

# World Politics

## SIS-105-012

American University  
School of International Service  
Spring 2008  
Monday & Thursday 3:35PM-4:50PM

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Office Hours: By appointment

### Course Description

*World Politics* examines patterns of conflict and cooperation in a rapidly-changing world. The primary focus is on concepts and theories which provide a framework for analyzing and understanding contemporary issues. The course examines the behavior of states and other international actors, seeks to explain foreign policies, and identifies the main characteristics of interaction among states.

### Course Objectives

- Gain familiarity with theoretical underpinnings of major debates in International Relations (IR).
- Examine major problems within IR discipline, the approaches taken to them by different theoretical camps, and how both problems and approaches change over time.
- Understand comparative and cross-cultural perspectives
- Develop critical thinking (the mental processes of discernment, analysis and evaluation) and analytical thinking (a methodical step-by-step approach to break down complex problems or processes into their constituents parts) thinking skills in order to understand both international and intercultural relations.

### Learning Outcomes

- Creation of a deeper understanding of relevance of IR theory to current events.
- Ability to assay various theoretical approaches to critical issues based on their relevance/applicability/feasibility.
- Gaining confidence in debate situations based on understanding of existing literature and the importance of research, informed intuition and classroom practice.
- Developing a professional outlook that pairs knowledge of major issues and theories with understanding of possible shortcomings to various approaches that require individual commitment to research/investigation.
- Obtaining written fluency in IR theory and issues, as evidenced in research papers.

## General Education Program

One of the foundation courses in the university's General Education Program in Curricular Area 3—Global and Multicultural Perspectives, *Global Politics* is the first of a two-course sequence. Completion of the sequence is achieved by taking one of the following second-level courses:

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

*The World Politics course is designed to prepare students to profitably explore these advanced courses.*

## Academic Integrity

Standards of academic conduct are set forth in the University's Academic Integrity Code. By registering, you have acknowledged your awareness of the Academic Integrity Code, and you are obligated 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

- Three "Spot" Examinations (3x10 percent)	30%
- Take-Home Final Examination	40%
- Seminar Attendance & Participation	30%

## Grade Range & Course Policies

Grades are assigned based upon the scale below. Overall, an “A” represents work of a superior quality. “B” represents work that meets the standard and fulfills the assignment. A “C” reflects work that either fails to meet the standard or fulfill the assignment. A “D” and below reflects work that demonstrates little to no effort and fails to meet the standard and fulfill the assignment. An “F” will only be given to work that is either plagiarized or not submitted.

### Grading Scale

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		

### Course Policies

- Late work will only be received if you have obtained prior approval obtained at least 48 hours before the due date.
- Although class attendance is mandatory, you may miss two classes of your choosing during the semester, provided you are not scheduled for specific participation in that class; other absences will be approved on a case-by-case basis, with written notice given 24 hours before the start of class. *If you are absent the day a spot examination is given, you are required to arrange with me to take up a different exam covering the same topics within two class periods (make-up exams will be given at end of a following class).*
- Beverages are permitted in class (room choice permitting); food is not.
- Cell phones must be placed on vibrating mode or turned off during class; other “texting” devices are not allowed during class.
- Laptops are allowed in class on a provisional basis – if students abuse this privilege to surf the web, chat, or just plain zone out, the privilege will be lost.
- All written assignments will be submitted digitally via the digital drop box on *Blackboard*; therefore please familiarize yourself with its operation
- Writing assignments must be submitted in 12-font Arial or Times New Roman typeface; have one-inch margins, and be double-spaced. Additional spaces in between sections are frowned upon.

### Course Readings

A wide array of IR literature will be examined during the course of study, including books, scholarly journal articles, speeches, archival research material, popular periodical literature, and Web sites. This is done to offer you the fullest range of political

commentary; in no case, however, should you use or will you be asked to use *Wikipedia*, whose material is frequently of dubious provenance. (If you wish to know why, please consult “*Wikipedia and Ethics in Online Journalism*”, which can be found at <http://aggieblue.blogspot.com/2007/08/wikipedia-and-ethics-in-online.html>.)

You will need to purchase one book for this course:

Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse, *International Relations*, Eighth Edition (2008)

Other materials used for the class will be either online or on Blackboard, or be distributed during class.

### ***The IR News Hound***

Just when you thought you had it all figured out, the news intrudes on the nirvana of certitude... which is a good thing. The following news sites, taken together, offer a useful and rounded perspective on the world events, which is what we seek in IR. Selected topics from these news services will likely appear in class discussions as we move forward.

**World Press Review:** A good general source for non-Western news, particularly the links to world newspapers that offer perspectives outside those of the U.S. mainstream media.

<http://www.worldpress.org/>

**BBC:** Popularly known as “the Beeb,” the *BBC* is seen as authoritative in many places outside the British isles.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

**The National Interest:** Conservative, and feisty for a policy journal.

<http://www.nationalinterest.org/ME2/Default.asp>

**The Guardian:** A left-of-center English newspaper, the *Guardian* speaks of and to an international audience.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

**The New York Times:** Priding itself as the U.S. “newspaper of record” *The Times* is, according to many conservatives, “of record” only if you are politically liberal.

<http://www.nytimes.com/>

**The Washington Post:** This hometown newspaper anchored itself in the big leagues with the Watergate scandal, but also got a somewhat undeserved reputation as left-of-center.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

**The Washington Times:** Unabashedly conservative and Republican, the *Washington Times* offers proof that the best news coverage requires a competitive news market.  
<http://www.washtimes.com/>

**The Financial Times:** The “*FT*” has won a select audience among U.S. newspaper readers—the type likely to be of interest to IR students and professionals—tired of the low-brow partisanship and “dumbing down” many people see in its “American” competition.  
<http://news.ft.com/home/us>

**The Nation:** More than a century old, *The Nation* is a bane to conservatives.  
<http://www.thenation.com/>

**The United Nations Web site**  
<http://www.un.org/>

### **Multinational Monitor**

The *Multinational Monitor* is a monthly magazine devoted primarily to news analyses examining the activities of multinational companies and issues involving labor, the environment, corporate crime, multilateral banks and development from a left/activist perspective.  
<http://multinationalmonitor.org>

### **Commentary Magazine**

*Commentary* describes itself as “America’s premier monthly magazine of opinion and a pivotal voice in American intellectual life ... consistently engaged with several large, interrelated questions: the fate of democracy and of democratic ideas in a world threatened by totalitarian ideologies; the state of American and Western security; the future of the Jews, Judaism, and Jewish culture in Israel, the United States, and around the world; and the preservation of high culture in an age of political correctness and the collapse of critical standards.” An important read if you are either conservative or want to know what U.S. conservatives think.  
<http://www.commentarymagazine.com>

**New America Media: Expanding the News Lens Through Ethnic Media**  
<http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/>

*New America Media* provides an interesting intersection between international and intercultural relations, albeit from a left-of-center perspective.

**Christopher Hitchens’ Web site**  
<http://www.hitchensweb.com/>

This British-born self-described “Contrarian” offers some of the most lively, intelligent and controversial analysis of the international scene. Prepare for a roller coaster of guffaws, possible cranial injuries due to vigorous nods of assent, and—from time to time—apoplectic howls of outrage. (Who said IR was dull anyway?)

I also suggest that you send an e-mail message to Mr. Ken Jensen, of the **American Committees on Foreign Relations** (ACFR; @ acfr@pipeline.com), asking him to put you on his highly informative daily news feed. The subject line of the e-mail should read: “At the suggestion of Prof. Mick Andersen”

## Course Schedule

### **Class 1: Monday, January 12: Class Introduction**

Unfortunately, my work at the National Defense University has me away on this important first day of class, and for that you have my sincere apologies. During this time, however, you will receive the course syllabus, receive a briefing about the AU Writing Clinic as well as view two or more short audio-visual presentations of interest as we start the course.

### **PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

#### **Class 2: Thursday, January 15**

We will spend the first part of the class briefly getting to know one another, outlining the objectives of the course and discussing the syllabus. The second part of the class will be used to take a preliminary look at Chapter 1, on “The Globalization of International Relations,” in the Goldstein and Pevehouse book. (Please make sure to have read the chapter before class begins—the part of your grade reflecting your level of participation in class begins now.)

*MONDAY, JANUARY 19, MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FEDERAL HOLIDAY/NO CLASS*

#### **Class 3: Thursday, January 22**

Goldstein, ch. 1, “The Globalization of International Relations”  
Rawi Abdelal and Adam Segal, “Has Globalization Passed Its Peak?” *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2007 [Blackboard]

### **PART 2: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

#### **Class 4: Monday, January 26**

Goldstein, ch. 2, “Power Politics”

#### **Class 5: Thursday, January 29**

Max Boot, “Whatever Happened to Preemption?” *Foreign Policy*, January 2009 [Blackboard]

Ray Takeyh, “Playing Power Politics with Iran,” *Boston Globe*, December 17, 2008 [Blackboard]

John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, Chapter 2 [Blackboard]

**Class 6: Monday, February 02**

Goldstein, ch. 3, "Alternatives to Power Politics"

**Class 7: Thursday, February 05**

Henry J. Richardson III, "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as an International Human Rights Leader," *Villanova Law Review*, Vol. 52, p. 471, 2007. [Blackboard]

Christos Kassimeris, "The foreign policy of small powers," *International Politics* (2009), 46, pp. 84-101 [Blackboard]

**Class 8: Monday, February 9**

Goldstein, ch. 4, "Foreign Policy"

**Class 9: Thursday, February 12**

Glenn Greenwald, "Rendering public opinion irrelevant," *Salon*, July 20, 2008 [Blackboard]

Rossen Vassilev, "Public Opinion and Bulgaria's involvement in the Iraq war," *East European Quarterly*, December 22, 2006 [Blackboard]

**Class 10: Monday, February 16**

Goldstein, ch. 6, "International Conflict"

**Class 11: Thursday, February 19**

Jerry Z. Muller, "Us and Them, The Enduring Power of Ethnic Nationalism" *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2008. [Blackboard]

Jeffrey Gettleman, "Signs in Kenya of a Land Redrawn by Ethnicity," *The Washington Post*, February 15, 2008 [Blackboard]

Recommended: Chaim Kaufmann, "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars," *International Security* vol. 20 no. 4 (Spring 1996), pp 136-75 [Blackboard]

**Class 12: Monday, February 23**

Goldstein, ch. 6, "Military Force and Terrorism"

**Class 13: Thursday, February 26**

Kenneth C. Coons, Jr. and Glenn N. Harned, "Irregular Warfare is Warfare," *Joint Forces Quarterly*, Issue 52, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2009. [Blackboard]

Jeffrey B. Cozzens, "Victory; From the Prism of Jihadi Culture," *Joint Forces Quarterly*, Issue 52, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2009. [Blackboard]

Recommended: Robert M. Gates, "A Balanced Strategy; Reprogramming the Pentagon for a New Age," *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2009. [Blackboard]

**Class 14: Monday, March 2**

Goldstein, ch.7, "International Organization, Law, and Human Rights"

**Class 15: Thursday, March 5**

Steven M. Tullberg, "Securing Human Rights of American Indians and Other Indigenous Peoples Under International Law," in Cynthia Soohoo, Catherine Albisa, and Martha F. Davis (eds.) *Bringing Human Rights Home, Volume 3, Portraits of the Movement* [Blackboard]

Raymond Henson. "Power in the Judicial Balance: United States Hegemony and the International Court of Justice," Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Aug 31, 2006 [Blackboard]

Martin Edwin Andersen, "Is torture an option in the war on terror?" *Insight on the News*, June 17, 2002 [Blackboard]

**MARCH 8-15: SPRING BREAK/NO CLASS**

**PART 3: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**

**Class 16: Monday, March 16**

Goldstein, ch. 8, "International Trade"

**Class 17: Monday, March 19**

Aaditya Mattoo and Arvind Subramanian, "From Doha to the Next Bretton Woods; A New Multilateral Trade Agenda," *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2009 [Blackboard]

Marcel Thach, "Financial Crisis 2009: A chance to integrate China into the global economy?" The Henry Jackson Society, January 5, 2009 [Blackboard]

**Class 18: Monday, March 23**

Goldstein, ch. 9, "Money and Business"

**Class 19: Thursday, March 26**

Thomas Donaldson, "Moral Minimums for Multinationals," *Ethics & International Affairs*, Volume 3 (1989) [Blackboard]

Gare Smith, An Introduction to Corporate Social Responsibility in the Extractive Industries, Vol. 11, *Yale Human Rights & Development L.J.* (2008) [Blackboard]

**[ONE-PAGE OUTLINE OF PROPOSED TOPIC TO BE ADDRESSED IN FINAL EXAMINATION ESSAY—BASED ON ONE OF THE 13 AREAS COVERED IN THE GOLDSTEIN/PEVEHOUSE BOOK DUE AT END OF CLASS]**

**Class 20: Monday, March 29**

Goldstein, ch. 10, "International Integration"

**Class 21: Thursday, April 2**

Eric Stein, "International Integration and Democracy: No Love at First Sight," *The American Journal of International Law*, Vol. 95, No. 3 (Jul., 2001), pp. 489-534 [Blackboard]

Kelly Hearn, "For Peru's Indians, Lawsuit Against Big Oil Reflects a New Era," *The Washington Post*, January 14, 2008. [Blackboard]

**Class 22: Monday, April 6**

Goldstein, ch. 11, "Environment and Population"

**Class 23: Thursday, April 9**

Indigenous Peoples and the Right to Free Prior Informed Consent," International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) educational fact sheet [Blackboard]

Talli Nauman, "The Green Line: Declaration augurs stronger environmental protection," *El Universal/The Herald*, September 25, 2006 [Blackboard]

"The Anthropologist: Steve Schwartzman: Fighting Global Warming by Slowing Tropical Deforestation," Environmental Defense Fund, February 21, 2008 [Blackboard]

**Class 24: Monday, April 13**

Goldstein, ch. 12, "The North-South Gap"

**Class 25: Thursday, April 16**

Ania Loomba, *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*. New York and London: Routledge, 2005. pp. 7-53 [Blackboard]

Paul Collier, "The Politics of Hunger; How Illusion and Greed Fan the Food Crisis," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2008. [Blackboard]

**Class 26: Monday, April 20**

Goldstein, ch. 13, "International Development"

**Class 27: Thursday, April 23**

Abigail Mahony, "Great Decisions 2008 Fall Updates: China Trade," Foreign Policy Association [Blackboard]

Michael T. Klare, "The China Syndrome," *Foreign Policy In Focus*, March 5, 2008 [Blackboard]

Eric Toussaint, "China and India: Two Models?" Global Research, January 31, 2008 [Blackboard]

Steve Levitsky and Lucan A. Way "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy* 13: 2 (April 2002). [Blackboard]

J. Brian Atwood, M. Peter McPherson, and Andrew Natsios, "Arrested Development: Making Foreign Aid a More Effective Tool," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2008 [Blackboard]

**Class 28: Thursday, April 27**

During the last class we will review our trajectory over the course of the semester and discuss any questions having to do with final examination essay.

**FINAL EXAM ESSAY—20 TO 25 PAGES—DUE NO LATER THAN 6:00 P.M.  
FRIDAY, MAY 1**