

Introduction to International Relations

Political Science 220 (#26434)

Spring 2010

Instructor: Dr. Carolyn Shaw
Class: M-F 8:30 – 12:30 LH 104
Office hours: M - Th 12:30 - 1:30; or by appt.
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Overview of the Course

This course is an introduction to International Relations. The course is divided broadly into two areas: International Security and Global Issues. The first part of the course will introduce theories of international relations, foreign policy, the multitude of actors in international relations, and armed conflict and conflict management. The second part of the course will examine global issues such as the environment, development, and globalization.

There are three primary objectives of this course. The first is to provide students with a basic understanding of the actors in and politics of the contemporary international system. The second objective is to encourage analytical thinking so that students can understand the choices and trade offs being made in foreign policy decisionmaking. The third objective is to introduce the basic concepts and theoretical frameworks used by political scientists in their study of international relations.

Requirements

Students are expected to attend class daily. Attendance will be taken every day. One recorded absence is allowed before points will be deducted from the attendance grade. Students are encouraged, though not required, to participate in class by making comments and asking questions. There will be an opportunity at the beginning of most classes for students to discuss current events in international politics, as well as numerous other chances to present and defend different points of view.

Students are expected to read all of the assigned readings and to be able to answer questions about the readings on the exams.

The **daily quizzes** will include the material covered in class and in the assigned readings from the previous day. The quizzes will include multiple choice questions and short essays. There will be NO MAKE UP QUIZES.

There is **one writing project** for the course. The details of this assignment are discussed below.

There will be **daily online exercises / simulations** from the MyPoliSci Kit component. ****All students must purchase a new textbook packaged with an access code for this component.**

Required Reading

International Relations (9th ed) by Joshua S. Goldstein and John Pevehouse, New York: Pearson/ Longman, 2010.

Supplemental Reading

The New York Times, *The Wall Street Journal*, or other daily newspaper

Grading

Daily Quizzes (best 7 of 9)	70 pts	(10 pts for each quiz)
Foreign Policy Reflection Paper	5 pts	
MyPoliSci Kit simulations	20 pts	(8 sims worth 2.5 each)
Attendance	5 pts	(full points for 0-1 absences one point off for each day missed after 1)

** Writing assignment due on the day given in the syllabus. 1/2 of a grade will be taken off for each day they are late.

A = 90 - 100 points	C- = 70 - 74 points
B = 85 - 89 points	D = 65 - 69 points
B- = 80 - 84 points	D- = 60 - 64 points
C = 75 - 79 points	F = 59 or below

WSU Blackboard

This course is facilitated by Blackboard, an online web aid accessible to all WSU students. The Blackboard page for this course contains a copy of the syllabus, the writing assignment, study guides for each chapter, lecture outlines, your current course grade, and web links to a variety of topics in international relations. The site also facilitates communication between the instructor and students as well as between classmates. You can contact other enrolled students by email in order to study for exams, etc. In order to access this site (www.blackboard.wichita.edu) you need your student ID number and pin number.

Foreign Policy Reflection Paper

Following a role playing scenario in class, students will write about their experience as “foreign policy decisionmakers”. This paper is designed to help students reflect on the challenges policy makers face in crisis situations.

** NOTE ** You will not be able to write this paper without participating in the role play scenario in class on Thursday January 7, 2010

Papers due on: Monday January 11, 2010 (In Class).

My PoliSci Kit

Each day we will go to the computer lab to engage in an online simulation over the chapter materials. These simulations have a Concept Check (multiple choice quiz) and Reflections Questions (short essays) that will be submitted to the instructor for each simulation. In order to receive credit for the simulation, students must receive a 70% or higher on the quiz and must substantively complete the answers to the essay questions. These must be completed on the day that they are assigned. Students can complete 2 extra simulations for extra credit to be applied toward their chapter quiz grades. (total of 5 extra points) (These can be completed on January 8 or Jan 15 – last day of class.)

Study Tips for Reading the Textbook

Before you begin reading, spend some time with the book and familiarize yourself with the way it is organized. Learn a little about the book so that it can be a useful study and reference tool for you. Each Chapter has an outline in the beginning of the main topics and themes. Each Chapter also has a list of key terms (those found in bold in the text). You should be able to describe/define these terms in a sentence or two. Don't just read the chapter, study it. Take notes and/or highlight the important concepts, make an outline of the headings and subheadings, note the key terms when you find them.

This text also has a strong online component "My PoliSci Kit" (www.mypoliscikit.com). It comes with chapter summaries, sample quizzes, videos, podcasts, simulations, flashcards, and additional weblinks.

Try not to read the entire chapter in one sitting, break it into manageable pieces. Stop reading from time to time and ask yourself what you have just read. If you can't answer, stop, refocus and look at the section again.

Academic Freedom / Respect for Others

Each student is encouraged to participate in class discussions. In any class that includes discussion of political ideas, there are bound to be many differing points of view. Students may not only disagree with each other, but may also have disparate views from the instructor on sensitive and volatile topics. It is my hope that these differences will enhance class discussion and create an atmosphere where students and instructor alike will be encouraged to think and learn. Therefore, be assured that your grades will not be adversely affected by any beliefs or ideas expressed in class or your assignments. Rather, we will all respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.

Incompletes

An incomplete grade will only be given in the case of a documented medical or other emergency. To request an incomplete grade, a student must see me in my office and explain their need for an incomplete and fill out the necessary form. In most cases, it is in the student's best interest to complete the assigned course work on schedule.

I will not withdraw students from the class. It is the students responsibility to monitor their progress in the course and to initiate withdrawal procedures on their own if necessary. To withdraw from a class, students must do it officially through the Registrar, and the Tuition and Fees Office.

Scholastic Dishonesty

As described in the Student Catalog, scholastic dishonesty constitutes a violation of college rules and regulations and is punishable according to the procedures outlined in the Catalog. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, plagiarism, and collusion. Plagiarism includes use of another author's words or arguments without attribution. Collusion is defined as the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements. If a student commits any of these actions, I will seek disciplinary action in the form of an academic penalty, including a course grade of 'F'.

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Jan 4 (M)	Introduction	Read: Chapter 1 Do: Sim 1
Jan 5 (T)	Quiz Chap 1 Power Politics / Realism	Read: Chapter 2 Do: Sim 2
Jan 6 (W)	Quiz Chap 2 Alternatives to Realism	Read: Chapter 3 (p.82-92) Read: Chapter 4 (all) Do: Sim 3
Jan 7 (Th)	Quiz Chap 3 and 4 Foreign Policy Role Play	Read: Chapter 3 (p. 93-118)
Jan 8 (F)	Quiz Chap 3 (foreign policy) International Conflict	Read: Chapter 5 Do: Sim 6 Sim 5 OPT
Jan 11 (M)	Quiz Chap 5 International Organization	Read: Chapter 7 Do: Sim 7 Reflection Paper Due
Jan 12 (T)	Quiz Chap 7 Environment	Read: Chapter 11 Do: Sim 11
Jan 13 (W)	Quiz Chap 11 North South Gap	Read: Chapter 12 Do: Sim 12
Jan 14 (Th)	Quiz Chap 12 Development	Read: Chapter 13 Do: Sim 13
Jan 15 (F)	Quiz Chap 13 Conclusions	Sims 8, 9, 10 (OPT)