

World Politics Section 11
SIS 105-011

Class Syllabus
Spring 2009
Tuesday & Friday 9:55 to 11:10

Professor

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Description

Section 11 of World Politics will address the fundamental principles of World Politics with a strong emphasis on the relationships between the textbook theories and actual international events. Students will study six important international events since 2000 and will examine how the various theories and principles in the textbook explain or fail to describe events. The class will also place significant emphasis on the changing nature of international relations as new actors such as terrorist organizations, domestic political forces and multinational corporations become increasingly important components of the international fabric.

Goals

The goal of the course is to provide the students with a wide background of information to thoughtfully analyze and understand international events ranging from wars to terrorist events to international aid and relief efforts.

Students will learn who international actors are and how to view international events from multiple perspectives.

Class Structure

Many textbook topics will be specifically tied to one or more of the six international events to be discussed in the initial class sessions. Students will be required to write very short (less than 2 pages) papers describing how the theories presented in the readings apply to the identified international events. These papers are expected to be informal reflections of the thoughts of the students and should provide the basis for classroom discussions. Class sessions will include lectures highlighting the most salient points of the readings and class discussions of the relationships between theories and actual

international events. Classroom participation will be an important part of the students' grades.

Selected International Events

The students will be required to learn the facts of the following international events using the readings listed in the class schedule:

- Kyoto Protocols
- Build up to War in Iraq
- 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon
- Israeli-Lebanon/Hezbollah War of 2006
- Relief efforts for the 2004 Tsunami in the Indian Ocean
- The War/Tragedy of Darfur

These textbook theories and principles will be examined in the light of these events which may either support or refute the theories.

Required Readings

Students will be required to read the entire Goldstein and Prevehouse text and selected portions of other texts and web sites. The selected readings will be approximately equal in volume to the basic Goldstein and Prevehouse text. Total required reading is approximately 600 pages

Papers

Nine informal papers less than 2 pages each describing the applicability of assigned readings to specified international events. These papers are brief statements of each student's thoughts in preparation for the class discussion. Papers will be handed in at the beginning of class on the day they are due.

Students will be required to draft two versions of what they think Barack Obama's initial speech to the United Nations should say. The first version be written in the first two weeks of class. The second version will be written at the end of the course.

One term paper approximately 10 double spaced pages addressing the applicability of one of the course theories or concepts to actual international events.

Quizzes

Occasional quizzes on the required readings

Final Exam

There will be a final exam at 8:30 a.m on May 1

Grading

Short “response” papers linking the specified international events with textbook theories and issues

These papers are informal and will be graded on content. Style and eloquence will only matter to the extent they enable a reader to understand what is being communicated. Students will be graded on how completely and insightfully they recognize whether or not the selected events support the theories and issues in the assigned readings.

Class Participation

Class participation will address the same linkages between theory and events contained in the short “response” papers. Students will be graded on the quantity and quality of their classroom participation. Quality will be judged by the same criteria used to evaluate the papers.

Draft Obama speeches to the UN

The first draft speech will be graded leniently because the students will have just begun the course. It should reflect the fundamental world politics views that Obama articulated during the election campaign (including the debates with McCain and Clinton). While the paper will be graded leniently on content, the draft speeches should be well written. Basically, an “A” paper will need to be well written, make sense and be reasonably well tied to Obama’s campaign statements.

The second draft speech will be graded far tougher than the first. Not only should the speech be well-written and consistent with Obama’s views on international relations, it should also reflect a much deeper understanding of the content of international relations and issues facing the world and the United Nations.

Term Paper

The term paper is expected to thoroughly examine one of the theories or issues presented in the readings and to discuss how it is and is not supported by actual international events. The paper will be a formal paper and is expected to meet academic standards both in terms of form, citations and content. The content will be evaluated on the completeness and accuracy of the student’s description of a theory or issue and the diverse set of international events that both support and refute the selected theory or issue.

Quizzes

Quizzes will test the students' knowledge of the facts presented in the readings. Quizzes may be unannounced.

Final Exam

The final exam will test the students' knowledge of the material presented in the course. The content will include the material from the readings as well as the content from the class discussions.

Item	% of Grade
Combined 1-2 page papers	20%
Class Participation	15%
First version of draft Obama speech	5%
Second version of draft Obama speech	10%
Term Paper	25%
Combined Quizzes	5%
Final Exam	20%

Approximate Schedule

Dates	Subject	Discussion/Readings	International Events
1/13	Introductions and class overview		
1/16 & 1/23	Overview of selected international events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u><i>Crisis in Darfur</i></u> • <u><i>Darfur Crisis Continues</i></u> • <u><i>Israel – Lebanon/Hezbollah War (2006)</i></u> • <u><i>2006 Lebanon War</i></u> • <u><i>USAID Earthquake and Tsunami Reconstruction</i></u> • <u><i>US Support to Tsunami Victims</i></u> • <u><i>Kyoto Protocol- Preface</i></u> • <u><i>Should the US Ratify the Kyoto Protocol?</i></u> • <u><i>What Is the Kyoto Protocol?</i></u> • <u><i>Facts About 9/11</i></u> • <u><i>September 11 Attacks- Wikipedia</i></u> • <u><i>BBC News: Timeline Iraq</i></u> • <u><i>The Leftcoaster: Timeline Leading to Iraq</i></u> 	
1/27 & 1/30	International actors and international actions	<i>Goldstein and Prevehouse</i> Chapter 1	Review of all major actors in each international event
2/3 & 2/6	Power politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Goldstein and Prevehouse</i> Chapter 2 – pp 42-61 • <i>Quincy Wright</i> pp 756-766, • <i>Brian Jenkins</i> pp 277-292 	Kyoto Protocols, Hezbollah/Israeli war of 2006.
2/10	Alliances	<i>Goldstein and Prevehouse</i> Chapter 2 – pp 62-81	Roles of alliances in the international events.

2/13 & 2/17	Terrorism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Louise Richardson</i> pp 3-37 & 71-103 • <i>Brian Jenkins</i> pp 193 - 198 	9/11, Iraq
2/20 & 2/24	Liberal Theories	<i>Goldstein and Prevehouse</i> Chapter 3 pp 83-92	Iraq, Tsunami, Darfur
2/27	Social theories	<i>Goldstein and Prevehouse</i> Chapter 3 pp 93-104.	Kyoto Protocols, Tsunami
3/3	Gender theories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Goldstein and Prevehouse</i> Chapter 3 pp 105 - 121. • <i>Caliper study: <u>Do women rule differently?</u></i> • <i>Time Magazine</i> Margaret Thatcher • <i>Thatcher Foundation</i> The Essential Margaret Thatcher • <i>Indira Ghandi</i> • <i>Indira Ghandi's Darshan</i> • <i>Golda Meier Summary</i> • <i>New York Times</i> Golda Meier • <i>Benezir Bhutto</i> • <i>Benezir Bhutto Biography</i> 	
3/6 & 3/17	Foreign Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Goldstein and Prevehouse</i> Chapter 4: • <i>State Department, <u>Telling America's Story</u></i> 	
3/20	War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Goldstein and Prevehouse</i> Chapter 5:pp 148-187 • Wikipedia lists of wars. • <i>Quincy Wright</i> Toward a Warless World pp 1326-1350, • <i>Quincy Wright</i> The Causes of War pp 1284-1295 	Iraq, Lebanon/Iraq War of 2006
3/24	Military Force	<i>Goldstein and Prevehouse</i> Chapter 6 pp 188-229	
3/27	Terrorism and nuclear weapons	<i>Brian Jenkins</i> pp 139-154 & 183-192 & 241-276	9/11
3/31	International Organization, law and human rights	<i>Goldstein and Prevehouse</i> Chapter 7	Iraq, Darfur,

4/3 & 4/7	International Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Goldstein and Prevehouse</i> Chapters 8 & 9, • <i>Krugman</i> pp 49-68 & 117-126 & 167-185 	
4/10	International Integration	<i>Goldstein and Prevehouse</i> Chapter 10	
4/14 & 4/17	Environment and Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Goldstein and Prevehouse</i> Chapter 11 • <u><i>National Resources Defense Council</i></u> 	Kyoto Protocols
4/21	North South Gap	<i>Goldstein and Prevehouse</i> Chapter 12	Darfur
4/24	International Development	<i>Goldstein and Prevehouse</i> Chapter 13	Tsunami Relief
4/28	Wrapup		