

Political Science 597.01 Theories and Issues in International Politics

Instructor: Jong Kun Choi, MA, Phd Candidate

Autumn, 2005

Monday and Wednesday Pm 05:30 - 07:18 Derby Hall (DB), Room 0080

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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to help students develop skills to better understand various issues in international politics by reviewing theoretical frameworks and applying them to analyzing inter-state behaviors in international politics. The most important aspect of this course is to help students develop their own systematic and analytical views on international politics. Thus, recent and current international affairs will be used as substantive evidences for evaluating validity of IR theories. Many IR analytical frameworks will be reviewed in order to assess how helpful they are in understanding various issues in international politics.

The course will introduce and discuss basic building blocs of IR theories and major analytical frameworks. We will discuss ways to view and interpreter international political events. Thus, students are required to learn theoretical aspects of international politics, which will be heavily drawn from the first assigned text book, *Continuity and Change in World Politics: Competing Perspectives*. The unique aspect of this course is to blend theories with real examples and ask students to reflect on real-life examples in international politics. At the end of the course, students will be expected to be more analytic and critical about issues in international politics.

Capstone Experiences

Goals/Rationale :

Thematic upper-division course work, drawing upon multiple disciplines, enriches students' experiences of the contemporary world.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students synthesize and apply knowledge from diverse disciplines to contemporary issues.
2. Students write about or conduct research on the contemporary

Required Readings

Barry Hughes, 2000, *Continuity and Change in World Politics: Competing Perspectives*, 4th Edition, New Jersey: Prentice Hall. ISBN: 0-13-083578-1.

A Council on Foreign Relations Book, 2002, *America and the World: Debating the New Shape of International Politics*, New York: W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 0-87609-315-2.

Recommended

Students are strongly recommended to read newspapers and current affair magazines, especially New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Financial time, Time, News Week, Foreign Policy, and etc., in order to follow up with the current international affairs.

Course Requirements & Evaluations

Students are required to "read" the assigned chapters of the text books and expected to participate in class discussion. Class participation is strongly expected in terms of the quality and frequency

with which students engage in class discussion while demonstrating knowledge from the assigned readings.

Exams: Questions in the course exams will be simple ID questions, short answers and one or two essay questions. Exam questions are going to be drawn from class lectures and the two text books.

Mid-Term Exam : 30% (Oct 21) Final Exam : 40% (Nov 30) Term Paper : 30% (Nov. 9)

My grading scale is as follows:

A = 103% - 90% A- = 89% - 87% B+ = 86% - 84% B = 83% - 80%
B- = 79% - 74% C+ = 73% - 70% C = 69% - 65% C- = 64% - 60%
D+ = 59% - 55% D = 54% - 50% E (known as "F") = Less than 50%

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. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

Disability

Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and seeking available assistance, in the first week of the quarter. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For such materials please contact Mr. Wayne Deyoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 N. Oval Mall, 292-2880.

Attendance

Attendance will be checked very randomly and I will give 1 point for those who show up and – 1 point for those who do not. And the attendance score will be added to your final course score. In essence, the whole score for the course is 103 (mid-term+ paper+ final + attendance).

Course Schedule

- Week 1. Introduction and Foundation**
Sept 21 Course Introduction
Sept 26 Units and Levels of Analysis in International Politics
 Read Hughes Ch 1 and 2, and pg. 63~70 in Ch. 4 and pg. 153~158 in Ch. 7; Rose, "Introduction"
- Week 2. One World, Many theories**
Sept 28 Competing Perspectives on International Politics (I): Theoretical Perspectives
 Hughes Ch 3. ;*This is one of the most important chapters in our course. Pay special attention to this chapter.
Oct 03 Competing Theoretical Perspective on International Politics (II): Post Cold War Predictions
 Huntington, "the Clash of Civilization?"; Fukuyama, "the End of History?"
- Week 3. Identifying Key Actors in International Politics**
Oct 05 Opening the Black Box (I) : Defining the State, System, Power and Interest

- Read Hughes Ch. 7. and pg. 70~93 in Ch. 4; Kagan, "Power and Weakness."
- Oct 10. Opening the Black Box (II) : Organizations and Governance**
Read Hughes Ch. 9.
- Week 4. Between Conflict and Peace**
- Oct 12. International Politics of Conflict and Cooperation (I)–Conflict Management**
Read Hughes Ch. 5.
- Oct 17 International Politics of Conflict and Cooperation (II)–Peace Management**
Read Hughes Ch. 6
- Week 5. Mid-Term Exam**
- Oct 19 One World, Rival Theories – Why learning theories and what is the use ?**
Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories" *Foreign Policy*, (Nov 2004), p52.
Available on Line through the OSU library website. Type in "Foreign Policy" at
"On-Line Journal" of OSU OSCAR and Look for 2004 Nov.
- Oct 21 Mid-Term Exam**
- Week 6. Current Issue I: Globalization Debate**
- Oct 24 Global Political Economy – Competing World Views**
Read Hughes Ch11
- Oct 26 Globalization and World Economy Debate**
Hughes Ch 12 and Rodrik, "Sense and Nonsense in the Globalization Debate?"
- Week 7. Current Issue II: American Hegemony**
- Oct 31 American Hegemony**
Read Brooks and Wohlforth, "American Primacy in Perspective"; Kupchan,
"Life after Pax Americana"; Ikenberry, "America's Imperial Ambition"
- Nov 02 Anti-American Attitudes : Why do they hate us ? And who are "they"?**
Read, Zakaria, "Why do they hate us?"
- Week 8. Current Issue III: Rising China.**
- Nov 07 Understanding a Rising China**
Reading materials will be distributed.
- Nov 09 Is a rising China a threat or an opportunity to the US ?**
Walt, "Beyond bin Laden: Reshaping US Foreign Policy"
TURN IN YOUR FINAL PAPER
- Week 9. Current Issue III: Between WMD and Global Society**
- Nov 14 Weapons of Mass Destruction**
Read Bush, "West Point Commencement Speech"; Betts, "the New Threat of
Mass Destruction"
- Nov 16 Global Society ?:**
Read Hughes Ch. 10; Dollar and Kraay, "Spreading Wealth"; Planter, "Liberalism
and Democracy"
- Week 10. Current Issue IV: Future Ahead**
- Nov 23 What does and does not continue in the 21st Century ? and One World,
Many Theories.** Read Hughes Ch.17
- Nov 28 FINAL REVIEW**

Week 10. Final Exam
Nov. 30 Final Exam

PS 597.01 PAPER ASSIGNMENT : Analyzing prevalent worldviews

DUE : Nov 09 (As you walk into the classroom).

1. Your paper must be 5 pages long and double spaced with the normal margin.
2. Use Times New Roman font and size 12
3. Cite references.

Your paper is going to be an analysis paper, which must follow the given instruction. You can talk about your paper topic with me or your friends or classmates. But you must write it on your own in your own words. Pick three articles from the Foreign Affairs edited volume, the second textbook for our course, and write by answering the following analytical questions. **DO NOT** summarize your chosen articles.

- A. Why do you choose these articles? Explain why in terms of the relevance to the course materials.
- B. What does each author try to explain? What is each author's chosen level and unit of analysis?
- C. Are their view points competing, additive or completely different to each other? Identify and explain. Do you agree with their assessment? If you do or do not, why or why not ?
- D. Are they still relevant to the current world? How helpful these articles are for analyzing an issue or event of your interest in international politics?

**Remember you turn in as you walk in on Nov. 09. No E-Mail form of submission is
accepted**

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