

POLS 270: Introduction to International Relations, Spring 2014

Department of Political Science, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00-3:00 pm, Friday
2:00-4:00pm, and by appointment
Class Location: Lawson 0101
Course Time: 9:00-9:50 am

Course Overview and Objectives

This course provides an introduction to the systematic study of major issues in international relations. Through the following recurring themes of this course: power, motivation and choice, nation-states, and sovereignty, we will explore the players, their goals, the constraints within which players operate and the strategic interactions between players. Topics include: the nature of the international system and states; the origins and consequences of major wars; the dynamics of coercion; international institutions and the problem of cooperation; the interaction of domestic and international politics; the role of ideas and norms about sovereignty, military intervention, and human rights; state failure; terrorism; nuclear weapons proliferation; global reactions to United States hegemony; and the future of international politics.

Part I introduces general theories for explaining international relations. Part II addresses conflict and security. Part III explores international political economy, and Part IV focuses on global environment, non-state actors, human rights and global governance.

Course Format

The readings largely will be drawn from the assigned textbook, although I will regularly assign short readings from journals and other books. I hope that our sessions will be engaging, informative, and participatory. We will engage in a variety of activities including lectures, personal writing exercises, class discussions, video clips, demonstrations, problem-solving activities, and other critical thinking exercises. I value and will solicit your input on class activities both at the beginning of the semester as well as around midterm. I will make every reasonable effort to incorporate these ideas in the classroom.

Requirements

1. Required Textbook

A. Henry R. Nau 2012. *Perspectives on International Relations*, 3rd Edition: CQ Press.

The book is available at the campus book store and online. Alternatively, you can get the book from the SIU Library/(I-Share). In order to allow for shipping time, I have posted all of the first week's readings on DesiretoLearn website. After the first week, I expect you to have the book and bring IT with you to class. In case you have problems let me know earlier.

2. Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation are worth 10% of your grade. I expect all students to attend class regularly. On many days, we will spend a few minutes writing about various topics from the text or lecture. Occasionally, you will hand in these writings for credit. These writing activities will facilitate critical thinking and will also guide some of our discussion. Furthermore, please finish the assigned readings *by the date* they appear

in the syllabus. Read critically and be prepared to comment on the readings in class. I encourage you to ask questions and make relevant comments *at any time* during class. I will excuse 4 absences during the semester. Use it wisely. If you wish to be excused for subsequent absences based on medical conditions or other emergencies please submit proper documents or talk to me earlier.

3. Reading Quizzes

Over the course, students will take **eight reading quizzes in-class** (multiple choice and short answers) on assigned readings of the day. The eight quizzes are worth 40 % of your final grade (5% each).

4. Essay

Over the course students will be asked to answer one take-home essay question (5-10 pages) on the studied subjects. You will be given a choice of questions, handed out a month before the assignment is due. The essay question corresponds to 10% of your grade. The objectives of this writing assessment addresses these: a. Context and Purpose for Writing (Appropriate for the audience and the purpose), b. Content Development (Describes, explores, and supports an argument or idea), c. Genre and Disciplinary Conventions (Organization, format, and style appropriate to subfield within the discipline), d. Sources and Evidence (Does evidence in the paper lead to or support the conclusion stated, and e. Control of Syntax and Mechanics). I will provide detailed rubric along with the list of topics.

5. Exams

There will be a total four exams, held after the completion of each section 40% of your final grade (10% each). The final exam is not comprehensive. Each exam will consist of multiple choice, identifications, and essays. I will hand out study guides in advance.

6. Grade Summary

This course is worth 760 points which are broken up over the several different items

- Participation: 100
- Reading Quizzes: $8 \times 20 = 160$
- Essay: 100
- Exams: $4 \times 100 = 400$

Assessment Scale

A	100-90	B	89-80	C	79-70	D	69-60	F	59 or below
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Course Policies

1. Late Papers

Papers handed in after the deadline will be deducted 1 letter grade (10%), and then an additional letter grade (10%) for each day (24 hours) it is late. If there is a problem completing an assignment on time, please contact me well in advance of the due date.

2. Student Conduct and Classroom Courtesy

Classroom courtesy is an essential component of creating an effective learning environment. All students have the right to learn without unnecessary distractions. These distractions include: cell phones, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the instructor), reading newspapers, falling asleep, etc. If you need a cell phone for emergency purposes, leave it on vibrate. Entering and leaving are also significant sources of distraction. It is your responsibility to be on time and to stay for the entire period. In circumstances where you need to leave early, tell the instructor beforehand. Repeated disruptions of class will lead to a reduction in your final grade. Most importantly, class discussions of the issues in political science can lead to strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussion must be respectful and scholarly.

Scholarly Comments

- are respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement
- are related to class and/or the course material
- focus on advancing the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs, and
- are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

Unacceptable Comments

- are personal in nature. This includes attacks on a person's appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs.
- include interrupting the instructor or other students. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized.
- often use the discussion to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. If political discussions arise, they must be discussed in a scholarly way (see above).
- may include using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students and being threatening in any manner.
- include ignoring the instructor's authority to maintain the integrity of the classroom environment.

3. Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Student Conduct Code (Section II, Article A). Plagiarism is the most serious academic offense. Violations of this code can lead to failure of the course and a hearing with the university's judicial board to suspend you from the university.

4. Syllabus Change

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

5. Disabilities

It is the policy of this university and the instructor to assist those with disabilities. You should notify me as soon as possible of any disability that might impact your performance in this course. Disabilities Support Services can assist you with taking notes, testing, and other accessibility issues.

6. Emergency Procedures

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on the BERT'S website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Public Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu and in the Emergency Response Guidelines pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

Tentative Course and Reading Schedule

Readings marked with an * asterisk are outside readings. Copies are/will be available online at DesiretoLearn website.

Monday, January 13

Introduction to the course

- Overview: Discuss syllabus, class policies and semester plans

Part I. International Relations: Theories and Approaches

Wednesday, January 15

Thinking About International Relations: The Realist Approach

- Henry R. Nau. Perspectives on International Relations, Chapter 1: pp. 29-36.
- *Hans Morgenthau, "The Six Principles of Political Realism," *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*, Fifth Edition, Revised, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1978, pp. 4-15)

Friday, January 17

Thinking About International Relations: The Liberal Approach

- Henry R. Nau. Perspectives on International Relations, Chapter 1: pp. 36-44.

Monday, January 20

- No Class (Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday)

Wednesday, January 22

Thinking About International Relations: The Constructive Approach

- Henry R. Nau. Perspectives on International Relations, Chapter 1: pp. 45-56.

Friday, January 24

- NO CLASS, Visiting Georgia Southern University

Monday, January 27**Levels of Analysis**

- Henry R. Nau. Perspectives on International Relations, Chapter 1: pp. 56-63.
- *Michael Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 12, No. 3 (Summer, 1983), pp. 205-235.
- **Reading Quiz (on both)**

Wednesday, January 29**Understanding the 9/11 Attacks from the theoretical perspectives**

- Henry R. Nau. Perspectives on International Relations, Introduction: pp. 5-11.

Friday, January 31**Understanding the case of Syria from the dimension of levels of analysis**

- *Ahed Al Hendi, "The Structure of Syria's Repression: Will the Army Break With the Regime?" *Foreign Affairs*, May, 2013.

Part II. Conflict and Security**Monday, February 3****The Causes of World War I**

- Henry R. Nau. Perspectives on International Relations, Chapter 3: pp. 103-128.

Wednesday, February 5**The Causes of World War II**

- Henry R. Nau. Perspectives on International Relations, Chapter 3: pp. 129-159.

Friday, February 7

- Discussion and Writing

Monday, February 10**The Cold War**

- Henry R. Nau. Perspectives on International Relations, Chapter 5: pp. 160-197.

Wednesday, February 12**Clash of Civilizations**

- **Reading Quiz:** *Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?," *Foreign Affairs*, 72(3), 1993. 22-49.

Friday, February 14**Movie**

- Blood Diamond

Monday, February 17**Movie**

- Blood Diamond

Wednesday, February 19**Non-traditional Wars: Terrorism**

- Henry R. Nau. Perspectives on International Relations, Chapter 7: pp. 227-259.

Friday, February 21**Terrorism contd.**

- **Reading Quiz:** *Daniel Byman, "The Logic of Ethnic Terrorism," *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, Volume 21, Issue 2, 1998, pp. 149-169

Monday, February 24**Terrorism contd.**

- Documentary: Age of Terror

Wednesday, February 26**Alternate forms of terrorism**

- Daniel Byman and Natan Sachs, "The Rise of Settler Terrorism," *Foreign Affairs*, October, 2012.
- Discussion and Review of Part II

Friday, February 28

- EXAM 1

Part III: International Political Economy**Monday, March 3****History of Globalization**

- Henry R. Nau. Perspectives on International Relations, Chapter 8: pp. 263-300.

Wednesday, March 5**Globalization in Practice**

- Henry R. Nau. Perspectives on International Relations, Chapter 8: pp. 302-326

Friday, March 7**Globalization in Practice contd.**

- **Reading Quiz:** *Peter Andreas, "Gangster's Paradise: The Untold History of the United States and International Crime," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2013.

SPRING BREAK

Saturday, March 8 - Sunday, March 16

Monday, March 17**Trade, Investment and Finance**

- Henry R. Nau. *Perspectives on International Relations*, Chapter 10: pp. 328-360.

Wednesday, March 19**Development in Asia and Latin America**

- Henry R. Nau. *Perspectives on International Relations*, Chapter 11: pp. 361-380.

Friday, March 21**Development in Asia and Latin America contd.**

- Henry R. Nau. *Perspectives on International Relations*, Chapter 11: pp. 380-391.

Monday, March 24**Development in Africa and Middle East**

- Henry R. Nau. *Perspectives on International Relations*, Chapter 12: pp. 393-417.

Wednesday, March 26**Development, Democracy and Modernization**

- **Reading Quiz:** *Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, "How Development Leads to Democracy: What We Know About Modernization?," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2009.

Friday, March 28**Inequality**

- Henry R. Nau. *Perspectives on International Relations*, Chapter 13: pp. 418-437.

Monday, March 31**Inequality contd.**

- *Jerry Z. Muller, "Capitalism and Inequality: What the Right and the Left Get Wrong," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2013.

Wednesday, April 2

- Discussion and Writing Assignment
- Hand out Writing Guidelines for Essay

Friday, April 4

- NO CLASS (Midwest Political Science Association Conference)

Monday, April 7

- EXAM 2

Part IV. Global Environment, Human Rights and**Wednesday, April 9****Global Environment**

- Henry R. Nau. Perspectives on International Relations, Chapter 14: pp. 441-462.

Friday, April 11**Global Civil Society**

- **Reading Quiz:** Henry R. Nau. Perspectives on International Relations, Chapter 15: pp. 463-488.

Monday, April 14**Universal Human Rights**

- *Michael J. Perry, "Are Human Rights Universal? The Relativist Challenge and Related Matters," *Human Rights Quarterly* , Vol. 19, No. 3 (Aug., 1997) , pp. 461-509

Wednesday, April 16**Global Governance**

- Henry R. Nau. Perspectives on International Relations, Chapter 16: pp. 489-513.

Friday, April 18**The United Nations**

- *Michael N. Barnett, "The United Nations and Global Security: The Norm is Mightier than the Sword," *Ethics and International Affairs*, Volume 9, Issue 1, pages 3754, March 1995.

Monday, April 21**The United Nations Peacekeeping**

- Reading Quiz: *Paul F. Diehl, Jennifer Reifschneider and Paul R. Hensel, "United Nations Intervention and Recurring Conflict," *International Organization* , Vol. 50, No. 4 (Autumn, 1996) , pp. 683-700.

Wednesday, April 23**The Need for International Institutions**

- *Jeffrey T. Checkel, "International Institutions and Socialization in Europe: Introduction and Framework," *International Organization*, Vol. 59, No. 4, International Institutions and Socialization in Europe (Autumn, 2005), pp. 801-826.

Friday, April 25**Democratic Peace**

- **Reading Quiz:** *Erik Gartzke, "Kant We All Just get Along? Opportunity, Willingness, and the Origins of the Democratic Peace," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 42, No. 1 (Jan., 1998), pp. 1-27.

Monday, April 28**Democratic Peace contd.**

- *Sebastian Rosato, "The flawed logic of democratic peace theory." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 97, No. 4 (2003): 585-602.

Wednesday, April 30

- Final Class Assessment
- Course Wrap-Up
- Course Evaluation

Friday, May 2

- Discussion and Review
- Final Exam Review

FINAL EXAM**May 7, 7:50 am - 9:50 am**