WWS 541. International Politics
Revised, March 5, 2008.
Spring 2008
Princeton University
Woodrow Wilson School Graduate Program

Location: Robertson 015.
Time: Monday, 1:00-4:00.*
* Due to luncheon seminar schedules, this seminar will actually begin at 1:10 and finish at 4:00, instead of the conventional 1:00-3:50.

Professor Robert O. Keohane
Robertson 408 (8-1856). rkeohane@princeton.edu.

Course Assistant: Ashley J. McCants. amccants@Princeton.EDU.
Professor Keohane’s Assistant: Bernadette Yeager, Robertson 421 (8-4830). byeager@princeton.edu.

This course introduces theories of international relations and seeks to use them to understand major events such as the origins of World War and the Cuban Missile Crisis, and broad trends such as interdependence and globalization. Policy issues considered include those involving security and international political economy, such as petro-politics, coping with the rise of China, terrorism, and democracy promotion. All students will be expected to participate actively in class discussions and be prepared to respond orally to questions from the instructor. Each student will write a short discussion paper, circulated to the class before one of the sessions in the first six weeks of the course. In the second half of the term, each student will be part of a project team that prepares a brief report (not more than 1500 words) analyzing a major policy issue and discussing the relevance of international relations theory, and history, to it. This report will be circulated to the class in advance. Well in advance of the class, the project team will research the issue they are studying and, in consultation with the professor and course assistant, assign 50-75 pp. of reading on it. There will be a final examination.

Course Assignments and Grading

Short paper: 20 percent
Group presentation (oral and written): 20 percent
Class participation apart from the paper and presentation: 20 percent
Final examination: 40 percent
Articles will be available on Blackboard. The following books will be used extensively and are available for purchase in the bookstore:

Peter J. Katzenstein and Robert O. Keohane, eds., *Anti-Americanisms in World Politics* (Cornell 2007).

**Part I. Theoretical Perspectives and Historical Cases**

**Week 1 (February 4).** *Individuals, Conflict, and Cooperation* (137 pp.)


**Week 2 (February 11).** *The Impact of Political and Economic Systems on Conflict* (about 215 pp.) **Assignment of students to project teams.**
Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*, chs. 4-5 (80-158).
Week 3 (February 18).  *Structural Anarchy, Alliances, and Conflict (218 pp.)*

Waltz, *Man, the State and War*, chs. 6-8 (159-238).

Week 4 (February 25).  *Perception and Misperception (190 pp.)*  
Project team bibliographies and suggested readings due.


Week 5 (March 3).  *Institutions and Cooperation (240 pp.)*


Week 6 (March 10).  *Foundations of International Political Economy (about 180 pp.)*.  
Suggested readings by project teams announced.

Martin Wolf, *Why Globalization Works* (Yale University Press, 2005), pp. 96-134.  “Globalization in the Long Run.”  This material was just added to the syllabus
and is not on Blackboard. Copies will be available from Bernadette Yeager, Robertson 421.


Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation, chapter 1, “The Hundred Years’ Peace.”


Closing lecture on globalization.

Spring break.

Part II. Interpretations of Change and Policy Challenges.

Week 7 (March 24). Globalization in the 21st Century (160 pp. plus policy readings to be assigned by project team).

Topic for discussion: contemporary petropolitics. Do high oil prices generate autocracy and conflict? If they have adverse effects on world politics, what should be done (by states, international organizations, or other entities) about this?

Nye, Understanding International Conflict, chapter 7 (191-216).

Readings proposed by project group: Collier-Hoeffler, Ross, Friedman, Colgan, Le Billon.

Closing lecture on ideas and foreign policy.

Week 8 (March 31). Ideas and Foreign Policy (150 pp. plus policy material).

Topic for discussion: Should established democracies and international organizations make it a priority to promote democracy abroad? Unconditionally, or only under certain conditions?


Readings proposed by project group. Articles on course materials by Berman, McFaul, Finkel, Carothers, and the OECD. In addition, you will find the following readings on E-Reserve for Week 8:

Carothers, Thomas. Aiding Democracy Abroad: The Learning Curve

Diamond, Larry. Chapter 14 “Promoting Democracy Effectively.”

Closing lecture on the information revolution.

Week 9 (April 7). The Information Revolution and Terrorism (125 pages plus policy material.)

Topic for discussion. Should the United States continue to emphasize the “Global War on Terrorism?” How should the struggle against terrorism be conceptualized?

Readings proposed by project group.

Closing lecture on anti-Americanism.

Week 10 (April 14). Anti-Americanism (130 pp. plus policy material).

Topic for discussion. Should the United States direct foreign policy effort toward reducing the amount or intensity of anti-Americanism; and if so, how?

Readings proposed by project group.

Closing lecture on great power rivalry and “hegemonic war.”

Week 11 (April 21). Coping with the Rise of China (145 pp. plus policy materials).

Topic for discussion. Should the United States treat China as a partner, a strategic rival, or a potential “responsible stakeholder?” What strategy should the US pursue?

Readings proposed by project group.
Week 12 (April 28)  Global Governance and Accountability (100 pp. plus policy materials).

**Topic for Discussion:** Can the UN be reformed?

Nye, *Understanding International Conflict*, chapter 9 (pp. 242-261).

**Readings proposed by project group.**

*End-of-semester celebration!*