

# **The United States in World Politics**

Political Science 245  
Summer 2006  
ML 0115  
M, W 3:30-5:18 pm

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## **Course Description**

This course proceeds in two parts. First, we will discuss the three prominent schools of thought in international relations (IR) scholarship. Among other things, we will cover the major principles, assumptions, and expectations that underpin realism, liberalism, and social constructivism. Second, we will focus on contemporary security issues in American foreign policy, such as terrorism and democracy promotion. You should look at the first part as providing the foundation for the substantive issues that we will cover later in the quarter.

## **Course Requirements**

- Mid-term @ 30 %
- Final Exam @ 30 %
- 7-10 page paper @ 25 %
- Attendance/Class participation @ 15%

There are three required assignments. You will submit a critical paper that analyzes one class reading. For the purposes of this class, you will choose one reading from a list that I will provide, and then offer a sophisticated critique. Each paper should be structured in five parts: (1) an introduction with a clearly stated argument; (2) a brief summary of the reading; (3) a critique of the reading that tells me what you think are its strengths and weaknesses; (4) a section that points out ways that the article could be improved; and (5) a conclusion that suggests implications for U.S. foreign policy. I will hand out more specific paper guidelines during the quarter. Papers are due in class on Wednesday, August 16.

You will also have a mid-term and final exam that tests your ability to recall and synthesize the main arguments of the readings and other IR scholarship presented in class. Both the mid-term and final exam will consist of multi-part essay questions. Rather than seeking to trick you, I will pass out a study guide with 8-10 potential exam questions about a week before each exam. This should provide you with more than enough time to think about the questions, re-read material

and study notes, and prepare thoughtful, coherent answers. The mid-term and final exam will test your ability to answer two of the study guide questions.

Please note that attendance/class participation will NOT be a murky component of your grade. Instead, attendance will be taken throughout the quarter, and your attendance frequency will strongly determine how many points (out of 15) you receive. Students who vigorously participate can enhance their attendance scores.

## **GEC Goals and Objectives**

### **Goals/ Rationale**

1. International issues courses help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and the world.
2. Courses in social science help students understand human behavior and cognition, and the structures of human societies, cultures and institutions.

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

## **Late Policy and Missed Exams**

Failure to submit papers by the assigned due date listed above will result in a one full letter grade deduction (A to B, B to C, and so on) per day. Only in dramatic cases will you be allowed to complete the mid-term (MID-TERM: Wednesday, July 12, 3:30-5:18 pm) or final exam (FINAL: Wednesday, August 23, 3:30-5:18 pm) should you fail to take them at their scheduled times.

## **Readings**

There is one required book for this class: Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: W.W. Norton, 2004). You can purchase the book at SBX. There are also a number of supplemental readings (articles, book chapters), and all will be placed on reserve in the main library and almost all can be found online. You can access almost all of the online readings through the OSU library web site. Go to the library homepage (<http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/>). Next click on the "E-Journals" link (left side of web page, under "Quicklinks"). On the next page, (at the upper lefthand corner) click on "off campus sign in," and sign in with your OSU username and password. If you don't sign in,

assuming you're off campus, you won't have access to OSU's online journals. You'll then be sent back to the "E-journals page." Now simply search for the *title of the journal* (say, International Security or Foreign Affairs), and then click on the link that contains the volume with the desired reading. For your convenience, I have supplied direct links, when possible, to many of the of the class readings. Importantly, please note that I have indicated where you can access each supplemental reading in parentheses after its citation below (either via direct link, OSU libraries, on reserve, or some combination of the three). The good part is that this course requires no outside research. And when appropriate, I can certainly point out especially important parts of readings to which you should devote more attention.

## Misc.

While this course doesn't require outside research, you will probably find it useful to incorporate current events into your papers as a way to bolster your arguments and poke holes in the claims made by various authors. I recommend that you to look at some of these sources: *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, the *BBC*, *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, *Financial Times*, and *The Economist*, all of which are either available online, at the main library, or at your local bookstore. And finally, just so you know, quality television programming such as *The Charlie Rose Show* and *C-SPAN* frequently discuss many of the themes covered in this course. I encourage you to tune in occasionally.

## Schedule of Readings

June 19      Class Introduction

### I. Theoretical Foundations

June 21      *Anarchy*

John J. Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power," in Mingst and Snyder, pp.54-72.

Hedley Bull, "Does Order Exist in World Politics," in M&S, pp. 120-124.

Michael Mandelbaum, "David's Friend Goliath," *Foreign Policy*

(January/February 2006), pp. 50-57. ([http://www.sais-jhu.edu/insider/pdf/2006\\_articles/mandelbaum\\_fp\\_010506.pdf#search='Mandelbaum%2C%20David%E2%80%99s%20Friend%20Goliath'](http://www.sais-jhu.edu/insider/pdf/2006_articles/mandelbaum_fp_010506.pdf#search='Mandelbaum%2C%20David%E2%80%99s%20Friend%20Goliath'); or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

June 26      *Realism*

Hans Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory of International Relations" and "Political Power," in M&S, pp. 49-53.

Hans Morgenthau, "The Balance of Power," "Different Methods of the Balance

of Power,” and “Evaluation of the Balance of Power,” in M&S, pp. 124-129.

Robert Jervis, “Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma,” in M&S, pp. 309-322.

June 28  
& July 3

***Liberalism***

G. John Ikenberry, “Is American Multilateralism in Decline?” in M&S, pp. 262-282.

M&S,

John J. Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions,” in pp. 283-294.

Woodrow Wilson, “The Fourteen Points,” in M&S, pp. 26-28.

Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, *Power and Interdependence: World Politics in Transition* (Boston: Little, Brown, and Co, 1977), pp. 1-35. (only on reserve in main library)

July 5

***Social Constructivism***

Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics,” *International Organization*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (Spring 1992), pp. 391-425. (OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Martha Finnemore, “Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention,” in M&S, pp. 102-118.

July 10

***Review Session***

Stephen Walt, “International Relations: One World, Many Theories,” in M&S, pp. 4-11.

Jack Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” *Foreign Policy* (November/December 2004), pp. 52-62. (<http://www.alanalexandroff.com/Snyder.html>; OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

July 12

***Mid-term***

## II. Issues in Contemporary U.S. Foreign Policy

July 17

### ***Unipolarity and Responses to American Power Dominance***

William C. Wohlforth, "The Stability of a Unipolar World," *International Security*, Vol. 24, No. 1 (Summer 1999), pp. 5-42.  
([http://mitpress.mit.edu/journals/pdf/isec\\_24\\_01\\_5\\_0.pdf](http://mitpress.mit.edu/journals/pdf/isec_24_01_5_0.pdf); or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Stephen Walt, "Taming American Power," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 5 (September/October 2005), pp. 105-120. (OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

July 19

### ***U.S. Grand Strategy***

Charles Krauthammer, "The Unipolar Moment Revisited," *The National Interest*, No. 70 (Winter 2002/03), pp. 5-17.  
([http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Krauthammer\\_347.pdf](http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Krauthammer_347.pdf); or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Joseph Nye, "U.S. Power and Strategy After Iraq," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 82, No. 4 (July/August 2003), pp. 60-73.  
([http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/news/opeds/2003/nye\\_usiraq\\_foraffairs\\_070103.htm](http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/news/opeds/2003/nye_usiraq_foraffairs_070103.htm); or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Just scan the following:

"The National Security Strategy of the United States of America," The White House, March 16, 2006. (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss/2006/nss2006.pdf>; also on reserve)

July 24

### ***Failed States***

Robert I. Rotberg, "The New Nature of Nation-State Failure," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (Summer 2002), pp. 85-96.  
(<http://www.twq.com/02summer/rotberg.pdf>; or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Robert I. Rotberg, "Failed States in a World of Terror," in M&S, pp. 157-163.

Stewart Patrick, "Weak States and Global Threats: Fact or Fiction?" *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (Spring 2006), pp. 27-53.  
([http://www.twq.com/06spring/docs/06spring\\_patrick.pdf](http://www.twq.com/06spring/docs/06spring_patrick.pdf); or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

July 26

### ***Ethnic conflict***

John Mueller, "The Banality of Ethnic War," *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 1 (Summer 2000), pp. 42-70.

(<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndsu/ambrosio/old/ndsu/pols499/banality.html>; or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Barry R. Posen, "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict," in M&S, pp. 357-366.

Scott Straus, "Darfur and the Genocide Debate," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 1 (January/February 2005), pp. 123-133.  
(<http://www.polisci.wisc.edu/users/straus/Straus.pdf>; OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Handouts TBA

July 31  
& Aug. 2

***Democracy Promotion***

Immanuel Kant, "To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch," in M&S, pp. 20-24.

Michael Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," in M&S, pp. 73-86.

Jonathan Monten, "The Roots of the Bush Doctrine: Power, Nationalism, and Democracy Promotion in U.S. Strategy," *International Security*, Vol. 29, No. 4 (Spring 2005), pp. 112-156. (OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Gregory Gause, "Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 5 (September/October 2005), pp. 62-76.  
(<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20050901faessay84506/f-gregory-gause-iii/can-democracy-stop-terrorism.html?mode=print>; or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

John M. Owen IV, "Iraq and the Democratic Peace," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 6 (November/December 2005), pp. 122-127.  
(<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20051101fareviewessay84611/john-m-owen-iv/iraq-and-the-democratic-peace.html>; or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Aug. 7  
& 9

***The Roots of Terror***

Michael Mousseau, "Market Civilization and its Clash with Terror," *International Security*, Vol. 27, No. 3 (Winter 2002/03), pp. 5-29.  
([http://bcsia.ksg.harvard.edu/BCSIA\\_content/documents/88503\\_mousseau.pdf](http://bcsia.ksg.harvard.edu/BCSIA_content/documents/88503_mousseau.pdf); or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/>; also on reserve)

Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" in M&S, pp. 163-169.

Edward Said, "The Clash of Ignorance," in M&S, pp. 170-173.

Audrey Kurth Cronin, "Behind the Curve: Globalization and International Terrorism," in M&S, pp. 367-381.

Fareed Zakaria, "The Politics of Rage: Why Do They Hate Us?", *Newsweek*, October 15, 2001.  
([http://www.fareedzakaria.com/articles/newsweek/101501\\_why.html](http://www.fareedzakaria.com/articles/newsweek/101501_why.html); also on reserve)

Aug. 14

### ***Iraq***

Kenneth M. Pollack, "Next Stop Baghdad?", *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 81, No. 2 (March/April 2002), pp. 32-47. (<http://www.cfr.org/publication.php?id=4484>; or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Thomas R. Mattair, "Exiting Iraq: Competing Strategies," *Middle East Policy*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (Spring 2006), pp. 69-83.  
([http://www.mepc.org/journal\\_vol13/0603\\_mattair\\_ft.asp](http://www.mepc.org/journal_vol13/0603_mattair_ft.asp); OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Aug. 16

### ***Nuclear Proliferation***

\*\*\*Papers due\*\*\*

John Mueller, "The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons: Stability in the Postwar World," in M&S, pp. 341-347.

Scott Sagan and Kenneth Waltz, "Indian and Pakistani Nuclear Weapons: For Better or Worse?" in M&S, pp. 322-341.

John S. Park, "Inside Multilateralism: The Six-Party Talks," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 28, No. 4 (Autumn 2005), pp. 75-91.  
([http://www.twq.com/05autumn/docs/05autumn\\_park.pdf](http://www.twq.com/05autumn/docs/05autumn_park.pdf); or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Christopher de Bellaigue, "Iran," *Foreign Policy* (May/June 2005), pp. 18-24.  
(<http://www.keepmedia.com/pubs/ForeignPolicy/2005/05/01/820996?extID=10032&oliID=213>; or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Christopher Dickey, "The Oil Shield," *Foreign Policy* (May/June 2006), pp. 37-39. (OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Ray Takeyh, "A Profile in Defiance," *The National Interest*, No. 83 (Spring 2006), pp. 16-21.  
([http://www.cfr.org/publication/10324/profile\\_in\\_defiance.html?breadcrumb=default](http://www.cfr.org/publication/10324/profile_in_defiance.html?breadcrumb=default); or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Aug. 21

***The Road Ahead: Future Challenges for the U.S. in IR & Review session***

Aaron L. Friedberg, "The Future of U.S.-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?", *International Security*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (Fall 2005), pp. 7-45. (<http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/016228805775124589>; or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Thomas L. Friedman, "The First Law of Petropolitics," *Foreign Policy* (May/June 2006), pp. 28-36. (OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Javier Corrales, "Hugo Boss," *Foreign Policy* (January/February 2006), pp. 32-40. (<http://www.keepmedia.com/pubs/ForeignPolicy/2006/01/01/1111144?extId=10029>; or OSU libraries: <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu>; also on reserve)

Aug. 23

***Final exam*** (normal class time)