Course Description and Goals

Full course for one semester. This course introduces the study of international relations. It examines central questions in world politics from a variety of different theoretical perspectives—including realism, liberalism, and feminism—with an emphasis on being able to critique or defend each of these worldviews through comparing their explanations or predictions with actual international events.

Students will learn to perform basic research and analysis through writing and thinking about events in world politics from multiple different perspectives. Readings are drawn from historic and contemporary scholars of international relations, cover a wide variety of issues, and are grouped together in conflicting pairs where possible. Assignments are a mixture of analysis, research, and experiential learning.

Requirements

Class Participation

Students are required to actively participate in the class; they will have the opportunity to do so both during and outside of classroom hours. Beginning the second week of class, each student will be assigned to three days during the semester in which they will do two things. First, each student will author a short reaction memo (300-400 words) expressing an opinion about that day’s readings. These are NOT summaries; rather, they should attempt to agree or disagree with or compare and contrast the readings. Second, the students will collectively post a short newspaper article on a current or historical international event that they feel is relevant to the day’s readings. Both should be posted in the forums on the course website by 8 PM the day before the readings are to be discussed. ALL students are required to read the memos and the newspaper articles from BOTH sections and be prepared to respond to them the next day in class. Students are encouraged to respond to the postings online as part of their participation.

Readings

Readings for the course are drawn from one book (a collection of condensed articles) and E-Readings, which can be downloaded directly from the links on the syllabus. Students are expected to bring a copy of the readings to class every day for reference. Laptops are not permitted in class. Readings marked “Further” on the syllabus are other relevant articles; they are not required for class. Students who have a particular interest in the topics in question are encouraged to read these articles and to incorporate them into their assignments. The book is required for the course; it is for sale at the bookstore and is also on reserve at the library. It can be bought online as well.

Required Books


While this is not a course on current topics in international politics (any one of which could provide material for an entire course), students are also expected to keep up with world events through daily reading of international news. Recommended news sites will be posted on the course web site and on the online library research guide, available at <http://guides.library.reed.edu/course-guide/8-Pol240>.
Course Website
Frequent reading of the course website will be helpful for success in the class. Discussion and collaboration with your peers in both sections of the class is available to you through the website; supplemental and core readings will be made available there; and assignments will be turned in electronically using the site.

Simulations
Two of the three assignments will center around simulations. The first will take place during class hours on September 18th on the front lawn of Eliot. The second will take place from November 19-21 and will take a total of about eighteen hours. Participating in these simulations is required for completing the first and second assignments and therefore the course. *If you cannot participate in these simulations, you must come talk to me immediately.*

Assignments
There are four formal assignments for this course. Except for the short proposal, a sheet explaining each assignment will be passed out in class. In general, I look for four things in an essay: A clear argument in the introductory paragraph, an explanation of the theories that you will be using, an illustration of your argument with direct examples, and a conclusion that discusses the implications of your findings.

- The first assignment is a short (600-1000 word) essay analyzing the September 14th anarchy simulation; it is due Monday, September 21st at 2 PM.
- The second assignment is a very short (250-500 word) proposal for a subject that you’d like to write on for your final paper. It is due on Friday, October 16th at 2 PM.
- The third assignment is a short (1000-1400 word) essay analyzing the November 19-21 arms control negotiation. This will be an account (from a personal or national point of view) of the negotiations and an analysis of why the negotiations ended the way they did. This assignment should be based on the negotiation record, which will be compiled from email correspondences and any postings made to Moodle by the participants. It is due on Sunday, November 29th at 5 PM.
- The final assignment is a short (1000-1400 word) essay analyzing any current international event; it is due on Wednesday, December 9 at 11:59 PM.

Citation and Plagiarism
A major goal of this course is to encourage good reading, research, and citation habits. Good research requires good documentation of sources and the ability to put one’s own analysis and thoughts into a paper rather than relying on others. When in doubt as to whether you should cite something, always do it. Citations are required for ideas as well as facts, and are imperative even if you are not directly quoting authors. Make sure that you provide as specific a citation as possible; if an author discusses an idea in one section or one page, cite the specific section or page instead of the full article or book. I usually recommend that students use in-text author-date citation with full Chicago Manual of Style citations; see their Citation Quick Guide: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). However, style is less important than the cites being present. If you use an idea or a fact without attribution, you are plagiarizing someone else’s work. Plagiarism and cheating are violations of academic integrity and thus violations of Reed’s Honor Principle. As specified by Reed’s academic conduct policy, such violations will result in disciplinary actions, including suspension or permanent dismissal from the College. Plagiarism is submitting a piece of work which in part or in whole is not entirely the student’s own work without attributing those same portions to their correct source. For examples of plagiarism and how to avoid it, see [http://www.csub.edu/ssric-trd/howto/plagiarism.htm](http://www.csub.edu/ssric-trd/howto/plagiarism.htm). For more information on Reed’s policies see: [http://www.reed.edu/academic/gbook/comm_pol/acad_conduct.html](http://www.reed.edu/academic/gbook/comm_pol/acad_conduct.html).

Accommodations
If you’d like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Learning Resources Director Libby Rapkoche, Psy.D., Dorothy Johansen House, 503-517-7921, rapkoche@reed.edu. If you have a letter from Student Services, please let me know so we can discuss those accommodations.
**Week 1: Power and Morality**

8/31/09: 01.1. Introduction

9/2/09: 01.2. Power and Morality (31 Pages)

9/4/09: 01.3. Anarchy (55 Pages)
- John Locke (1824 [1689]) Two Treatises of Government. London, UK: Rivington, 338–350 EReading
  
  **Further**

**Week 2: Realism**

9/7/09: 02.1. Labor Day - No Class

9/9/09: 02.2. Realism and Levels of Analysis (68 Pages)

9/11/09: 02.3. Dena Hutto: Research

**Week 3: Mitigating Anarchy**

9/14/09: 03.1. Bandwagoning and Balancing (44 Pages)

9/16/09: 03.2. Cooperation (37 Pages)

9/18/09: 03.3. Anarchy in Practice: Croquet (12 Pages)
Week 4: Structural Critiques of Realism

9/21/09: 04.1. Discussion; Assignment 1 due at the beginning of class

9/23/09: 04.2. Institutions (66 Pages)

9/25/09: 04.3. Constructivism (49 Pages)

Week 5: Broader Critiques of Realism

9/28/09: 05.1. Feminism (50 Pages)

Further

9/30/09: 05.2. Democratic Peace (31 Pages)

Further

10/2/09: 05.3. Organizations (30 Pages)

Further
Week 6: World Wars

10/5/09: 06.1. The Political Use of Force (56 Pages)

10/7/09: 06.2. World War I (75 Pages)

Further

10/9/09: 06.3. World War II (61 Pages)

Week 7: Cold War

10/12/09: 07.1. The Bomb and the Cold War (35 Pages)

10/14/09: 07.2. Atomic Strategy (66 Pages)

10/16/09: 07.3. End of the Cold War (68 Pages)

Week 8: Fall Break - No Class

Week 9: Empire

10/26/09: 09.1. American Empire (45 Pages)

Further

10/28/09: 09.2. Clash of Civilizations (64 Pages)

10/30/09: 09.3. Failed States and Civil War (44 Pages)

Week 10: IPE

11/2/09: 10.1. Intro to IPE (39 Pages)

11/4/09: 10.2. International Law (31 Pages)
• Stanley Hoffmann (1968) The Uses and Limits of International Law. In Art and Jervis International Politics, 114–118

11/6/09: 10.3. The Cost of Iraq (40 Pages)

Further
Week 11: Globalization


11/11/09: 11.2. Globalization: Good or Bad? (49 Pages)

11/13/09: 11.3. Global Ecological Politics (55 Pages)
  <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AN=9404280908>, ISSN 1072–7825 EReading

Week 12: Nuclear Weapons

11/16/09: 12.1. Spread of Nuclear Weapons (65 Pages)
- National Intelligence Council (2007) *Iran: Nuclear Intentions and Capabilities*. Office of the Director of National Intelligence National Intelligence Estimate, 9 pages EReading
  <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AN=25069438>, ISSN 0022197X EReading

Further
  <http://dx.doi.org/10.2968/062004009> EReading

11/18/09: 12.2. Diplomacy and Nonproliferation (20 Pages)
11/20/09: 12.3. Simulation

Week 13: Networks and Weapons

11/23/09: 13.1. Discussion

11/25/09: 13.2. Proliferation Networks (60 Pages)

Further

11/27/09: 13.3. Thanksgiving Break - No Class

Week 14: Networked Politics

11/30/09: 14.1. Human Rights (42 Pages)

Further

12/2/09: 14.2. Terrorism (35 Pages)
• Bruce Hoffman (1998) What is Terrorism? In Art and Jervis International Politics, 198–204

12/4/09: 14.3. Crime (37 Pages)

Week 15: Morality and Power Redux

12/7/09: 15.1. Genocide (39 Pages)

12/9/09: 15.2. Just War (54 Pages)