

Syllabus
Political Science 597.02
Political Problems of the Contemporary World
Spring 2002

Instructor: Richard Meltz
Class: Monday and Wednesday, 3:00-4:48 PM. Room 218, Cockins Hall.
Contact: 247-6440; meltz.2@osu.edu
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10:30-11:30. Derby Hall, Room 3143. Appointments OK.

Introduction

The purposes of this course are threefold. First, it will introduce and inform the student about a wide variety of international issues and problems. The course is deliberately wide-ranging because it is the conviction of your instructor that as a college graduate, you must be aware of and conversant about the variety and complexity of issues present in the international arena today. Second, theories from international politics and other literatures will be presented. It is hoped that this will give the student a basic framework through which the sometimes confusing panorama of international events can be understood, otherwise, world events only appear as disjointed phenomena. Finally, it will be required in the course's research paper that the student demonstrate a connection between his or her undergraduate major and an international issue of his or her choice. This is done to facilitate reflection on the part of the student about how interests and career choices are related to the world at large and may be of value in a future of interdependence and rapid change.

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated upon the following:

One four to five page "reaction paper."	Due Monday, April 22	15%
Midterm Examination	Wednesday, May 1	30%
An eight to ten page research paper.	Due Wednesday, May 22	25%
Final Examination	Monday, June 10. 1:30-3:18	30%

The "reaction paper" will be written in response to an issue presented in the class. The student will have considerable latitude in the selection of which issue to write about. The paper may become a "feeder" into the research paper, allowing the student to assemble ideas and information useful later. The paper will encapsulate the divergent positions of advocates of opposing "sides" in an international issue, and then present the student's "reactions" to the debate and reasons for position taken.

The research paper is to be an in-depth exploration of an issue of the student's choice. A minimum of five sources from outside of the course readings will need to be utilized. At least two sources must be non-internet. The paper will require an exploration of an attempt by nations, international agencies, or nongovernmental organizations to address or solve a problem, and an analysis as to why the attempt either succeeded or failed. The paper will emphasize the *political conflict* associated with the issue the student wishes to explore, and, most importantly, provide an explanation as to *why the observed outcome of the conflict arose*. If there is any problem as to the "international" nature of the topic being researched, the student must discuss and clear the paper topic with the instructor. As mentioned earlier, some connection to the student's major field of study must also be demonstrated.

The midterm and final examinations will consist of a geography portion (map identification of countries), short answers, and essays.

Students with grammar and spelling problems are encouraged to have someone proofread their papers. I will not mark off for these problems in the reaction paper, but the research paper may be penalized. (Future employers lose respect for those who cannot communicate properly.) More latitude will be granted on the exams.

University rules regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be enforced. All cases will be referred to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (1110 Lincoln Tower, 292-7262) for adjudication and enforcement.

Overly large print sizes, fonts, and margins are not acceptable. One-inch margins, 12-point font, double spaced, are good rules of thumb. Late papers will have grades reduced by a portion of a grade (for example from a B+ to a B) for each weekday they are late without an excuse. Make-up examinations will be allowed only in cases where there is documented evidence of the reason for missing the original exam date. The instructor reserves the right for make-up examinations to be all-essay.

Students with disabilities must make them known to the instructor so that special provisions can be made. An alternative point of contact is Mr. Wayne DeYoung (292-2880, 2140 Derby Hall).

Texts

Kegley, Jr., Charles W. and Eugene R. Wittkopf. 2001. *The Global Agenda: Issues and Perspectives*, 6th ed. McGraw-Hill.

Jackson, Robert M. (ed.) 2001. *Annual Editions. Global Issues 01-02*. McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.

Schedule of the Course

In the listing below, the Kegley, Jr. and Wittkopf text will be abbreviated “KW,” and the Jackson reader will be abbreviated “J.”

Week One, April 1, 3:	KW-1, 2.
Week Two, April 8, 10:	KW-3, 4, 5, 6. J-23.
Week Three, April 15, 17:	KW-7, 8, 9, 10.
Week Four, April 22, 24:	KW-11, 12, 13, 15. J-4, 17.
Week Five, April 29, May 1:	KW-16, 17, 18. J-2, 25, 31, 32. (Wed. Midterm Examination)
Week Six, May 6, 8:	KW-22, 23, 24, 25. J-14, 15, 21. (Monday, May 6, No Class)
Week Seven, May 13, 15:	KW-26, 27, 28, 29.
Week Eight, May 20, 22:	KW-30, 31, 32, 33. J-1, 6, 16.
Week Nine, May 27, 29:	KW-34, 35, 36, 37. J-8, 12. (Monday, May 27, Memorial Day Holiday)
Week Ten, June 3, 5:	KW-38, 39, 40, 41. J5, 34.
Finals Week:	Final Examination