

Course Syllabus

International Relations

PSCI 3328 – Fall 2010

v1.0 080920010

Course Information

Dr. Brandon Kinne
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00–4:00pm

Office: GR 3.824

E-mail: brandon.kinne@utd.edu

Web: <http://www.utdallas.edu/~bxk09100>

Class: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:30am–12:45pm

Location: CN 1.120

Teaching Assistant: Calin Scoggins

TA Email: cjs061000@utdallas.edu

TA Hours: Thursday 2:00–4:00pm (GR 3.318)

Course Prerequisites

The readings and lectures assume that students have taken at least one prior course in political science, political economy, comparative politics, or a similar subject.

Course Description

This course introduces students to the major concepts, theories, and empirical puzzles in international relations. We will cover such topics as:

- Different approaches to analyzing and understanding world events
- Key actors in world politics, from states, to multinational corporations, to transnational activist groups
- Causes of cooperation and conflict
- International economic interests and their influence on conflict
- The principles of international organization, international law, and humanitarian intervention
- Emerging challenges in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, including globalization, terrorism, the rise of China, the Iraq War, and the problem of “rogue states”

Student Learning Objectives

This course has two objectives. First, students will learn about issues related to the subject matter of the course and will increase their knowledge of world politics. Second, in addition to “information processing,” students will use the concepts covered in the course to examine and interpret world political events in a critical, systematic way. The course’s exams and quizzes are meant to assess how well students meet these objectives.

Required Textbooks and Materials

- Mingst, Karen A., and Jack L. Snyder. 2008. *Essential Readings in World Politics*. Third edition. New York: Norton.
- Russett, Bruce, Harvey Starr, and David Kinsella. 2010. *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*. Ninth edition. Boston: Wadsworth.

The reading load is fairly light, averaging 40-50 pages per week. Our primary textbook is *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*. A course reader, *Essential Readings in World Politics*, will be used to supplement the textbook readings. We will also occasionally incorporate outside materials, such as magazines, newspapers, or journal articles. Be aware that *all the readings are equally important*. Even those readings not from your textbook can (and will) be used for questions on exams and quizzes.

There may be minor adjustments to the reading assignments over the course of the semester. In such cases, I will post an updated syllabus and make an in-class announcement.

Course & Instructor Policies

Class participation accounts for 10% of your grade. Attendance is mandatory. The lectures will not summarize the readings but will instead synthesize course materials, clarify key concepts, introduce ideas not covered in the readings, and, most importantly, help students to develop a conceptual framework for thinking about world politics. All lecture content is fair game for exams and quizzes. My lecture notes will not be posted, so the only way to ensure that you're current on all potential exam material is to attend the lectures.

In addition to attendance, participation requires regular contributions to classroom discussions. While this course is not intended as a survey of current events, the vast majority of what we study will bear directly on real-world events. We will frequently discuss how the course content helps us to better understand contemporary world politics. As always, quality of input is more important than quantity.

There will be four quizzes during the semester, as indicated in the class schedule below. Each quiz will last 10-15 minutes and will consist either of multiple choice questions or short definitions of key terms. Questions and terms will be drawn from the lectures and/or readings, and will focus on recently covered material.

Finally, there will be two exams, which together constitute 70% of your grade. Exams will be a combination of definitions, short answers, and multiple choice questions.

For quizzes, students must bring a Scantron sheet and a #2 pencil. For exams, students must bring a Scantron, a blue book, and a #2 pencil.

Grading Policy

- Four in-class quizzes (5% each)
- Exam 1 (30%)

- Exam 2 (40%)
 - Class participation (10%)
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Part I – The International System

AUGUST 19 – INTRODUCTION

AUGUST 24 – LEVELS OF ANALYSIS

- RSK pp. 3–25

AUGUST 26 – IR THEORY I: LIBERALISM, REALISM, RADICALISM

- RSK pp. 27–31
- MS pp. 4–11 (Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories”)
- MS pp. 26–28 (Wilson, “The Fourteen Points”)
- MS pp. 56–60 (Morgenthau, “A Realist Theory of International Politics” and “Political Power”)
- MS pp. 18–24 (Lenin, *Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism*)

AUGUST 31 – IR THEORY II: RATIONALISM, CONSTRUCTIVISM, BEHAVIORISM

- RSK pp. 31–43

SEPTEMBER 2 – THE STATE AS ACTOR

- RSK pp. 51–66
- MS pp. 176–195 (Krasner, “Sharing Sovereignty”)

SEPTEMBER 7 – STRUCTURE, POLARITY, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF POWER

- RSK pp. 75–103

SEPTEMBER 9 – SOURCES OF STATE POWER

- **QUIZ 1**

- RSK pp. 111–122

SEPTEMBER 14 – NON-STATE ACTORS

- RSK pp. 66-73
- MS pp. 279-290 (Keck and Sikkink, “Transnational Advocacy Networks” and “Human Rights Advocacy Networks”)

Part II – The Three Sub-Fields: Security, Political Economy, and Organization

International Security

SEPTEMBER 16 – WAR, CONFLICT, POLICY

- RSK pp. 193-208
- MS 334-337 (Clausewitz, “War As an Instrument of Policy”)

SEPTEMBER 21 – ARMS RACES AND THE SECURITY DILEMMA

- RSK pp. 227-248

SEPTEMBER 23 – GUEST LECTURER, DR. MARIE CHEVRIER ON ARMS CONTROL

- Readings TBA

SEPTEMBER 28 – DETERRENCE AND BRINKMANSHIP

- RSK pp. 249-253
- Film: *The Fog of War*

SEPTEMBER 30 – EXAM 1

International Political Economy

OCTOBER 5 – POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

- RSK pp. 333-342

- MS 479-486 (Gilpin, “The Nature of Political Economy”)

OCTOBER 7 – ECONOMICS AND SECURITY

- RSK pp. 342-362

OCTOBER 12 – TRADE AND INTERDEPENDENCE

- RSK pp. 363-395

OCTOBER 14 – THE NORTH-SOUTH GAP

- **QUIZ 2**
- RSK 431-452

International Organization

OCTOBER 19 – THE EUROPEAN UNION AND SUPRANATIONALISM

- RSK pp. 397-411
- MS 273-279 (Moravcsik, “A Too Perfect Union? Why Europe Said No”)
- Background on the EU (skim)
 - <http://europa.eu/abc/index.en.htm>
 - <http://europa.eu/abc/12lessons/index.en.htm>

OCTOBER 21 – THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

- RSK pp. 287-298
- UN Charter, Chapter VII (read)
 - <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter7.shtml>

OCTOBER 26 – INTERNATIONAL LAW AND WORLD ORDER

- RSK pp. 261-279
- MS pp. 310-315 (Kissinger, “The Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction”)

- MS pp. 316-319 (Roth, “The Case for Universal Jurisdiction”)

OCTOBER 28 – HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

- **QUIZ 3**
- RSK pp. 279-287
- MS pp. 290-310 (Power, “Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen”)

Part III: New Developments and Challenges

NOVEMBER 2 – THE LIBERAL PEACE

- RSK pp. 299-329

NOVEMBER 4 – CIVIL WAR

- RSK pp. 208-218

NOVEMBER 9 – TERRORISM

- RSK pp. 218-225
- Sageman, Marc. “The Next Generation of Terror,” in *Foreign Policy*, March/April 2008, pp. 36-42.

NOVEMBER 11 – SOFT POWER

- **QUIZ 4**
- RSK pp. 105-111
- Nye, Joseph. “The Decline of America’s Soft Power,” in *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2004, pp. 16-20.

NOVEMBER 16 – GLOBALIZATION

- RSK pp. 418-429
- MS pp. 535-542 (Naím, “The Five Wars of Globalization”)

NOVEMBER 18 – THE RISE OF CHINA

- Readings TBA

NOVEMBER 23 – IRAQ, IRAN, AND AFGHANISTAN

- Readings TBA

NOVEMBER 25 – THANKSGIVING, NO CLASS!

NOVEMBER 30 – A CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS?

- RSK pp. 499-506
- MS pp. 203-209 (Huntington, “Clash of Civilizations?”)
- MS pp. 598-601 (Sen, “Universal Truths: Human Rights and the Westernizing Illusion”)

DECEMBER 2 – EXAM 2

University Policies <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.