POLS 103: Introduction to International Relations

Fall 2013

M W 2:30-3:45  125 Agriculture Hall

Professor
Professor Jon Pevehouse
313 North Hall
pevehouse@polisci.wisc.edu
Phone: 262-4839
Office Hours: M 11:00-12:00; R11:00-12:00; and by appointment.

Teaching Assistants

Bugrahan Budak (budak@wisc.edu): (302:M 8:50; 310:W 11:00; 317:W 9:55)
  Office hours: W 12:00-2:00 (North Hall 121)
Mert Kartal (kartal@wisc.edu): (312:M 11:00; 315:M 12:05)
  Office hours: M 1:00-2:15 (Capital Café at Grainger)
  T 1:45-2:30 (Morgridge Commons at Education)
Kendi Larrabee (klarrabee@wisc.edu): (303:W 1:20; 307:W 12:05; 316:T 1:20)
  Office hours: W 11:30-1:30 (North Hall 121)
Richard Loeza (loeza@wisc.edu): (304:R 1:20; 311:R 12:05; 318:R 2:25)
  Office hours: R 9:30-11:30 (North Hall 121)
  Office hours: TBD
Camilla Reuterswaerd (reuterswaerd@wisc.edu): (306:T 8:50; 308:M 9:55; 309:T 11:00)
  Office hours: M 4:00-6:00 (North Hall 121)

Class Description

This class will cover the major issues in international relations since the end of World War II. We will discuss a variety of topics from both a theoretical and an empirical perspective. Some of the topics we will cover include: the causes of interstate war; ethnic conflict; foreign policy decision-making; economic development; the North-South gap; international trade, globalization; economic interdependence; the environment; population; the UN and other international organizations; and international law.

More than centering on US foreign policy or US history, the class will discuss these topics from a broad international perspective. Although this is by no means a history class, I will go over a fair bit of history to provide context for our current debates in international relations. Also, we will spend relatively little time discussing particular countries and their internal politics and problems, rather focusing on their relations with each other.

The goal for this course is to further your understanding of facts about international relations, but also to help you develop analytical tools for thinking about important questions in world politics regardless of the countries or issues involved. The political science approach to international politics is a mix of ideas and data, that is, conceptual tools that help us understand particular sets of facts about a wide range of
topics. It is hoped that students will leave the course with a better understanding of world politics and how to think about world politics.

Books Required:

E-Reserve readings – (Indicated by "LearnUW" below.)

I also urge you to subscribe to the *New York Times* – one of the best sources of material on international relations. I will announce information on how to obtain a student subscription during the course. You may also choose to read the NYT on-line. Other sources of good international news are the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Financial Times*, the *Economist*, and the *BBC* (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news).

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

This class will be primarily lecture with some recitation sections. I expect you to have done the readings by the date on the syllabus. There is a moderate amount of reading, but none of it is particularly dense.

There will be three exams: two midterms and a final. Each midterm will be composed of a number of multiple-choice questions and 4-5 short answer (identification) questions. The final will have the same format, covering the material since the second midterm. In addition, the final will contain one comprehensive essay question covering all the material. Five days before the final exam, I will distribute a review sheet that will contain the possible essay questions that will appear on the exam. On the exam itself, you will have no choice of which essay question to answer.

**There will be no make-up exams.** If you have a conflict over the exam, see the professor in advance. I understand that emergencies happen. In a genuine emergency, I am very willing to work with you. I will, however, require documentation of emergencies - notes from doctors, emergency room personnel, etc. in all instances.

Your class performance will be based on the following:

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Recitation Sections

Recitation (or discussion) sections will work a bit differently in this class. For the two weeks before each exam ONLY, discussion sections will be held in their regular times and regular rooms. Because exams are on Thursdays (and all Thursday sections are prior to the lecture slot), this means normal sections will begin the Friday two weeks before the exam and run until the morning of the exam.
For all other weeks, we will hold optional “drop-in” sections. Each TA has chosen one of their discussion sections to hold each week. If your assigned TA’s choice does not work for you because of your class schedule or work, simply choose a different drop-in section to attend. TAs and the professor will also have regularly scheduled office hours throughout the semester. The purpose of these drop-in sections is to clarify material that is unclear from the readings or lecture as well as discussing class concepts with your fellow students.

Sept. 9-Sept. 19: Drop-in Sections
Sept. 20-Oct. 3: Normal Sections
Oct. 8-Oct. 24: Drop-in Sections
Oct. 28-Nov. 7: Normal Sections
Nov. 12-Nov. 28: Drop-in Sections
Dec. 2-Dec. 12: Normal Sections

TA Drop-in sections:

Bugrakan Budak: W 11:00, Van Hise 582
Mert Kartal: M 12:05, Grainger 2165
Kendi Larrabee:W 1:20; Bascom 55
Richard Loeza: R 1:20, Edu Sci 218
Susanne Mueller: R 9:55, Grainger 2185
Camilla Reuterswaerd: T 8:50, Chem 2377

Accommodation for Disabilities and Emergencies

For anyone who needs accommodations for a documented disability, please let the professor know immediately. I am happy to work through the McBurney Disability Resource Center, 905 University Avenue, 263-2741. Please contact them regarding this class and we can work out the nature of the accommodations that will be needed.

Course Outline

9/4: Introduction + Levels of Analysis
GP: Chapter 1, pp. 2-19.

9/9: Actors, Principals, and World War I


9/16: History: The Cold War & Introduction to Realism
GP: pp. 29-38.


9/18: IR Theories: Realism
GP: pp. 43-60; 73-76.

9/23: IR Theories: Finish Realism & Introduction to Liberal Theories
GP: pp. 63-72; 76-79.

9/25: IR Theories: Liberal Theories

9/30: IR Theories: Finish Liberal Theories & Introduction to Social Theories
GP: pp. 96-106.

10/2: IR Theories: Social Theories


10/7: **FIRST MIDTERM** (in class)

10/9: Introduction to Security/International Conflict


10/14: Causes of War I (General Theories & Material Conflicts)
GP: pp. 177-188.

10/16: Causes of War II (Ideological Conflicts)

10/21: International Organizations I (Theories & the UN)
10/23: Terrorism & WMD

GP: pp. 204-222.


10/28: International Organizations II (the European Union)


10/30: International Law & Human Rights


11/4: The Power of Information

GP: pp. 370-381.

11/6: Domestic Politics & International Relations

GP: pp. 136-147.


11/11: SECOND MIDTERM (in class)

11/13: International Trade


11/18: International Trade Institutions

GP: pp. 294-309.

11/20: International Finance


11/25: The Environment
11/27: Global Health

12/2: North-South Gap (State of the South)

12/4: Development (North-South Business)
GP: pp. 461-476.

12/9: Development (Debt & Foreign Assistance)

12/11: Finish Up and Review.

12/16: FINAL!! 7:45 AM. ROOMS: TBA