

World Politics

POL 101 - Summer 2013, Session II

TR 9:30AM – 12:55PM

Instructor: Patrick Lown

Location: Humanities 1023

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Office hours: TR 2:00PM - 4:00PM, or by appointment.

Course Description

This class introduces students to the trends, events, actors and problems of world politics. This course is about relations *between* countries, as well as world actors that are not countries. You will learn about the causes and effects of anarchy, war and peace, inequality, terrorism, environmental concerns and resource depletion, free trade and human rights, prosperity and starvation.

How can we make sense of the politics between states? Are wars an inescapable feature of international relations, or can states learn to resolve conflicts short of war? Will the spread of democracy and free trade over the past 150 years and the growth of international organizations promote lasting peace and prosperity? Have nuclear weapons made the world a safer place or a more dangerous place? Can we expect terrorists to use weapons of mass destruction in the coming decades? What is “globalization” and why are so many people upset about it? Is the world capable of managing the increasing threat of international environmental problems? Will China surpass the United States as the dominant world power?

Topics in this course include the history of the world system and an overview of the competing theoretical approaches leaders and scholars apply to make sense of it, in all of its complexity and immensity; i.e. these are theories we must apply in order to make world politics comprehensible. Issues will be examined through the theoretical lenses of collective goods theory, game theory, realism, liberalism, constructivism and more.

No prerequisites.

Textbooks

Required: Goldstein and Pevehouse, International Relations 10th edition update with MyPoliSciLab and eText. ISBN: 0205844022

Recommended: Mingst, Karen and Jack Snyder (2010). *Essential Readings in World Politics*. 4th edition. W.W. Norton & Co. ISBN 978-0-393-93534-9

Course Policies

Attendance: Please note that because this is a condensed course your attendance is incredibly important. Each day missed is roughly equivalent to two and a half days during a full semester. For this reason, I will be keeping attendance, which will be factored into your participation grade. If you are habitually absent, your grade will reflect it.

Scheduled breaks: The summer session classes are a bit daunting in length for myself as well as all of you. For this reason, we will have two scheduled breaks of about 10 minutes to clear our heads and regroup. Please respect the time allotted and return to your seats before the end of the break so class may resume promptly. Failure to respect this may result in the cancellation of one or both breaks.

Food: As you may have noticed, our class spans lunchtime. You are more than welcome to bring food with you and eat during class, but please be respectful of both those around you as well as the classroom. Leave it cleaner than you found it!

Cell phones: Not allowed (except during scheduled breaks). Please put them away while class is in progress.

Laptops: It should go without saying that laptops are for note taking purposes only. This means no Facebook, no Twitter, no surfing, etc. If this guideline is not respected, I reserve the right to decide not to allow laptops in the classroom.

Etiquette: I realize that sometimes arriving late or leaving early is unavoidable; however, this can be disruptive to other students. Please do your best to enter quietly if class has already begun, and to exit quietly if you must leave early. Mostly, this is about courtesy. Use your best manners and judgment. Also, if you must leave early, please mention it to me if possible at the beginning of class or during break.

Plagiarism and cheating: If I suspect you have violated the school ethics code regarding academic integrity, I will report to the Academic Judiciary and the matter will be pursued to the full extent necessary. Please do your own work and avoid putting yourself in a position that this becomes necessary; it is not a pleasant experience for anyone involved.

Make-up exams: Make up exams will be allowed only under justifiably extenuating circumstances. This includes travel for qualified athletic events, medical and family emergencies, bereavement, and so forth. You must notify me before hand, provide documentation if the situation warrants it, and schedule an alternative date for the exam.

Course Requirements and Grading

Weekly assigned readings and chapter exams (25%). Required readings are mostly from the text book. You are required to keep up with readings according to the schedule. **After reading the assigned chapter, you are to complete the chapter exam on MyPoliSciLab.**

Being a consumer of international news (5%): You are expected to keep informed with global political, social, and economic news. Here is a list of news sources you may wish to explore.

Every week you must complete the ‘Weekly Quiz’ on MyPoliSciLab, which will quiz you on current events.

- The New York Times (US, English)
- The Washington Post (US, English)
- The Economist (UK, English)
- The Financial Times (UK, English)
- Al Jazeera English (Qatar, English)
- The Globe and Mail (Canada, English)
- Stratfor (US, English)
- Foreign Affairs (US, English)
- Current History (US, English)
- Defense News (US, English)
- The Times of India (India, English)
- Dong-a Ilbo (Korea, Korean)
- The Korea Times (Korea, English)
- Apple Daily (Hong Kong, Chinese)
- South China Morning Post (Hong Kong, English)
- Daily Yomiuri (Japan, Japanese)
- The Japan Times (Japan, English)
- **Not on this list? Check with me first!**

Other useful television sources include Al Jazeera English and BBC international. You must still read one of the sources above.

CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, and Comedy Central ARE NOT recommended!

Short Papers: (15% per paper, or 30% total): These are two short papers (3-5 pages) bracketing the mid-term. I will give you several topic options not less than a week before the due date.

Mid-term (15%): There will be one mid-term examination, which will be given in class, and will cover all the material presented up until that point.

Final (15%): The final exam will take place in Humanities 1023 (our classroom) on **Thursday, August 15th from 9:30AM – 1:00PM**. It will be cumulative and include multiple choice and short answer questions.

Participation (10 %): I reward active participation in the class. This includes asking questions, making comments, and responding to my queries and those of other students.

Extra credit (up to 3%, unless stated otherwise): You have two options to earn extra credit.

- Participate in experiments being conducted by political scientists here at Stony Brook. I will give you 1% bonus to your grade per experiment, and you may participate in up to two for credit.
- You may submit ½ page – 1 page summaries/commentaries of recommended readings. I will give you 1% bonus for every 3 articles you summarize/comment on. You do not get partial points for completing fewer than 3.

Grading

Point Distribution

Chapter quizzes	25%
News quizzes	5%
Short Papers (2x)	30%
Mid-term	15%
Final exam	15%
Participation	10%
<u>Extra credit</u>	<u>??%</u>
Total	100% +?

Grading Scale

94+	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
0-59	F

Note on grades:

Lacking sufficient points to pass the class will result in a failing grade. However, as long as you do your best, keep up with assignments, and attend regularly you I assure you that you will have enough points.

The University Senate Undergraduate and Graduate Councils require the following required statements appear in all teaching syllabi (graduate and undergraduate courses) on the Stony Brook Campus:

Americans with Disabilities Act

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Academic Integrity

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report and suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>

Critical Incident Management

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn.

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to amend or correct this course syllabus as necessary. If the instructor amends or corrects this syllabus, students will be properly notified of any changes.

Course Outline and Reading Schedule

GP = Goldstein & Pevehouse, MS = Mingst and Snyder

Everything else will be on Blackboard unless stated (MS will also be posted for those who did not purchase it).

Week 1, Tuesday (7/9): Introduction

GP – Chapter 1

“One World, Many Theories” Stephen M. Walt. 16pg.

“One World, Rival Theories” Jack Snyder (MS). 8pg.

Recommended:

“Political Science as a Vocation” Robert Keohane

Week 1, Thursday (7/11): Realism

GP – Chapter 2

“Melian Dialogue” Thucydides. 2pg.

“On the Natural Condition of Mankind,” Part I, Chapter XIII of *Leviathan* [1651].

Thomas Hobbes 6pg. Available at:

<http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/h/hobbes/thomas/h681/chapter10.html>

“Hobbes and the International Anarchy” Hedley Bull. 720-22, 725-29, 736-37. 7pg.

“A Realist Theory of International Politics and Political Power” Hans Morgenthau (MS). 5pg.

“Cooperation under the Security Dilemma” Robert Jervis (MS). 13pg.

Recommended:

“The Sources of Soviet Conduct” George F. Kennan (“X”) 6pg.

Week 2, Tuesday (7/16): Liberalism and Social Theories

GP – Chapter 3

“To Perpetual Peace” Immanuel Kant (MS). 4pg.

“Liberalism and World Politics” Michael W. Doyle (MS). 14pg.

“Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions” Robert Axelrod and Robert Keohane. 28pg.

Week 2, Thursday (7/18): Theories of War and Peace

GP – Chapters 4 & 5

“War as an Instrument of Policy” Carl von Clausewitz (MS). 4pg.

“The Diplomacy of Violence” Thomas Schelling (MS). 7pg.

“The End of History?” Francis Fukuyama. 18pg.

Week 3, Tuesday (7/23): Military Force and Terrorism

GP – Chapter 6

“The Clash of Civilizations?” Samuel P. Huntington (MS). 6pg.

"The Strategies of Terrorism" Andrew H. Kydd and Barbara F. Walter (MS). 24pg.
"An Unnecessary War" John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt. 8pg.
"Rational Extremism: Understanding Terrorism in the 21st Century" David A. Lake. 12pg.

Recommended:

"Why Terrorism Does Not Work" Max Abrahms.

Week 3, Thursday (7/25): Imperialism

GP – Chapter 12

Selections from *"Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism"* V.I. Lenin. 5pg.
"Imperialism, Liberalism, and the Quest for the Perpetual Peace" Anthony Pagden. 12pg.
"Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen" Samantha Powers. 19pg.
"Carmen Miranda on My Mind: International Politics of the Banana" Cynthia Enloe. 28pg.

****Paper 1 due****

**** Review for Midterm Exam****

Week 4, Tuesday (7/30): Population Growth, Environment, and Technology

GP – Chapter 11

**** Midterm Exam at the beginning of class ****

"The Tragedy of the Commons" Garrett Hardin (MS). 11pg.
"Essay on the Principle of Population" Thomas Malthus. Bk I, Chs 1-3; Bk IV, Ch VIII. 27pg.
"What Greenhouse Makes Sense?" Thomas Schelling. 5pg.

Week 4, Thursday (8/1): Trade and Finance

GP – Chapter 8&9

"Dominance and Leadership in the International Economy: Exploitation, Public Goods, and Free Rides" Charles P. Kindleberger. 13pg.
From Peddling Prosperity: "The Economics of QWERTY" Paul Krugman
Selections from *"Freefall: America, Free Markets, and the Sinking of the World Economy"* Joseph Stiglitz. 20pg.

Week 5, Tuesday (8/6): International Organization, Law and Human Rights

GP – Chapter 7

"The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" The United Nations. December 10, 1948.
<http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>
"UN in Brief" The United Nations. Available via: <http://www.un.org/Overview/uninbrief/>
"International Law: The Trials of Global Norms" Steven R. Ratner. 15pg.

Week 5, Thursday (8/8): International Development

GP – Chapter 13

“Globalization, Development, and International Institutions.” Helen V. Milner (MS). 16 pg.

Selections from “Why Globalization Works” Martin Wolf (MS) 25pg.

“The Five Wars of Globalization” Moisés Naím. 7pg.

*“In Praise of Cheap Labor: Bad Jobs at Bad Wages Are Better Than No Jobs at All” Paul Krugman.
3pg.*

*****Paper 2 due*****

Week 6, Tuesday (8/13): The Future of International Politics

“Apocalypse Soon” Robert S. McNamara

“The Coming Anarchy” Robert D. Kaplan

More to come!

***** Review for Final Exam*****

Week 6, Thursday (8/15): Final Exam

***** The Final Exam will be in our classroom, at 9:30am unless otherwise indicated*****