
Political Science 1402: Introduction to International Relations.

Instructor:

Professor Stephen Dyson
Office: Monteith 202
Office Hours: M 11-12, W 11.30-12.30.
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Teaching Assistants:

Ms. Dina Badie (dina.badie@uconn.edu)
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Mr. Greg Trumble (gregory.trumble@uconn.edu)

Class Time and Place: MW 10-10.50pm, Monteith 143.

Section Times and Places:

001, MONT 101, F 9-9.50 am	Mr. Carbonetti
002, MONT 441, F 10-10.50 am	Ms. Badie
003, PB 36, F 11-11.50 am	Ms. Badie
004, MONT 115, F 12-12.50 pm	Mr. Bosco
005, E2323, F 8-8.50 am	Mr. Carbonetti
006, MONT 115, F 1-1.50 pm	Mr. Bosco
007, MONT 217, F 2-2.50 pm	Mr. Trumble
008, MONT 441, F 3-3.50 pm	Mr. Trumble

Course Purposes and Goals

In International relations, a sub-field of political science, we seek answers to exciting and important questions about the world:

- Why do states go to war?
- When do diplomatic solutions win out?
- Under what conditions can an organization such as the United Nations be effective?
- Was the Bush doctrine right or wrong?

Together, we will engage these questions in this course through a fast-moving mix of exploring theories and acquiring substantive knowledge. The course is divided into four sections. Part one grounds us in approaches to international relations, from the standpoint of both analyst and statesman. Part two examines three attempted instances of international cooperation through the creation of formal institutions: a failure, a partial success, and a success. Part three explores the big questions of the post-cold war era. Are states obsolete? Is there a clash of civilizations, or is democracy and free markets the only way forward? In part four, we examine the contemporary era from 9/11, through the Iraq war decisions, to now. Throughout, the goal of the class is to provide a comprehensive survey of the major issues in and approaches toward international politics. At the same time, the assignments and structure of the class are designed to contribute towards broader goals of fostering critical thinking and academic excellence.

Required Texts

One text is required for this class and is available at the bookstore. All readings are in this text unless otherwise indicated.

- Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder. 2007. *Essential Readings in World Politics*. New York: WW Norton (3rd edition).

Assessment

The majority of your grade (90%) is calculated from three examinations – two take homes and a cumulative in-class final, which will ask you to integrate class material and readings.

- Midterm One (30%)
- Midterm Two (30%)
- Final (30%)
- Class Participation (10%)

Non-Negotiable Class Policies:

Dates for Exams

The due dates for the exams are absolute and non-negotiable. No late work will be accepted. In the extremely rare case of a *dire, sudden, and documented* emergency that looks likely to cause an exam to be missed, contact Professor Dyson and your session leader directly before the examination.

Participation

Your reasoned, intelligent and enthusiastic participation in both lecture and your Friday sections is anticipated and required. Strong participation is defined as showing evidence of having completed and reflected upon the required readings, and the connection between the readings, classroom discussions, and current affairs. As 10% of the total grade, excellent participation is not a luxury but a requirement.

Reading

Reading for each class is to be completed prior to the lecture session, where reasoned commentary and discussion is encouraged. At each Friday discussion session, such commentary and discussion is required. The reading will also, of course, be a key part of each examination.

Etiquette

Please be civil in the classroom – arrive on time, turn off cell-phones, please **don't carry on private conversations**, read newspapers, surf the web on a laptop etc. Incivility in the classroom is distracting to everyone and I have a responsibility to call people on it. Let's work together to create a good classroom atmosphere, because we will all get more out of the class that way. If these policies seem unreasonable at this point, please select another class.

For my part, and in return, I undertake to use each class session to advance our understanding, to make class as interesting and relevant as possible, and to be available to you during regular scheduled office hours and by appointment if necessary.

MIDTERM ONE: DISTRIBUTED , 2/25 DUE 3/4

MIDTERM TWO: DISTRIBUTED , 4/1 DUE, 4/8

FINAL EXAMINATION: 5/6, 8-10am

Schedule

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Introduction to the course** (1/21)
- 2 Thinking about International Politics: Theory and Evidence** (1/26)
Required Reading:
Jack Snyder, 'One world, rival theories'.

PART ONE: WHY DO THINGS HAPPEN IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS? THEORETICAL APPROACHES

- 3 Idealism** (aka Liberalism) (1/28)
Required Reading:
Michael W. Doyle, 'Liberalism and World Politics'.
Woodrow Wilson, 'The Fourteen Points';
- 4 Realism** (2/2, 2/4)
Required Reading:
Thucydides, 'The Melian Dialogue'
Hans Morgenthau, 'A Realist Theory, 'The Balance of Power'
- 5 Neorealism** (2/9)
Watch 'A conversation with Kenneth Waltz':
<http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/people3/Waltz/waltz-con0.html>
- 6 Neoliberalism** (aka Liberal Internationalism) (2/11)
Read: <http://pespmc1.vub.ac.be/PRISDIL.html>
Play: <http://serendip.brynmawr.edu/bb/pd.html>

NO CLASS: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION (2/16, 2/18) Please view the excellent documentary 'Bush's War', and consider how the theories we have studied thus far explain these events:
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/bushswar/>

- 7 Constructivism** (2/23)
Required Reading:
Alexander Wendt, 'Anarchy is what states make of it'
- 8 Decision Making Approaches** (2/25)
Required Reading:
Robert Jervis, 'Hypotheses on Misperception'.
Richard Perle, 'Ambushed on the Potomac',
<http://www.nationalinterest.org/PrinterFriendly.aspx?id=20486>

MOVIE: Fog of War (3/2, 3/4) Website: <http://www.sonyclassics.com/fogofwar/indexFlash.html>

Spring Recess, 3/9, 3/11

PART TWO: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

9 **A study in failure: The League of Nations** (3/16)

Required Reading:

John Mearsheimer, 'The false promise of international institutions'

10 **A study in partial success: The United Nations** (3/18)

Required Reading:

<http://www.un.org/> especially: <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>

Eric Voeten, 'The political origins of the UN Security Council's ability to legitimize the use of force'.

11 **A study in success: The European Union** (3/23)

Required Reading:

http://europa.eu/abc/index_en.htm especially:

http://europa.eu/abc/12lessons/index_en.htm

PART THREE: POST-COLD WAR THINKING ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

12 **Globalization** (3/25)

Required Reading:

Martin Wolf, 'Why Globalization works'

Moises Naim, 'The five wars of globalization'

Thomas Friedman, 'The First law of petropolitics'

13 **Clash of Civilizations** (3/30)

Required Reading:

Samuel Huntington, 'The clash of civilizations'

Edward Said, 'The clash of ignorance'

14 **End of History** (4/1)

Required Reading:

Francis Fukayama, 'The End of History?'

PART FOUR: IRAQ, AMERICA, AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(Great documentary and incredible resources for part four: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/bushswar/>)

15 **9/11 and The Bush Doctrine** (4/6)

George Bush 'The National Security Strategy of the United States'

President Bush's Westpoint Commencement Address:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/06/20020601-3.html>

Norman Podhoretz, 'In Praise of the Bush Doctrine', *Commentary*, September 2002 (available through library e-journals)

16 **The decision to go to war: American choices, international responses** (4/8)

'Blair's War' <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/blair/>

Please read closely 'The Fractured Alliance' and 'The Failure of Diplomacy'.

Link to whole program on youtube (recommended):

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=ffXhJiUyAk>

- 17** **'The case for freedom'** (4/15)
 'America at the crossroads: The case for freedom' (MOVIE)
- 18** **Insurgency, elections, and occupation: The postwar** (4/13)
 'The lost year in Iraq' <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/yeariniraq/>
 Please read closely 'Timeline: Fighting on Two Fronts' and 'Analysis'. At this site you can also watch the whole program online (recommended)
- 19** **The case against the war** (4/20, 4/22) 'No End in Sight (MOVIE) Website:
 <http://www.noendsightmovie.com/>

CONCLUSIONS

- 20** Prospects in international politics (4/26, 4/28)

FINAL EXAMINATION, 5/6 8-10am.

Current Affairs

You will be eager to keep up with current affairs as a means of doing well in the class and adding extra fun and interest to proceedings. Here are some good resources:

<i>Newspapers and New Agencies</i>	
The New York Times	www.nytimes.com
The Washington Post	www.washingtonpost.com
CNN	www.cnn.com
The Financial Times	www.ft.com
The Guardian	www.guardian.co.uk
BBC World Service	www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/index.htm
The Economist	www.economist.com
National Public Radio	www.npr.org
Interfax News Agency	www.interfax-news.com
Itar-Tass News Agency	www.itar-tass.com
The Times of India	www.timesofindia.com
The Moscow Times	www.moscowtimes.ru
Dar Al Hayat	www.english.daralhayat.com
Al Jazeera	http://english.aljazeera.net/HomePage
<i>Government Sites, Research Institutes, International Organizations</i>	
The White House	http://www.whitehouse.gov/
US Department of State	www.state.gov
US Central Intelligence Agency	www.cia.gov/index/html
Department of Defense	http://www.defenselink.mil/
The Brookings Institution	www.brookings.org
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace	www.ceip.org/
The United Nations	www.un.org
The American Enterprise Institute	www.aei.org