

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE  
FALL 2008**

**SIS 105 --World Politics  
Section 008H  
Monday and Thursday, 3:35 – 4:50  
SIS 200**

Professor Dan Schneider

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Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00 – 5:00; Wednesday 9:00 – 1:00; and by appointment

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the subject of world politics in the contemporary world. The subject is broad, complex, and fascinating. It is constantly evolving, even as scholars try to develop theories to explain it and policy makers try to manage foreign policy from day to day. The course is designed to provide students with a solid background of the major trends and issues of current world politics, and the main (and competing) theories used by scholars and policy makers alike.

The first objective of the course is to study the major theories of international relations. These theories try to answer profound questions that have been studied for millennia: Why do countries go to war? How do countries maintain the peace? How do countries – and others – promote international cooperation? Are democratic states more peaceful, and more prosperous, than authoritarian regimes? What are the effects of globalization on international politics and the international financial and economic system?

The second objective of the course is to study the major substantive areas of the two main subfields of international relations: international security and international political economy. Our study of international security will explore the causes of international conflict, the types of conflict, post-conflict settlement, the causes and effects of terrorism, and the role that international organizations, such as NATO, play in promoting cooperation and/or mitigating conflict. Our study of international political economy will explore the pros and cons of globalization, the politics of international trade, global finance, international development and foreign aid, population growth and resource depletion, and the environment.

The third objective of the course is to understand how domestic politics and a nation's historical experiences and geographic realities influence the strategies, objectives and constraints facing policy makers, civil society groups, and other stakeholders. For this reason, a solid

understanding of geography and history is vital to developing a comprehensive understanding of the complexities of world politics.

Each class will consist of lecture and class discussion. The discussions will give students an opportunity to debate and analyze important issues, and to understand that particular values and assumptions (often not even realized by those who hold them) greatly influence the strategies and decisions of policy makers and other individuals.

The basic text we will use is *International Relations* by Joshua Goldstein and John Pevehouse (2008, 8<sup>th</sup> edition). Every week, this text will be supplemented by articles and other works, some listed below and others to be assigned later. The point of these additional readings is to more thoroughly cover various topics and to provide you with diverse points of view on a given topic.

**It is required that students read ALL the assigned material before class.**

### **General Education Program**

World Politics is one of the foundation courses in the University's General Education Program in Curricular Area 3—Global and Multicultural Perspectives; it is the first of a two-course sequence. In order to complete the sequence, students should take one of the following second-level courses in:

Cluster One—Global Perspective:

COMM-280G Contemporary Media in a Global Society

EDU-285G Education for International Development

GOVT-235G Dynamics of Political Change

HIST-225G Russia: Past and Present

IBUS-200G The Global Marketplace

LFS-200G Russia and the United States

SIS-215G Competition in an Interdependent World

SIS-220G Confronting Our Differences/Discovering Our Similarities: Conflict Resolution

SIS-255G China, Japan and the United States

SOCY-225G Contemporary Arab World

Each of these courses explores in more depth a topic introduced by World Politics.

### **Academic Integrity**

Standards of academic conduct are set forth in the University's Academic Integrity Code, which can be found in the University catalog. By registering, you have acknowledged your awareness of the Academic Integrity Code, and you are obliged to become familiar with your rights and responsibilities as defined by the Code. Violations of the Academic Integrity Code will not be treated lightly, and disciplinary actions will be taken should such violations occur. Please see me if you have any questions about the academic violations described in the Code in general or

as they relate to particular requirements for this course. You can read the University's full Academic Integrity Code here: <http://www.american.edu/academics/integrity/code/htm>

## Course Requirements

Grading for this course will be based upon the following:

Mid-term exam	25%
10 – 12 page research paper	30%
Final exam	25%
Class participation	20%

**Midterm Exam.** Worth 25% of your final grade. Scheduled for Thursday, October 16.

**Research Paper.** Worth 30% of your final grade. Due at the beginning of class on Monday, November 3. The paper should be 10 – 12 pages, have a thesis and then argue for it, making well reasoned arguments and using examples and evidence to support the argument. Students should do additional, outside research to obtain this evidence. The paper should not only advance the chosen point of view, but also pick apart opposing arguments. All papers should follow proper style, formatting, and include proper citations and a bibliography. If you need assistance with your paper or style guides, feel free to make use of the resources available from the University Writing center at [http://www.american.edu/cas/lit/writing\\_center/index.html](http://www.american.edu/cas/lit/writing_center/index.html). You will be expected to make an appointment with me to discuss your topic.

**Final Exam.** Worth 25% of your final grade. Date, time and room TBA by University Registrar.

**Class Participation.** Worth 20% of your final grade. Class participation includes attendance, being an attentive listener to other students and, most importantly, contribution to class discussions (content of comments, not volume of words).

*Students are required to follow current events on World Politics.* Contemporary events will be used to illustrate issues and topics, and students need to know what is going on in the world to fully and meaningfully participate in class discussion. Moreover, the exams may require you to use the skills and tools taught in class to analyze a current event. On a daily basis, you should be reading the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, or *Wall Street Journal*. Each week, you should also try to read *The Economist* or other quality news publication, either in print or on-line. You may wish to supplement your reading with broadcast media such as NPR, CNN, or the BBC. Be aware, however, that the network nightly news does not always cover every important issue and often gives the short-shrift to important global issues. Using global media outlets, such as the BBC, is also encouraged to provide an alternative perspective.

To be up to date on current events, you need to be an intelligent and informed consumer of news, which often requires using multiple sources. It is up to you to decide how best to keep abreast of the news. *Discussion of current events will occur in class and they may appear on the exams.*

## **Grade Range & Course Policies**

A = 100-95; A- = 94-90  
B+ 89-87; B = 86-83; B- = 82-80  
C+ = 79-77; C = 76-73; C- = 72 – 70  
D = 69-65; D- = 65-60  
F = 59 and below

## **Class Schedule and Course Readings**

**Note:** Readings from the Goldstein and Pevehouse text are referred to as “G & P.” Most of the other readings are either available on-line or have been placed on Blackboard, available at <https://blackboard.american.edu/>

### **Part I: Introduction**

#### **Week 1**

August 25 – Course Description

Discussion of identity: how does it influence international relations?

August 28 – The Theory and Practice of International Relations

G & P, chapter 1  
Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations,” *Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993  
Edward Said, “The Clash of Ignorance,” *The Nation*, October 22, 1991  
Amartya Sen, “What Clash of Civilizations? Why Religious Identity Isn’t Destiny”  
Available at [www.slate.com/id/2138731/](http://www.slate.com/id/2138731/)

### **Part II: Theories of International Relations**

#### **Week 2**

September 1 – Labor Day, no class

September 4 – Realism I

G & P, chapter 2  
Stephen Walt, “International Relations: One World, Many Theories”  
Hans J. Morgenthau, “Six Principles of Realism”

#### **Week 3**

September 8 – Liberalism

G & P, chapter 3, pp. 82 – 93

Fareed Zakaria, “The Rise of Illiberal Democracy,” *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 1997

September 11 – Constructivism and Other Theories

G & P, chapter 3, pp. 93 – 105 (skim pp. 105 – 118)

Jack Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” *Foreign Policy*, November/December 2004

#### **Week 4**

September 15 – Foreign Policy I

G & P, chapter 4

“The National Security Strategy of the United States of America,” Sept. 2002

“National Security Directive 68. The United States Objectives and Programs for National Security,” April 14, 1950 (excerpts)

September 18 – Foreign Policy II: The Difficult Choices Facing Policy Makers

#### **Class Debate: Should democracy promotion be a goal of U.S. foreign policy?**

Susan B. Epstein et al., “Democracy Promotion: Cornerstone of U.S. Foreign Policy?”

Congressional Research Service, December 2007. Available at

[www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34296.pdf](http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34296.pdf)

John McCain, “An Enduring Peace Built on Freedom,” *Foreign Affairs*, November/December

2007. Available at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20071101faessay86602/john-mccain/an-enduring-peace-built-on-freedom.html?mode=print>

Barack Obama, “Renewing America’s Leadership,” *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2007.

Available at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20070701faessay86401/barack-obama/renewing-american-leadership.html?mode=print>

### **Part III: International Conflict**

#### **Week 5**

September 22 – Types of Conflicts

G & P, chapter 5

September 25 – Case Study I: The Origins of Conflict: World War I

Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. New York: Vintage Books, 1987.  
Chapter 5

## **Week 6**

September 29 – Case Study II: The Cuban Missile Crisis

Robert F. Kennedy, *The Thirteen Days*

Richard Ned Lebow, “The Cuban Missile Crisis,” Module prepared for CIAO, August 2000

October 2 -- Military Force and Terrorism

G & P, chapter 6

Bruce Hoffman, “What is Terrorism?”

Bruce Hoffman, “The Logic of Suicide Terrorism”

## **Week 7**

October 6 – Managing Conflict through International Organizations

G & P, chapter 7, pp. 230 – 252

October 9 – International Law and Human Rights

**Class Debate: Must civil liberties be curtailed to effectively combat terrorism?**

G & P, chapter 7, pp. 252 – 272

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Thomas M. Franck, “Are Human Rights Universal?” *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2001

Other readings TBA

## **Week 8**

October 13 – Midterm Review and Discussion of Research Paper Topics

October 16 – **Midterm Exam**

## **Part IV: Globalization**

## **Week 9**

October 20 – International Trade

G & P, chapter 8

“The Doha Round ... And Round ... And Round,” *The Economist*, July 31, 2008

Available at

[http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=11848592&CFID=16852982&CFTOKEN=21280659](http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=11848592&CFID=16852982&CFTOKEN=21280659)

October 23 – Global Finance

G & P, chapter 9

### **Week 10**

October 27 – Globalization and Its Critics

G & P, chapter 10

Moises Naim, “The Five Wars of Globalization”

Martin Wolf, “Will Globalization Survive?”

October 30 – **Class Debate: Has globalization gone too far, or not far enough?**

Kenneth Scheve and Matthew Slaughter, “A New Deal for Globalization,” *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2007

## **Part V: The Environment, Population and Resource Depletion**

### **Week 11**

November 3 – The Environment and the Consequences of Rapid Population Growth

#### **Research Papers Due**

G & P, chapter 11

Robert Kaplan, “The Coming Anarchy,” *The Atlantic Monthly*, February 1994

November 6 – The Need for Collective Action

Readings TBD

## **Part VI: Global Poverty and International Development**

### **Week 12**

November 10 – Global Poverty

G & P, chapter 12, pp. 422 – 444

November 13 – Global Poverty II

G & P, chapter 12, pp. 444- 457

### **Week 13**

November 17 – International Development

G & P, chapter 13

November 20 – The Alleviation of Global Poverty

Sebastian Mallaby, “NGOs: Fighting Poverty, Hurting the Poor”

Sebastian Mallaby, *The World's Banker*, Penguin Books, New York, 2004. Pages TBA

#### **Week 14**

November 24 – The Alleviation of Global Poverty II

Hernando de Soto, *The Mystery of Capital*, Basic Books, New York, 2000. Pages TBA

William Easterly, *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, MIT Press, Cambridge, 2001. Pages TBA

November 27 – **NO CLASS -- THANKSGIVING**

#### **Part VII: Wrap-up**

#### **Week 15**

December 1 – Where do we go from here?

G & P, chapter 14

December 4 – Wrap-up