

PS 145: The Politics of Global Problems

TR 3:30 – 5:18

1046 MP

Instructor: Brent Strathman

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Course Description:

This is an introductory survey course devoted to international relations, defined by the author of the course text as “the decisions of governments concerning their actions toward other governments.” The class has two broad goals. First, the class will familiarize students with analytical tools to understand and explain inter-state relations. The second goal is to provide students with an introduction to some of the more important problems of the contemporary world, from the stability of the international trading system to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. We will begin by covering the basic historical, theoretical and methodological traditions of the broader discipline. The second section of the course introduces concepts of foreign policy analysis, including a thorough introduction to the actors involved in the creation of foreign policy. We will end the course by examining several enduring topics of international relations, including war, trade, and the impact of terrorism.

Moreover, the class provides new perspectives on international issues and broader aspects of social science. Specifically:

Diversity: International Issues

Goals/ Rationale:

Diversity: International Issues courses help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and the world.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students exhibit an understanding of political, economic, cultural, physical, and social differences among the nations of the world, including a specific examination of non-Western culture.

2. Social Science

Goals/Rationale:

Courses in social science help students understand human behavior and cognition, and the structures of human societies, cultures and institutions.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies.
2. Students comprehend human differences and similarities in various psychological, social, cultural, economic, geographic, and political contexts.
3. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

Map quiz	15%
Exam #1	25%
Exam #2	25%
Final Exam:	35%

Required Readings:

Joshua S. Goldstein. *International Relations, Brief Third Edition*. New York: Longman, 2004. (ISBN: 0-321-33798-0)

*** You can find this at the bookstore – but you can also get it much cheaper on-line (Amazon lowest used price: \$13.98) ***

Recommended Readings: All students should keep up with the latest international news with their favorite source (except for maybe *The Daily Show*). Some of my favorites: NY Times, LA Times, Christian Science Monitor, BBC, Foreign Policy – a longer list is found at my webpage (<http://psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/grads/bstrath/links.htm>).

Student Responsibilities:

Above all, students will be required to read all the material, and think critically about the topics introduced in class. This reading is not elective, and if you do not read the material, you will not do well in this class. Assigned readings should be completed *before* class time.

Lectures will depend heavily on your feedback. I will try to cover all of the topics in a timely fashion, but lectures will change according to any questions you may have, and your understanding of the material. I do not have a ‘missed exam’ policy – if you miss an exam (or the simulation exercise), you forfeit the grade. Only extreme circumstances will be considered, and these circumstances will require in-depth documentation (i.e., more than a doctor’s note).

If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to attend an exam or class period, make arrangements before (rather than after) the absence. Also, I will not give you my class notes for any reason. If you missed a class and need to get notes, make friends with your classmates and ask for their notes. If you begin to have difficulties with the coursework, please contact me so we can remedy the problem. If I know you are having difficulty, I can give hints and direct your reading.

Additional Course Notes:

Disability: Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and seeking available assistance, by the end of the first week of the quarter. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Wayne DeYoung in the Political Science Department if you require assistance at 2140 Derby Hall, 292-2880.

Academic Honesty: All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. If you have any questions about what constitutes either of these offenses, please see official OSU policy or ask me during office hours. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

Course Schedule:

Week 1:

Thursday 9/22 Class introduction

Week 2:

Tuesday 9/27 Introduction to international relations
(Reading: Ch. 1, pp. 1-20)

Thursday 9/29 Brief history of international relations
(Reading: Ch. 1, pp. 21-44)

Week 3:

Tuesday 10/4 Realism & Power Politics
(Reading: Ch. 2, pp. 71-102)

Thursday 10/6 Liberalism
(Reading: Ch. 3, pp. 77 – 84)

Week 4:

Tuesday 10/11 New Theoretical Challenges / Review for Exam #1
(Reading: Ch. 3, pp. 102 – 120)

Thursday 10/13 **EXAM #1**

Week 5:

Tuesday 10/18 Introduction to foreign policy/ **MAP QUIZ**
(Review for your map quiz)

Thursday 10/20 Intra- State Actors
(Reading: Ch. 3, pp. 92 – 101)

Week 6:

Tuesday 10/25 Individual decision-making
(Reading: Ch. 3, pp. 84 – 91)

Thursday 10/27 Group decision-making
(Review Ch. 3, pp. 84 – 101)

Week 7:

Tuesday 11/1 MOVIE DAY: “Fog of War”

Thursday 11/3 Types & Causes of War/ Review for Exam #2
(Reading: Ch. 4, pp. 121 - 148)

Week 8:

Tuesday 11/8 **EXAM #2**

Thursday 11/10 Use of Force in International Politics
(Reading: Ch. 4, pp. 148 - 173)

Week 9:

- Tuesday 11/15 International Political Economy
(Reading: Ch. 5, 174 - 211)
- Thursday 11/17 International Law, International Organization & Diplomacy
(Reading: Ch. 6, pp. 231 – 249; pp. 263 - 283)

Week 10:

- Tuesday 11/22 New Challenges 1: The Environment & Development
(Reading: Ch. 8)
- Thursday 11/24 THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 11:

- Tuesday 11/29 New Challenges 2: Terrorism & the end of statehood
(Reading: “Ladenese Epistles,” from the web site)
- Thursday 12/1 Review for the final exam (or Final)
BRING QUESTIONS

**** FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, DEC. 6TH 3:30 – 5:18 ****