Politics 240: International Relations

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Preceptors:
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Princeton University
Department of Politics
Fall 2010
Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 – 4:20
Robertson Hall 100 (Dodds)

Course description

This course examines international relations from a historical and theoretical perspective. The course will address how balance of power politics, international institutions, and the domestic political process have influenced world affairs. These perspectives will be compared in analysis of important historical periods from classical Greece to the challenges leaders face today. Topics include the causes of war, establishment of postwar order, the pursuit of economic prosperity, cooperation for environmental protection, and questions about ethics and international relations.

Course requirements

Precept participation: 20 percent
In-class Midterm exam: 20 percent
Paper: 30 percent. Students are required to write a 10-15 page paper due December 16th.
In-class final exam: 30 percent

Course policies

The course will follow the Politics department late penalty of 1/3 grade drop for each 24 hour delay in submission of written assignments. Requests for extensions or re-grading must be accompanied by a comprehensive written explanation including note from Princeton health services in case of medical justification. Note that re-grading will be completed by the professor and may result in raising or lowering the original grade. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with Princeton’s Honor Code and plagiarism policy:

http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/08/intro/index.htm
Readings ordered at Labyrinth Books


All other readings are posted on electronic reserves available from the course website. If you have any problem locating a reading, first use e-reserve help request. Should this not resolve the problem, contact Meredith Wilf (mwilf@princeton.edu).

Precept Schedule

*Precepts will begin during the second week of the course on Sept 23-24.*

1. **Realist theory** readings from lectures 1-3 (190 pages)
2. **Liberal and institutional theories** readings from lectures 4-5 (198 pages)
3. **Security Dilemma** readings from lectures 6-7 (154 pages)
4. **Domestic politics and IR** readings from lectures 8-9 (235 pages)
5. **The Cold War Peace** readings from lectures 10-11 (130 pages)
6. **Mid-term review section to be scheduled earlier in week** readings from lecture 12 (87 pages) will be background for paper assignment and will not be covered as topic in a precept discussion or on the mid-term exam.
7. **Development and Financial Markets** readings from lectures 13-14 (123 pages)
8. **International Trade** readings from lectures 15-16 (138 pages)
9. **No regular precept meetings for Thanksgiving week. Preceptors will schedule individual meetings with students to discuss paper assignment.**
10. **Sanctions, alliances, and nuclear proliferation** readings from lectures 17, 18, 19 (215 pages)
11. **Non-State Actors** readings from lectures 20-21 (117 pages)
12. **Intervention and the future of IR** readings from lectures 22-23 (130 pages) *Students leaving early on winter break who expect to miss the final precept may choose to submit a 2 page response paper that addresses themes raised in reading materials from lectures 22-23. This paper will be evaluated in lieu of precept participation.*
1 Anarchy and Order in the Modern State System

• Lecture 1 (Sept. 16) The challenge of self-defense amidst anarchy


• Lecture 2 (Sept. 21) Realist Theory


• Lecture 3 (Sept. 23) Balance of Power


• Lecture 4 (Sept. 28) Liberal and Institutionalist Theory


• Lecture 5 (Sept. 30) The rise of the modern international economy

Frieden, Jeffrey. “Global Capitalism.” pp. 1–104.


2 Sources of Conflict

- **Lecture 6 (Oct. 5) The Security Dilemma: WWI**


- **Lecture 7 (Oct. 7) Collective security: the interwar years**


- **Lecture 8 (Oct. 12) Domestic politics and economic rivalry: the interwar years**


- **Lecture 9 (Oct. 14) Domestic politics and war: WWII**

  Snyder, Jack. *Myths of Empire*, pp. 1–20, and read one case chapter on WWII: either 66–111 or 112–152.
3 The Foundations of the Post-1945 Order

- **Lecture 10 (Oct. 19) HIROSHIMA AND THE NUCLEAR ERA**

- **Lecture 11 (Oct. 21) BUILDING INSTITUTIONS FOR A NEW ORDER**

- **Lecture 12 (Oct. 26) FOREIGN POLICY DECISION-MAKING: THE COLD WAR**

- **In-class Midterm Exam (Oct. 28)**
- **FALL RECESS**

4 Negotiating Peace and Prosperity

- **Lecture 13 (Nov. 9) NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT**

- **Lecture 14 (Nov. 11) GLOBAL CAPITAL MARKETS** Guest lecture by Kanta Murali

- **Lecture 15 (Nov. 16) THE POLITICS OF TRADE**


- **Lecture 16 (Nov. 18) International trade law and the WTO**


- **Lecture 17 (Nov. 23) Economic-security linkages**


- **Lecture 18 (Nov. 30) Towards a Unipolar Era**


- **Lecture 19 (Dec. 2) Nuclear proliferation**


5 Looking Beyond the State

- **Lecture 20 (Dec. 7)** Terrorism and new sources of threat


- **Lecture 21 (Dec. 9)** Transnational relations and non-state actors: environmental policy


- **Lecture 22 (Dec. 14)** Questions of intervention

Lecture 23 (Dec. 16) The Future


