

## INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE 160H

FALL 2010

MILITARY AND NAVAL SCIENCE BUILDING B7

T-TH 2:00-3:15

### INSTRUCTOR INFO

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the study of international relations. By examining the theoretical frameworks scholars use to study international relations, as well as a set of crosscutting themes in international politics, students in this course will seek to understand the nature of conflict and cooperation in international relations. This does not mean that we will study only war and peace. While we will, of course, cover these topics, we also will examine the ways in which the possibility of cooperation or the persistence of conflicts in states' interests affects all international processes, from environmental protection to trade, from fighting terrorism to safeguarding human rights. We will work within the 2010-2011 theme of the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues, Globalization's Promise, as we explore these issues.

This course proceeds in two main parts. The first section of the course is dedicated to understanding competing theoretical frameworks in international relations: realism, liberalism and social constructivism. The second section aims to take those theoretical lessons and apply them to four issue areas: international security, international political economy, international law and human rights, and the environment. Throughout the course, we will focus on the intersection of domestic and international politics, the causes and consequences of globalization, and the dynamic relationships between and within states, international organizations and non-state actors.

In keeping with the Department of Political Science's core objectives, by the end of the semester students should: 1) understand the core theoretical frameworks in international relations and be able to apply these frameworks to contemporary political problems; 2) be familiar with the main concepts, ideas and actors in international relations; and 3) be able to use evidence-based analysis to both form and evaluate arguments about the pursuit of power in politics.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course is designed to introduce students to the main theories, themes and concepts in international relations and to sharpen students' analytical skills. As such, our work will be divided into the following requirements:

- **Readings and Class Participation (15%):** This course will be run as a seminar, and your daily contribution to discussion is crucial. This means coming to class having read and thought about the readings. Come prepared to participate *actively*, and remember, quality counts just as much as quantity. Our discussions about international relations will be punctuated with discussions of current

events, and I expect you to keep up with contemporary politics. Please do *all* of the readings prior to our class sessions on Mondays.

Attendance is mandatory although I do allow two “free pass” days over the course of the semester. You needn’t tell me why you won’t be attending seminar on these days. After that, any absence will affect your grade negatively; with three or more absences you are in serious risk of failing the class.

- **Weekly Current Events Blog and Final Presentation (15%):** Each student will be responsible for maintaining a blog on our class Blackboard page. Each blog should track one current issue in international politics over the course of the semester. The topic is left to the students’ discretion, but it should: 1) relate to international relations and globalization, broadly defined; 2) cover a current or on-going issue in international relations; and 3) be of a manageable scope (broad enough to write about over 13 weeks but not so broad that it is impossible to gain any traction on the subject).

Students must post an entry each week for the first 13 weeks of class, with the exception of Week 9. Blogs are due every week by 5pm on Fridays (although you may post anytime during the week). Blogs will be graded as check, check-plus, check-minus or zero. If you do not post your blog entry by 5pm on Fridays, you will get no credit for that week’s entry.

Each blog post should be 150-250 words and include citations for the sources from which you gathered the information. Your posts should not simply summarize the issue you are tracking. Rather, your entries should engage with the theoretical implications of the political events you are covering and consider the quality of evidence and argument used in the articles you reference.

**Although blogs tend to be a more informal medium than other forms of writing, blogs should be written professionally, with appropriate grammar, spelling and organization.**

Your blog will culminate in a presentation during Week 14 of class. On November 30, 2010 and December 2, 2010, students will present their blog research to the class in a 5-7 minute presentation. The presentations should introduce the topic of the blog and track the trajectory of the issue over the course of the semester and provide a rigorous analysis of the blog’s central theme. Students are expected to present a professional and practiced presentation, and they will be evaluated by the instructor and their peers on the quality of their presentation’s: 1) depth/content; 2) organization; 3) style; and 4) presentation materials.

The final grade for the blog and presentation project is comprised equally of your weekly blog posts and your final presentation.

- **Analytical Essays (20% Each):** Students will write two analytical essays (5-7 pages double-spaced, standard font and margins) over the course of the semester. Students will be asked to engage with our discussions in seminar, the main course text, supplemental readings and the E.N. Thompson Lectures as appropriate. Students’ essays will be evaluated for the quality of their argument, as well as the quality of the essay’s structure and prose.

The first analytical essay will be on the explanatory power of realist and liberal theories of international politics. This paper will be due in class on 9.28.10. I will distribute the exact essay question and specific instructions for the paper on 9.14.10.

The second analytical essay will be on the politics of globalization and international development. This paper will be due in class on 11.4.10, and I will distribute the question and instructions on 10.21.10.

- **Final Exam (30%):** The final exam will take place Wednesday, December 15, 2010, from 3:30pm-5:30pm. The final exam will be comprehensive. The exam will include identification of key terms, short answers and essay questions. We will dedicate part of the last week of the semester for review.

If you will be leaving Lincoln at the end of the semester, please plan your travel accordingly. No late or make-up exam dates will be allowed.

#### COURSE POLICIES

- **Academic Honesty:** I have a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Student Handbook, the University's Code of Conduct and the Office of Undergraduate Studies' document on academic integrity for the University's policies on plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty. If you have any questions concerning the proper use of citations or sourcing, I would be more than happy to answer them.
- **Communication:** The best way to get in touch with me is via email (chillebrecht2@unl.edu) or during office hours. This semester I will hold office hours from 3:30-5:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I also am available by appointment.
- **Deadlines:** I expect that all students submit their work in a timely fashion and always by the given deadlines. Deadlines are final, and I do not give incompletes for this course. I will return your graded work in an equally timely manner.
- **Emergencies:** If an emergency should arise during the course of the semester that prevents you from attending class or completing your work, please be in touch with me as soon as possible.
- **Learning Assistance:** If you need learning assistance, please follow the appropriate University policies: "Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY."

## **READINGS**

You should complete the assigned readings for the week prior to our Tuesday class meetings. We will rely on one primary text this semester, and most weeks, I will ask you to read excerpted chapters and/or articles from a scholarly journal, think-tank or policy institution in addition to the readings from the textbook. You can access these articles and chapters from our Blackboard page. Links for the other readings are included in the course outline below. In addition, you are expected to read *Tropical Gangsters* in its entirety by Week 10. Both books are available at the UNL Bookstore.

### **The main text is:**

- Goldstein, Joshua S. and Pevehouse, Jon C. *International Relations*, Ninth Edition. Longman: New York, 2010.

### **In addition, we will read:**

- Klitgaard, Robert. *Tropical Gangsters: One Man's Experience with Development and Decadence in Deepest Africa*. Basic Books: New York, 1990.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Week 1: What is International Relations? (8.24.10 & 8.26.10)**

- Course introduction.
- Is cooperation possible in international politics? Prisoners and collective goods.

### **Week 2: The Big Picture: Actors, Concepts and the Evolving International System (8.31.10 & 9.2.10)**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 1).
- Harding, "The Tragedy of the Commons," in *Science* (1968). Available online: [http://www.garretthardinsociety.org/articles/art\\_tragedy\\_of\\_the\\_commons.html](http://www.garretthardinsociety.org/articles/art_tragedy_of_the_commons.html)

### **Week 3: Theoretical Frameworks in IR, I: Realism (9.7.10 & 9.9.10)**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 2).
- Walt, "The Relationship Between Theory and Policy in International Relations," in *The Annual Review of Political Science*, (2005) 8: 23-48. Available on Blackboard.

### **Week 4: Theoretical Frameworks in IR, II: Liberalism and Its Variants (9.14.10 & 9.16.10)**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 3).
- Owen, "Iraq and the Democratic Peace," in *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec. 2005. Available online: <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/61206/john-m-owen-iv/iraq-and-the-democratic-peace?page=3>
- **Analytical Essay #1 Question Distributed in Class on 9.14.10.**

### **Week 5: Theoretical Frameworks in IR, III: Social Theories (9.21.10 & 9.23.10)**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 4).
- Keck and Sikkink, "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics: Introduction" (Ch. 1) in *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998. Available on Blackboard.

**Week 6: International Security, I: Types of Threats (9.28.10 & 9.30.10)**

*E.N. Thompson Forum, Sept. 30, 2010: E. Benjamin Skinner on "A Crime So Monstrous: Face to Face with Modern Day Slavery."*

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 5).
- Evans, "When is it Right to Fight?" in *Survival* (2004), 46(3): 59-82. Available on Blackboard.
- Straus, "Darfur and the Genocide Debate" in *Foreign Affairs* (2005), January/February. Available online: <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20050101faessay84111-p0/scott-straus/darfur-and-the-genocide-debate.html>.
- **Analytical Essay #1 Due in Class on 9.28.10.**

**Week 7: International Security, II: The Use of Force and Terrorism (10.5.10 & 10.7.10)**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 6).
- White Paper of the Interagency Policy Group's Report on U.S. Policy toward Afghanistan and Pakistan. Available online: [www.whitehouse.gov/assets/.../Afghanistan-Pakistan\\_White\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/.../Afghanistan-Pakistan_White_Paper.pdf)
- Council on Foreign Relations, "U.S. Policy Toward Afghanistan" with Stephen Biddle and Kim Barker." Available online: [http://www.cfr.org/publication/20283/us\\_policy\\_toward\\_afghanistan.html](http://www.cfr.org/publication/20283/us_policy_toward_afghanistan.html) Please either read the full transcript, or click on the "audio" symbol to listen to the meeting.
- Moselle, "Obama's Afghanistan Troop Surge Misses the Point: A New Strategy Focusing on Al Qaeda," in *Harvard International Review*, web edition. Available online: <http://hir.harvard.edu/index.php?page=article&id=1919>

**Week 8: International Political Economy, I: The Basics of Trade (10.12.10 & 10.14.10)**

*E.N. Thompson Forum, October 14, 2010: Mary Todd Whitman on "Staying Ahead While Going Green."*

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, (Ch. 8)
- U.S. Department of State, "Supporting Free Trade and Environmental Protection." Available online: <http://www.state.gov/g/oes/env/trade/>
- Office of the United States Trade Representative, "Overview of the 2009 Agenda." Available online: <http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/reports-and-publications/2009/2009-trade-policy-agenda-and-2008-annual-report>

**Week 9: Political Economy II: The Wizard of Oz and International Finance (10.21.10. Fall Break: No Class on 10.19.10)**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 9, pps. 318-329, 331-347).
- Swibel, "Microfinance Fever," in *Forbes.com*, 12.13.07. Available online: <http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2008/0107/050.html>
- **Analytical Essay #2 Question Distributed in Class on 10.21.10.**

**Week 10: International Political Economy, II: International Development and the Bretton Woods Institutions (10.26.10 & 10.28.10)**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 9, pps. 329-331, Ch. 13, pps. 471-481).
- Klitgaard (entire)

**Week 11: International Law (11.2.10 & 11.4.10)**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, (Ch. 7, pps. 233-264).
- Weiss, Forsythe and Coate, "Introduction," in *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, Fourth Edition. Boulder: Westview Press, 2004. Available on Blackboard.
- Hathaway, "Hamdan v. Rumsfeld: Domestic Enforcement of International Law," in *International Law Stories* (2007). Available online:  
[http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1009621](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1009621).
- **Analytical Essay #2 Due in Class on November 4, 2010.**

**Week 12: International Human Rights (11.9.10 & 11.11.10)**

*E.N. Thompson Forum, November 10, 2010: Chuck Hagel and Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yesui on: "China Rising: Good News or Bad News for U.S. Workers, Consumers and Investors?"*

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 7, pps. 264-274).
- UN, "What are Human Rights? Available online:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Pages/WhatareHumanRights.aspx>
- Donnelly, "The Relative Universality of Human Rights" in *Human Rights Quarterly* (2007), 29(2): 281-306. Available on Blackboard.
- Sen, "Human Rights and Asian Values," in *The New Republic* (1997), 217(2-3): 33-41. Available on Blackboard.
- Ruggie, "Protect, Respect and Remedy: A Framework for Business and Human Rights" in *Innovations: Technology, Governance, Globalization* (2008), 3(2): 189-212. Available on Blackboard.

**Week 13: International Environmental Politics, I: Evaluating Legislative and Free Market Solutions to Climate Change (11.16.10 & 11.18.10)**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, (Ch. 11)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Available online:  
<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>
  - Also: follow the links on the main page to read about the Kyoto Protocol.
- Please read the following articles from *The Guardian's* analysis of the Dec. 2009 Copenhagen Climate Change Conference (All available online:  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/copenhagen>)
  - "Spectacular failure – or important steps?"
  - "Low targets, goals dropped: Copenhagen ends in failure"
  - "Investors urge governments to take immediate action on climate change"
  - "UN should be sidelined in future climate talks, says Obama official"
  - Mark Lynas, "How do I know China wrecked the Copenhagen deal? I was in the room."
  - "China, India, Brazil and South Africa prepare for post-Copenhagen meeting"

**Week 14: Blog Presentations (11.30.10 & 12.2.10)****Week 15: Course Conclusion: Globalization and Its Implications (12.7.10 & 12.9.10)**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 12 and Special Oxfam Insert between Chs. 12 & 13)
- Final exam review.

**FINAL EXAM: WED., DEC. 15, 2010, 3:30-5:30**