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PSC 130E.01: International Relations

Karen R. Adams

University of Montana - Missoula, karen.adams@umontana.edu

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Political Science 130
Spring 2008
T/Th 12:40-2:00
SS 352

Professor Adams
Office Hours: T/Th 5:00-6:30 by appt
Office: 353 Liberal Arts
Office Phone: 243-2105
karen.adams@umontana.edu

Introduction to International Politics

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 contemporary international politics and foreign policy,
- apply international-relations theories to explain international-political history and predict the important international issues of the coming decades,
- identify and analyze normative/ethical dimensions of foreign policy and international relations,
- develop and support theoretical and normative/ethical arguments about how states and other international actors will and should address important international issues.

General Education Objectives

This course is part of the Ethical and Human Values Perspective (Number 5). To receive General Education credit for this course, you must enroll for a traditional letter grade and receive a C- or better.

Teaching Assistants

The teaching assistant for this course is Laurel Douglas. She will be assisted by grader Cara Lorenzo. Feel free to see Laurel or Cara with any questions or concerns, either before or after class or during their office hours in Corbin Hall 345.

Laurel Douglas
Office Hours: T 11-12:30, Th 8-9:30
laurel.douglas@umontana.edu

Cara Lorenzo
Office Hours:
caramia5378@hotmail.com

Texts

There are two required books, both of which are available for purchase at the UC Bookstore:

- Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse, *International Relations*, brief 4th edition (New York: Longman, 2008).
- Jon C. Pevehouse and Joshua S. Goldstein, *Readings in International Relations* (New York: Longman, 2008).

In addition to reading these books 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 with Fareed Zakaria," 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 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, February 28)
- 35% midterm (Thursday, March 20, in class)
- 40% final (Monday, May 5 from 1:10 – 3:10 p.m)

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 books, 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 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 p. 21 of the Course Catalog.

Academic Honesty

All 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 quizzes and 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 work 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 11 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 11, you must provide documentation of an emergency or other serious situation that has made it impossible for you to complete the course.

Disabilities

Students with disabilities should apprise me of their needs at least two weeks before an assignment 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. To ensure that you receive my emails, you should check your UM email account on a regular basis. For Blackboard instructions and information on forwarding your email, consult the handout, "Using Blackboard."

Study Tips

1. *Do the assigned reading (including the previous day's NYT) before the class in which it will be discussed.*

- a. Begin by reading the textbook chapter. As you read, highlight and/or take notes. At the end of each chapter, compare your notes to the chapter summary, quiz yourself on the key terms, and answer the critical thinking questions.
- b. Read the assigned chapters in the reader, and answer the questions that precede each set of readings.
- c. Think about how the text and reader chapters fit together. For example:
 - i. Did a reading use a certain definition of a key term?
 - ii. Did a reading give an historical example of a type of conflict or cooperation?
 - iii. Was a reading written from a particular theoretical point of view?
 - iv. Did a reading present facts that support or weaken a particular theoretical argument?
- d. Make notes about current events that relate to these readings.
- e. Write down any questions you have and bring them to class or office hours.

2. *Attend lectures.*

- a. Take notes. Use the lecture outlines on the Blackboard website to help you organize the notes you take in class. Because these outlines simply list topics in the order they will be discussed, they will not substitute for your own detailed notes.
- b. Ask questions.
- c. Participate in discussions.

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

- a. Organize your reading and lecture notes by topic.
- b. Make notes about how the readings and lectures fit together. For example:
 - i. Did the lecture clarify the meaning of key terms?
 - ii. Did the lecture provide an historical example of a type of conflict or cooperation?
 - iii. Did the lecture present facts that support or weaken a particular theoretical argument?
- c. Review your answers to the critical thinking questions in the book and reader.

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.

5. *Start thinking about a topic for your research paper.*

6. *Ask questions in class or during office hours.*

Course Outline and Schedule

Readings marked "Goldstein" are in the textbook. Those marked "Reader" are in the reader. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are online. To access the online readings, 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 (1/22-1/24)

Goldstein, Chapter 1, pp. 1-34.

Reader, Walt, pp. 3-11.

II. Theoretical Perspectives on International Politics

A. Realism (1/29-1/31)

Goldstein, Chapter 2, pp. 35-65.

Reader, Morgenthau, pp. 21-31

*Benjamin Schwartz and Christopher Layne, "A New Grand Strategy," *The Atlantic Monthly*, January 2002 (7 pp), available through UM library homepage (see access instructions above) and at

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

B. Liberalism (2/5-2/7)

Goldstein, pp. 66-75.

Reader, Keohane & Nye, pp. 11-18.

Reader, Russett & O'Neal, pp. 44-61.

C. Marxism and Dependency Theory (2/12)

Goldstein, pp. 93-95 and 268-291.

Reader, Cardoso, pp. 292-298.

D. Feminism, Constructivism, and Peace Studies (2/14)

Goldstein, pp. 91-93 and 96-111.

Reader, Fukuda-Parr, pp. 62-68.

III. Foreign Policy (2/26-2/28)

Goldstein, pp. 75-90.

Reader, Mazarr, pp. 31-43

Reader, Allison, pp. 69-96

Reader, Wiarda, pp. 96-110.

IV. International Security

A. The Causes and Resolution of International Conflict (2/26-2/28)

****PAPER DUE at the beginning of class on Thursday, February 28****

Goldstein, pp. 112-142.

Reader, Posen, pp. 114-128.

Reader, Cronin, pp. 138-149.

Reader, Biddle, pp. 128-134.

B. The Use of Force in International Conflicts

1. Decisions States Must Make About Military Force (3/4)

Goldstein, pp. 142-167.

*Marcus Corbin *et al.*, "A Unified Security Budget for the United States, 2006," available at <http://www.fpif.org/papers/0505usb.html>. Read the Executive Summary and Introduction, and skim the rest.
Reader, Avant, pp. 154-160.

2. Nuclear Weapons (3/6)

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

*Kenneth N. Waltz, "Peace, Stability, and Nuclear Weapons," available at <http://repositories.cdlib.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1055&context=igcc> pp. 1-14.

C. Alternatives to International Conflict

1. International Organizations and Law (3/11)

Goldstein, pp. 216-236.

*Kofi Annan, "In Larger Freedom: Decision Time at the UN," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2005 (6 pp), available through UM library homepage (see access instructions above) and at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20050501faessay84307/kofi-annan/in-larger-freedom-decision-time-at-the-un.html>

2. International Law (3/13)

Goldstein, pp. 249-267.

Reader, Straus, pp. 180-186.

2. Catch Up and Review (3/18)

*****MIDTERM EXAMINATION in class on Thursday, March 20*****

V. International Political Economy

A. International Trade (4/1-4/3)

Goldstein, pp. 168-195.

Reader, Chapter 8 (Gilpin and Clapp), pp. 187-212.

B. International Finance (4/8-4/10)

Goldstein, pp. 195-215.

Reader, Chapter 9 (Cohn and Rondinelli), pp. 213-243.

C. International Integration (4/15)

Goldstein, pp. 236-248.

Reader, Chapter 10 (Haas and Moravcsik), pp. 244-265.

D. The Environment (4/17-4/22)

Goldstein, pp. 325-361.

Reader, Chapter 11 (Homer-Dixon and Eberstadt), pp. 266-288.

E. North-South Relations (4/24-4/29)

Goldstein, pp. 268-291 (review).

Goldstein, pp. 291-324.

Reader, Klasen, pp. 298-306

Reader, Chapter 10 (Birdsall et al and Woods), pp. 307-331.

VI. The Future of International Politics (5/1)

Goldstein, pp. 361-363.

Additional readings will be assigned.

*****FINAL EXAMINATION, Monday, May 5, from 1:10 – 3:10 in our regular classroom*****