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PSC 130E.01: International Relations

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Political Science 130E
Spring 2009
T/Th 12:40-2:00
SS 352

Professor Adams
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Office: 353 Liberal Arts
Office Hours: M 6:30-7:30, T 5:10-6:30 & 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 individuals, states, and other international actors do, will, and should address important international issues.

General Education Objectives

To receive General Education credit for your Ethics (E) requirement, you must enroll for a traditional letter grade and receive a C- or better.

Teaching Assistants

There are two teaching assistants for this course. Feel free to see either one with questions or concerns, either before or after class or during their office hours.

Niki Venable
Office: Corbin 345
Office Hours: MW 1-2
niki.venable@umontana.edu

Tyler Kendall
Office: Corbin 347
Office Hours: Th 2-3
tyler.kendall@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.

Please note that this is NOT the same book that will be used in PSC 130, Section 1. Professor Hayes uses the brief version of this book and assigns a second book as well.

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* or 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*.
- 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 “The News Hour,” “BBC World News,” “Frontline,” “Foreign Exchange,” and “NOW,” 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. Note, however, that they will not substitute for daily reading of the *New York Times*, which is the best single source for in-depth international coverage and a wide range of opinion and is therefore the source upon which current event questions on the midterm and final will be based.

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 5)
- 35% midterm (Thursday, March 26, in class)
- 40% final (Wednesday, May 13 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/academic/policy.htm>

Academic Honesty

Students must practice academic honesty and should be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/sa/VPsA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the professor and/or 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

February 13 is the last day to drop this class or change the grading option without my signature on an override form. If you wish to drop or change the grading option after February 13, 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 post announcements and materials on the Blackboard website, which you can access here <http://umonline.umt.edu/blackboard/Default.aspx>

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

It is not enough simply to attend class and do the readings. You must think about what the readings and lectures are arguing, determine how they relate to one another, and practice applying the concepts and theories to understand current events and other international issues. 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 record your comments and 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 (if any). Again, highlight, underline, and record your comments and questions. Then review and outline the reading.
- 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 they arguing from 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 web links in the Goldstein book
- i. Bring your notes and questions to class.

2. Attend lectures

- a. Print the lecture outline and list of terms from the Blackboard website & 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 the 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 10-15 minutes per question.
- b. Essay questions 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 30-45 minutes per essay. Practice writing essays by writing answers to the policy perspectives, thinking theoretically, and let's debate exercises in each chapter.

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 (1/27-1/29)

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 (2/3-2/5)

Goldstein, Chapter 2, “Power Politics.”

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

<http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/2002/01/schwarzlayne.htm>

B. Idealism

1. Liberalism (2/10-2/12)

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 (7 pp),

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/03/magazine/03DOMINANCE.html>

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

2. Critical/Revolutionary

a. Marxism and Dependency Theory (2/17)

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

*James S. Henry, “Where the Money Went,” *Across the Board*, March/April 2004, pp. 42-47 (5 pp).

*Moisés Naím, “The Lost Continent,” *Foreign Policy*, November/December 2006, pp. 40-47 (7 pp).

b. Feminism, Constructivism, and Peace Studies (2/19)

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

*Kavita Ramdas, “Feminists and Fundamentalists,” *Current History*, March 2006, pp. 99-104 (5 pp).

*Wendell Bell, “Humanity’s Common Values,” *The Futurist*, September-October 2004 (8 pp).

III. Foreign Policy (2/24-2/26)

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 (8 pp),
<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9B07E2DD133AF93AA25753C1A9629C8B63>

*World Public Opinion.org, "U.S. Public Rejects Using Military Force to Promote Democracy," September 29, 2005, (2 pp.),
<http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/brunitedstatescanadara/77.php?lb=btgov&pnt=77&nid=&id=>

*Barack Hussein Obama, "Inaugural Address," January 21, 2009, (4 pp),
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/inaugural-address/>

IV. International Security

A. The Causes and Resolution of International Conflict (3/3-3/5)

****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 (5 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 (3/10)

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

*Lawrence J. Korb, et al., "Building a Military for the 21st Century," Center for American Progress, December 10, 2008,
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/12/military_priorities.html

2. Nuclear Weapons (3/12)

*Bill Keller, "Nuclear Nightmares," *New York Times*, 26 May 2002 (3 pp.),
<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9D07E4DA1538F935A15756C0A9649C8B63>

*Kenneth N. Waltz, "Peace, Stability, and Nuclear Weapons," IGCC Policy Paper, 1995 (14 pp.), available at
<http://repositories.cdlib.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1055&context=igcc>

C. Alternatives to International Conflict

1. International Organizations and Law (3/17-3/19)

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

*Gérard Prunier, "The Politics of Death in Darfur," *Current History*, May 2006 (7 pp).

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

2. Catch Up and Review (3/24)

****MIDTERM EXAMINATION in class on Thursday, March 26****

V. International Political Economy

A. International Trade (4/7-4/9)

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

*"Opportunity knocks: As long as the protectionists don't spoil it," *Economist*, September 18, 2008 (3 pp).

B. International Finance (4/14-4/16)

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 (4/21)

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 (4/23-4/28)

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, <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0608/voices.html>

E. Development and North-South Relations (4/30-5/5)

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), <http://www.worldpolicy.org/journal/articles/wpj05-1/Marber.pdf>

*James M. Cypher, "Is Chile a Neoliberal Success?," *Dollars & Sense*, September/October 2004 (5 pp), <http://dollarsandsense.org/archives/2004/0904cypher.html>

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

VI. The Future of International Politics (5/7)

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, Wednesday, May 13 from 1:10 - 3:10 pm in our regular classroom*****