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PSC 230E.01: Introduction to International Relations

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
Department of Political Science

Political Science 230E
Introduction to International Relations
Summer, 1998

F.L. Grieves
Office: LA 350
Hrs:

SPECIAL SUMMER SCHEDULE: MAY 26 - JUNE 12 (12:30-3:10)

Course purpose is to review the evolution of the nation-state system and survey the contemporary international actors, issues and forces for stability and change.

Course objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to demonstrate 1) factual knowledge of the historical-cultural context of modern international relations, 2) familiarity with the major issues and forces engaging present international actors, and 3) an understanding of the mechanisms for managing international relations.

1. Basic reading for the course will be assigned from:

-John Stoessinger, THE MIGHT OF NATIONS: WORLD POLITICS IN OUR TIME (10th ed.)

2. In addition, regular reading of a daily newspaper (and/or weekly news-magazine) is expected.

3. There will be a 1 hour midterm: June 3 (Wed); and a 1 hour final exam: June 12 (Fri). (Each exam is 50% of final grade; Grading Scale: 90s=A, 80s=B, 70s=C, 60s=D, 59 & below=F)

Course Outline

Reading (Stoessinger)

I. INTRODUCTION

- a. What are "International Relations?" Ch. 1
- b. Problem of Theory
- c. National might and human values

II. HISTORICAL CONTEXT FOR PRESENT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- a. Roman Empire Ch. 2
- b. Holy Roman Empire
- c. Peace of Westphalia (emergence of the state)
- d. Problem of Sovereignty
- e. Balance of Power/"Classical Politics"

III. NATURE OF MODERN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- a. Dilemma of International Relations Ch. 6,3,5,7,4
 - 1) Struggle for Power v. Struggle for Order
- b. The Bomb: Moral views on war & peace in the Nuclear Age
- c. Cold War: Ideology and Politics
- d. The "third world" - "Haves" v. "Have Nots"

IV. THE SEARCH FOR WORLD ORDER

- a. International Law: law & justice Ch.9,10-13,8,14
- b. International Organization: allocating values
- c. International Politics/Diplomacy: ethics & statesmanship
- d. Prospects for World Order: ethical relationships & choices