

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE 160

SPRING 2011
LOVE LIBRARY 102
T-TH 11:00-11:50

INSTRUCTOR INFO

Courtney Hillebrecht
526 Oldfather Hall
Office Hours: T-Th 12:00-1:00 and by appointment
Email: chillebrecht2@unl.edu
Ph: 402.472.5973

TEACHING ASSISTANTS INFO

Edward Hsieh
518 Oldfather Hall
Office Hours: W 11:00-12:00 and by
appointment
Email: edward.hsieh0219@gmail.com

Seth Loven
519 Oldfather Hall
Office Hours: T 1:00-2:00 and by appointment
Email: greatwhitebear30@gmail.com

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.

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.

ACE OUTCOME, ASSESSMENT, AND OPPORTUNITIES

By passing this section of POLS 160 students fulfill ACE Learning Outcome #9: "Exhibit global awareness or knowledge of human diversity through analysis of an issue." This learning objective is integral to the course materials. Students reach the outcome through analytical essays, writing assignments in recitation

sections, examinations and direct participation. They should be able to integrate these abilities and capacities, adapting them to new settings, questions, and responsibilities.

Reinforcement: Students will improve writing skills through analytical essays as well as written assignments for recitation that relate to current theories and events in international relations. Participation and examinations also will reinforce students' global awareness.

Assessment: Two analytical essays, two exams, writing exercises in recitation section and direct participation will be used to assess your achievement of the outcome.

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:

- **Midterm and Final Exams (20% and 25%, respectively):** Students will take two exams over the course of the semester. The midterm will be held on **March 17, 2010**, during our regularly scheduled lecture meeting. The midterm will cover all of the material up to that point. We will have an in-class review session on **March 15, 2010**. The final exam will be held on during exam week (May 2-6, 2011, see the forthcoming Bulletin for more details). The exam will be comprehensive. We will have an in-class review session on **April 18, 2010**. Both exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.

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.

- **Analytical Essays (20% each):** Students will write two, brief analytical essays (4-5 pages double-spaced, standard font and margins) over the course of the semester. Students will be asked to engage with lectures, recitation section discussions, the main course text and supplemental readings. 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 **February 10, 2011**. I will distribute the exact essay question and specific instructions for the paper on **January 27, 2011**.

The second analytical essay will be on the politics of globalization and international development. This paper will be due in class on **April 14, 2011**. I will distribute the question and instructions on **March 31, 2011**.

Your essays should be submitted in hard copy and uploaded to "Safe Assign" on Blackboard. All papers should be double-spaced with standard font and margins. It's remarkably easy to tell when students try to fudge the font/borders, so please don't try!

- **Recitation Section Participation (15%):** *Attendance in recitation sections, as in lecture, mandatory.* Recitation sections will be run as seminars, and your contribution to discussion is crucial. This means coming to class having read and thought about the readings. Come prepared to participate *actively*. Recitation section discussions about international relations will be punctuated with discussions of current events, and your TAs and I expect you to keep up with contemporary politics. In addition to your regular participation in section, you will have brief, writing-based homework to complete for your TA.

- **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*, Brief Fifth Edition, 2010-2011 Update. Longman: New York, 2011.

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 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 12:00-1:00 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. Your TAs and I will return your graded work in an equally timely manner. Late papers will be penalized with a ten-point deduction from your assigned grade for each 24-hour period past the deadline, including weekends and holidays. Please note that I do not give incompletes for this course.
- **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 your TA 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."
- **Grading Rubric**

A = 93+	C = 73-76
A- = 90-92	C- = 70-72
B+ = 87-89	D+ = 67-69
B = 83-86	D = 63-66
B- = 80-82	D- = 60-62
C+ = 77-79	F = < 59

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: What is International Relations? (1.11.11 & 1.13.11)

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 1).

Week 2: Theoretical Frameworks in IR, I: Realism (1.18.11 & 1.20.11)

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 2).

Week 3: Theoretical Frameworks in IR, II: Liberalism and Its Variants (1.25.11 & 1.27.11)

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 3, p. 63-86).
- 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 1.27.11.**

Week 4: Theoretical Frameworks in IR, III: Social Theories (2.1.11 & 2.3.11)

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 3, p. 87-108).
- 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 5: International Security, I: Types of Threats (2.8.11 & 2.10.11)

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 4, p. 109-146).
- 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 2.10.11.**

Week 6: International Security, II: The Use of Force and Terrorism (2.15.11 & 2.17.11)

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 4, p. 147-163).
- 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
- 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 7: International Political Economy, I: The Basics of Trade and Finance (2.22.11 & 2.24.11)

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 5)

Week 8: Political Economy II: International Development (3.1.11 & 3.3.11)

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 7).

Week 9: International Political Economy, III: Trade & Aid in Practice (3.8.11 & 3.10.11)
Special Seminar Sessions during Lecture—more info to follow

- Klitgaard (entire)

Week 10: Midterm: Review and Exam (3.15.11 & 3.17.11)

Week 11: No Class Spring Break (3.22.11 & 3.24.11)

Week 12: International Law and Organizations, I: The UN & EU (3.29.11 & 3.31.11)

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, (Ch. 6, p. 209-248).
- Weiss, Forsythe and Coate, "Introduction," in *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, Fourth Edition. Boulder: Westview Press, 2004. Available on Blackboard.
- **Analytical Essay #2 Question Distributed in Class, 3.31.11**

Week 13: International Law and Organizations, II: Human Rights (4.5.11 & 4.7.11)

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 7, p. 249-259).
- UN, "What are Human Rights? Available online:
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Pages/WhatareHumanRights.aspx>
- Sen, "Human Rights and Asian Values," in *The New Republic* (1997), 217(2-3): 33-41. Available on Blackboard.

Week 14: International Environmental Politics & Technology (4.12.11 & 4.14.11)

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Ch. 8)
- 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.
- **Analytical Essay #2 Due in Class on April 14, 2011.**

Week 15: Global Challenges, Today and Tomorrow: Competing Views on The BRICS. (4.19.11 & 4.21.11)

- Ikenberry, "The Rise of China and the Future of the West" in *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2008. Available on Blackboard.
- Cohen, Curtis, Scissors and Walsler, "Busting the Brazil/Russia/India/China (BRIC) Myth of Challenging U.S. Global Leadership. Available online:
<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2010/04/busting-the-brazil-russia-india-china-bric-myth-of-challenging-us-global-leadership>

Week 15: Global Challenges, Today and Tomorrow, II & Final Exam Review (4.26.11 & 4.28.11)

- Goldstein and Pevehouse (Global Challenges in 2030)

Final exam during exam week, May 2-6, 2011. Details to follow.