

# Introduction to International Relations

## POLI/PWAD 150 Spring 2007

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Office Hours: Mondays 12:30-2:00,  
Thursdays 2:00-3:30

### Course Objective

This course is designed to achieve two objectives: to introduce you to some of the most important issues of international politics and to introduce you to some analytic concepts that can be used to study these issues. The course is designed to teach you how to think about politics in the global arena and to prepare you for more advanced courses in international relations.

To achieve these objectives the course is divided into four sections. In the first two sections we focus on what has long been considered the central problem of international politics—war and peace—and develop the *realist* and the *liberal* perspectives on the problem of war. In the third and fourth sections we focus on a few less-traditional concerns of international politics—the international economic system and globalization, economic development, terrorism, and environmental degradation.

### Course Requirements

Your grade for this course will be based on your performance on two midterm exams and one final exam, one essay, and participation in your recitation section. Each midterm exam is worth **20%** of your grade (40% total). The final exam is worth **20%** of your grade. The essay is worth **20%** of your course grade. The recitation section will count for the remaining **20%** of the final grade. The recitation is a required component of this course.

**Exams:** The exams are in-class, closed book & notes. They will be a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. Please come early on exam days, so we can get settled in time to use the entire class period for the exam. You **must** turn in your exam to your own TA. Exams not handed directly to your TA will not be accepted.

**Policy on Unexcused Absences and Make Up Exams:** *You are required to be present for all scheduled exams. The only allowable exception to this policy is a documented medical emergency. If you miss a scheduled exam, you will be allowed to take a make-up test, but there will be a substantial penalty.*

**Essay Assignment:** You are required to write one paper during the semester. The basic assignment is to take one section of the course (readings, lectures, etc...) and apply it to an event or set of events in world politics. The essay is due in class on April 25<sup>th</sup>, but you are encouraged to turn it in earlier. Your TA will provide details in your recitation section.

### Course Readings:

Readings for this course will be available at the bookstore and/or accessible from Blackboard.

### Books to Buy:

*Understanding International Conflicts* by Joseph S. Nye, Jr. 6<sup>th</sup> edition (2007) Longman Press  
*Political Economy and Global Affairs* by Andrew C. Sobel. 1<sup>st</sup> edition (2005) CQ Press.

**Other Policies:** Please try to observe these additional policies:

- **Phones:** Turn them off before class. Please, no calls, no IMs, no text messaging, etc...
- **Laptops:** are permitted *only* if you are taking notes. No email, no IM, no games, no web surfing.
- **Email:** Please try to remember that there are over 250 of you. Consequently, I cannot answer all email and it may take me some time to respond. If you need to notify me of something important (e.g., absence from an exam), come to my office hours *before the exam*. If you have an emergency and can't inform me in person, you may do so by email, but you will need to follow up with an office visit when you are able. If you have course related questions that require a detailed response from me (i.e., review questions right before a test), email is not likely to work. Come see me during office hours.

**IMPORTANT:** “The Honor Code is in effect in this class and all others at the University. I am committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at <http://instrument.unc.edu>. If you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask me about the Code’s application. All exams, written work, and other projects must be submitted with a statement that you have complied with the requirements of the Honor Code in all aspects of the submitted work.”<sup>1</sup>

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## Lecture Schedule and Readings

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### I. Realism: Systemic Wars and the Structure of the International System

**Jan. 10: Introduction**

**Jan 15: No Class Monday**

**Jan 17 and 22: Why are they Fighting? Realism and International Conflict**

**Reading:** Joseph Nye, *Understanding International Conflicts*, Chapters 1 & 2  
Andrew Sobel, *Political Economy and Global Affairs*, Chapter 3.

**Jan 24: Power and Order in World Politics**

**Reading:** Andrew Sobel, *Political Economy and Global Affairs*, Chapter 4

**Jan. 29: Power Transition and the First World War**

**Reading:** Joseph Nye, *Understanding International Conflicts* Chapter 3  
The Fourteen Points (BB)  
The Atlantic Charter (BB)

**Jan. 31 & Feb 5: The Treaty of Versailles, the Second World War, and the American System**

**Reading:** Joseph Nye, *Understanding International Conflicts*, Chapter 4  
Andrew Sobel, *Political Economy and Global Affairs*, Chapter 8

**Feb 7: The Cold War**

**Reading:** Joseph Nye, *Understanding International Conflicts*, Chapter 5;  
Andrew Sobel, *Political Economy and Global Affairs*, Chapter 9

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<sup>1</sup> From an August 21, 2003 Memo from Robert Shelton, Provost and Judith Wegner, Chair of the Faculty

## II. Liberalism: Conflict and Cooperation in the International System

**Feb. 12:** Liberalism and Zones of Peace

**Reading:** Nye, pp: 43-51

James Lee Ray, "Does Democracy Cause Peace?" (BB)

Sobel, pp: 251-275

**Feb. 14 & 19:** Liberalism and the Conditions of Peace and Prosperity

**Reading:** Gilady and Russett, "Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution" (BB)

Sobel, Chapter 9

**Feb. 21:** Ethnic Conflict in the International System

**Reading:** Nye, Chapter 6

Burg. "Why Yugoslavia Fell Apart" (BB)

Hagen, William "The Balkans' Lethal Nationalisms" *Foreign Affairs* Jul/Aug 1999, pp: 52-64 (BB)

Ottoway, Mariana: "Post Imperial Africa At War" (BB)

**FEB 26: TEST 1**

**Feb 28:** Rationality and The Prisoners' Dilemma

**Reading:** "The Prisoners' Dilemma" (BB)

Sobel, Chapter 2.

Sobel, pp368-370

**March 5:** More of The Prisoners' Dilemma: is Cooperation Possible?

**Reading:** Bueno de Mesquita "Cooperation Through Repeated Interaction" (BB)

Ziring et al. *The United Nations: International Organization and World Politics* pp: 27-31, 34-52. (BB)

Sobel, pp: 364-371 (Social Traps)

**March 7: Collective Action, Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution**

**Reading:** Sobel, Chapter 13

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## III. Globalization and the International Political Economy

**March 19:** Introduction to IPE and the International Economic System

**Reading:** Sobel, Chapter 5

**March 21 and 26:** Mechanisms at the Core of Global Liberalism

**Reading:** Sobel, pp: 117-128

**March 28 & April 2:** Who Wins and Who Loses From Globalization?

**Reading:** Burtless et al. "Globaphobia" (BB)

Sobel, Chapter 7

**April 4:** The Globalization Debate

**Reading:** Dollar and Kraay: “Spreading the Wealth” (BB)  
Rodrik, “Sense and Nonsense in the Globalization Debate” *Foreign Policy*, 1997.  
(BB)

**APRIL 9: TEST 2**

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**IV. Special Topics in International Politics**

**April 11: Developing Nations**

**Reading:** Jeffrey Sachs, “The Development Challenge,” *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2005).  
(BB)  
Birdsall, Rodrik, and Subramanian, “How to Help Poor Countries” *Foreign Affairs*  
Jul/Aug 2005. (BB)

**April 16: Terrorism**

**Reading:** Laquer, “Postmodern Terrorism” (BB)  
Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism” (BB)

**April 18: International Law and Human Rights (Paper Due in Class)**

**Reading:** Jack Donnelly, “Human Rights, Democracy and Development” *Human Rights*  
*Quarterly* 1999, 21(3): 608-632. (BB)

**April 23: Resource Scarcity and International Conflict**

**Reading:** Homer-Dixon, “The Ingenuity Gap: Can Poor Countries Adapt to Resource Scarcity”  
*Population and Development Review* 1995, 21(3): 587-612 (BB)

**April 25: Conclusions & Wrap-up**

**Monday, May 7: Final Exam: Hanes Art Center 121**  
**8 AM**

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# Recitations

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Twenty percent (20%) of your final grade will be based on your performance in the recitation section. The section grade will be based on:

1. **Participation:** you should be prepared and willing to participate in discussions about the week's controversy. Participation will be factored into your final section grade.
2. **Attendance:** Each student is allowed 1 unexcused absence; *each additional unexcused absence will be penalized by subtracting 3.33 points from your final section grade.* See the first page of the course syllabus for my definition of unexcused absence. Make-up quizzes from unexcused absences will be allowed, but penalized.

## Readings

All Readings are posted on blackboard in the course documents section.

And *yes*, these readings will be considered for exam questions.

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## Recitation Schedule and Readings

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### Week One:

#### *Current American Foreign Policy: Boon or Bust?*

White House, "Fact Sheet: The President's National Security Strategy"

Sanger, David, "Does Calling It Jihad Make It So?"

Mattair, Thomas, "Exiting Iraq: Competing Strategies"

White House, "Setting the Record Straight: President Bush's Foreign Policy"

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### Week Two:

#### *Will Europe "balance" American power?*

Yes: Charles Kupchan. 2002. "The End of the West," *The Atlantic Monthly* (November): 42-44.

No: Dominique Moisi. 2003. "Reinventing the West," *Foreign Affairs* 82 (November/December): 67-73.

Niall Ferguson. 2003. "Power" *Foreign Policy* (January) 18-24.

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### Week Three:

#### *Is the United States a Global Hegemon in a Unipolar System?*

Yes: Charles Krauthammer. 2002/03. "The Unipolar Moment Revisited," *The National Interest* 70 (Winter): 5-17.

No: Samuel Huntington. 1999. "The Lonely Superpower," *Foreign Affairs* (March/April): 35-49.

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## **Week Four:**

### ***Is Multilateralism Undermining Democracy?***

Debate Between Marc A. Thiesen and Mark Leonard. 2001. "When Worlds Collide," *Foreign Policy* (March/April): 64-74.

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## **Week Five:**

### ***Is the United Nations Still Relevant?***

Yes: Shashi Tharoor. 2003. "Why America Still Needs the United Nations," *Foreign Affairs* 82.  
No: Michael J. Glennon. 2003. "Why the Security Council Failed," *Foreign Affairs* 82.

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## **Week Six:**

### ***Are Cultural Rivalries and Ethnic Conflicts the Next Great Threats to International Security?***

YES: Samuel P. Huntington, from "The Clash of Civilizations."  
NO: John R. Bowen, from "The Myth of Global Ethnic Conflict."

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## **Week Seven:**

### ***Exam Week, No Section Meetings.***

Expanded TA Office Hours Monday & Tuesday

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## **Week Eight:**

Prisoners' Dilemma

(No Readings, unless assigned by your TA)

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## **Week Nine:**

### ***Is Globalization Really as Bad as the Critics Contend?***

John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge. 2001.  
"The Globalization Backlash," *Foreign Policy* September/October 16-26.

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## **Week Ten:**

### ***Does Trade Eliminate American Jobs?***

Yes: Robert E. Scott 2001. *Fast track to lost jobs Trade deficits and manufacturing decline are the legacies of NAFTA and the WTO*. EPI Briefing Paper.

No: Douglas A. Irwin. 2002. "The Employment Rationale for Trade Protection," in *Free Trade Under Fire* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), pages 70-90.

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## **Week Eleven**

### **Is the WTO a Positive Force in the Global Economy?**

No: Global Exchange. "Top Ten (12) Reasons to Oppose the WTO"

Yes: The WTO. "10 Common Misunderstandings About the World Trade Organization"  
and "10 Benefits of the WTO Trading System"

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## **Week Twelve:**

*Exam Week, No Section Meetings.*

Expanded TA Office Hours Monday & Tuesday

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## **Week Thirteen:**

*The Problem of Failed States*

Robert I. Rotberg. 2002. "Failed States in a World of Terror," *Foreign Affairs* 81: 127-140

Sebastian Mallaby 2002. "The Reluctant Imperialist," *Foreign Affairs* 81: 2-7.

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## **Week Fourteen:**

*Terrorism: What's the Real Threat?*

Jessica Stern, "The Protean Enemy"

Paden, John N., Singer, Peter W., "America Slams the Door (On Its Foot)."

Sanger, David, "Does Calling It Jihad Make It So?" (redux)

White House, "Setting the Record Straight: President Bush's Foreign Policy" (redux)

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