POLS 700: Introduction to International Relations  
Summer 2014

Professor
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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.

Reading Materials Required:

All materials will be available for download on the course web page.


I also urge you to read an internationally-aware news source, such as the New York Times. 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 online recitation sections and activities. Please have readings finished before listening to the lectures! There is a moderate amount of reading, but none of it is particularly dense.

Your class performance will be based on the following:

*Participation in online discussions/activities: 30%*

*Memo 1: 35%*

*Memo 2: 35%*

For details on the memo assignments, see attached “Assignments” sheet.

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

**Module 1: theories of international relations**

Topic 1.1: Introduction to IR and Realist theory

GP, Chapters 1 and 2.


Topic 1.2: Liberal and Social Theories

GP, Chapter 4: 53-56; Chapter 5; Chapter 6: 82-85


Module 2: international security and international organization

Topic 2.1: Introduction to Security/International Conflict
GP: Chapter 9: 126-137

Topic 2.2: Political Violence: War and Terrorism
GP: Chapter 9: 137-142

Topic 2.3: International Organizations and International Law
GP: Chapter 4: 56-65; Chapter 6: 85-97

Module 3: international political economy and development

Topic 3.1: International Trade and International Trade Institutions
GP: Chapter 10
C. Fred Bergsten, “Rescuing the Doha Round” *Foreign Affairs: Special WTO Edition*.

Topic 3.2: The Politics of Development
GP: Chapter 12

Topic 3.3: Globalization and International Capital Flows
GP: Chapter 11