16)

Goldstein, pp. 97-99 and 437-457.

*John Bellamy Foster, "The New Age of Imperialism," *Monthly Review* 55:3 (July-August 2003), (17 pp), available at <http://www.monthlyreview.org/0703jbf.htm>

b. Feminism, Constructivism, and Peace Studies (2/18)

Goldstein, pp. 93-97 and 99-121.

*Kavita Ramdas, "Feminists and Fundamentalists," *Current History*, March 2006, pp. 99-104 (6 pp).

*Wendell Bell, "Humanity's Common Values," *The Futurist*, September-October 2004 (7 pp).

III. Foreign Policy (2/23-2/25)

Goldstein, Chapter 4, "Foreign Policy."

*Michael R. Gordon, "The Strategy to Secure Iraq Did Not Foresee a 2nd War," *New York Times*, October 19, 2004 (6 pp).

*World Public Opinion.org, "U.S. Public Rejects Using Military Force to Promote Democracy," September 29, 2005, (2 pp.).

*Barack H. Obama, "A Just and Lasting Peace," Nobel Peace Prize Lecture, 10 December 2009, (6 pp), available at http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2009/obama-lecture_en.html

IV. International Security

A. The Causes and Resolution of International Conflict (3/2-3/4)

****PAPER DUE at the beginning of class on Thursday, March 5****

Goldstein, Chapter 5, "International Conflict," pp. 149-187.

*Henry Munson, "Lifting the Veil: Understanding the Roots of Islamic Militancy," *Harvard International Review*, Winter 2004 (4 pp.).

*Jeffrey Goldberg, "After Iraq," *Atlantic*, January 2008 (12 pp.)

B. The Use of Force in International Conflicts

1. Decisions States Must Make About Military Force (3/9)

Goldstein, Chapter 6, "Military Force," pp. 189-229.

*Lawrence J. Korb, "Paying for the Troop Escalation in Afghanistan," Center for American Progress, December 22, 2009 (3 pp.), available at http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/12/afghanistan_funding.html

2. Nuclear Weapons (3/11)

*Bill Keller, "Nuclear Nightmares," *New York Times*, 26 May 2002 (10 pp.).

*Kenneth Waltz, "Peace, Stability, and Nuclear Weapons," IGCC Policy Paper, 1995 (14 pp.).

C. Alternatives to International Conflict

1. International Organizations and Law (3/16-3/18)

Goldstein, Chapter 7, "International Organization, Law, & Human Rights," pp. 231-275.

*Gérard Prunier, "The Politics of Death in Darfur," *Current History*, May 2006 (8 pp).

*Steven R. Ratner, "Geneva Conventions," *Foreign Policy*, March/April 2008 (5 pp).

2. Catch Up and Review (3/23)

*****MIDTERM EXAMINATION in class on Thursday, March 25*****

V. International Political Economy

A. International Trade (4/6-4/8)

Goldstein, Chapter 8, "International Trade," pp. 276-315.

*Stephen Castle and Mark Landler, "After 7 Years, Talks Collapse on World Trade," *New York Times*, July 30, 2008 (3 pp).

B. International Finance (4/13-4/15)

Goldstein, Chapter 9, "Money and Business," pp. 316-349.

*Steven Pearlstein, "With Bubbles Popping Worldwide, No Wonder the Economy's Gone Flat," *Washington Post*, October 7, 2008 (2 pp).

*Martin Wolf, "Why agreeing a new Bretton Woods is vital -- and so hard," *Financial Times*, December 16, 2008 (2 pp).

C. International Integration (4/20)

Goldstein, Chapter 10, "International Integration," pp. 351-381.

*Pankaj Ghemawat, "Why the World Isn't Flat," *Foreign Policy*, March/April 2007, pp. 54-60 (6 pp).

D. The Environment (4/22-4/27)

Goldstein, Chapter 11, "Environment and Population," pp. 383-421.

*Thomas Homer-Dixon, "On the Threshold: Environmental Changes as Causes of Acute Conflict," *International Security* 16:2 (Fall 1991), excerpt (9 pp.).

*Bill McKibben, "A Deeper Shade of Green," *National Geographic*, August 2006.

E. Development and North-South Relations (4/29-5/4)

Goldstein, Chapter 12, "North-South Gap" and Chapter 13, "International Development," pp. 422-437 and 458-504.

*Peter Marber, "Globalization and Its Contents," *World Policy Journal*, Winter 2004/05, (9 pp).

*Jeffrey D. Sachs, "Can Extreme Poverty Be Eliminated?," *Scientific American*, September 2005, (10 pp), available at

http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/Scientific_AmericanSept2005.pdf

Oxfam America, "Empowering the Global South," in Goldstein, between pp. 41 and 43.

VI. The Future of International Politics (5/6)

Goldstein, Chapter 14, "Postscript," pp. 505-507.

*Fareed Zakaria, "Rise of the Rest," *Newsweek*, May 12, 2008.

*Kishore Mahbubani, "The Case Against the West," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2008 (10 pp).

*****FINAL EXAMINATION, Monday, May 10 from 1:10 - 3:10 pm in our regular classroom*****