

COURSE SYLLABUS

International Relations

PSCI 3328 – Fall 2011

v1.0 081820011

Course Information

Dr. Brandon J Kinne
Office hours: Thur. 2:00–4:00pm (GR 3.822)
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Class: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:30am–12:45pm
Location: ECSS 2.412
TA: Calin Scoggins (calin.scoggins@gmail.com)
TA hours: Tue. 10:00–11:00am (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:

- Analytical approaches to interpreting 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 the relationship between economics and conflict
- Principles of international organization, international law, and humanitarian intervention
- Emerging challenges in the 21st century, including globalization, terrorism, the rise of China, the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, nuclear proliferation and “rogue states,” and the diffusion of democracy

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 exams and quizzes of the course assess how successfully students meet these objectives.

Required Textbooks and Materials

- Mingst, Karen A., and Jack L. Snyder. 2011. *Essential Readings in World Politics*. Fourth 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 averages 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 the textbooks 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, an updated syllabus will be posted and an in-class announcement will be made.

Course & Instructor Policies

Attendance & Participation

Class participation accounts for 10% of the final 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. Lecture notes will not be posted or circulated (though lecture outlines will typically be available on eLearning).

In addition to attendance, participation requires regular contributions to classroom discussions. As always, quality of input is more important than quantity. While this course is not intended as a survey of current events, nearly all the course topics bear directly on politics in the real world. We will frequently discuss how the course content helps us to better understand contemporary global events. In order to make fruitful contributions to classroom discussion, students are encouraged to stay up-to-date on international news. For extensive coverage of international events (not always from an American perspective), consider such sources as:

- <http://www.economist.com/topics/world-politics>
- <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/index.html>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/>
- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world>
- <http://news.google.com/?ned=us&topic=w>
- <http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/>
- <http://english.aljazeera.net/>

Given the size of the class, students may also increase their participation grade by contributing to online discussions in the class's eLearning forum. As with classroom discussion, quality of contribution trumps quantity. Please be respectful of your fellow students. Uncivil forum behavior will automatically result in a participation grade of zero for the course (and may warrant more severe action).

Quizzes

There will be four quizzes during the semester, as indicated in the class schedule below. Each quiz will last 15 minutes and will consist of eight questions in multiple-choice format. Questions will be drawn from the lectures and/or readings, and will focus on recently covered material. *Barring exceptional circumstances, there are no make-up quizzes; a missed quiz receives a grade of zero. Students must provide their own Scantron sheet and #2 pencil for all quizzes.*

Exams

There will be two exams, which together constitute 70% of the final grade. Exams will be a combination of definitions, short answers, and multiple choice questions. *Barring exceptional circumstances, there are no make-up exams; a missed exam receives a grade of zero. Students must provide their own Scantron, blue book, and #2 pencil for all exams.*

Grading Policy

Final grades are determined as follows:

Four in-class quizzes (5% each)
Exam 1 (30%)
Exam 2 (40%)
Class participation (10%)

The grading scale is:

A+ = 97% and up
A = 93–96%
A- = 90–92%
B+ = 87–89%
B = 83–86%
B- = 80–82%
C+ = 77–79%
C = 73–76%
C- = 70–72%
D = 65–69%
F = 64% and lower

AUGUST 25 – INTRODUCTION

Part I – The International System

AUGUST 30 – LEVELS OF ANALYSIS

- RSK pp. 3–25

SEPTEMBER 1 & 6 – THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- RSK pp. 27–43
- MS pp. 2–10 (Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories”)

- MS pp. 17–19 (Wilson, “The Fourteen Points”)
- MS pp. 26–30 (Morgenthau, “A Realist Theory of International Politics” and “Political Power”)
- MS pp. 50–64 (Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics”)

SEPTEMBER 8 – THE STATE AS ACTOR

- RSK pp. 51–66
- MS pp. 131–150 (Krasner, “Sharing Sovereignty”)

SEPTEMBER 13 – STRUCTURE, POLARITY, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF POWER

- RSK pp. 75–103
- Recommended: MS pp. 99–104 (Morgenthau, “The Balance of Power,” “Different Methods of the Balance of Power,” and “Evaluation of the Balance of Power”)

SEPTEMBER 15 – SOURCES OF STATE POWER

- **QUIZ 1**
- RSK pp. 111–122

SEPTEMBER 20 – NON-STATE ACTORS

- RSK pp. 66–73
- MS pp. 253–264 (Keck and Sikkink, “Transnational Advocacy Networks” and “Human Rights Advocacy Networks”)

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

International Security

SEPTEMBER 22 – WAR, CONFLICT, POLICY

- RSK pp. 193–208
- MS pp. 334–337 (Clausewitz, “War As an Instrument of Policy”)
- Recommended: MS pp. 349–374 (Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War”)

SEPTEMBER 27 – DOMESTIC POLITICS AND FOREIGN POLICY

- RSK pp. 135–162

SEPTEMBER 29 – ARMS RACES AND THE SECURITY DILEMMA

- RSK pp. 227–248
- Recommended: MS pp. 335–349 (Jervis, “Cooperation under the Security Dilemma”)

OCTOBER 4 – DETERRENCE, BRINKMANSHIP, AND ARMS CONTROL

- RSK pp. 249–260
- MS pp. 326–334 (Schelling, “The Diplomacy of Violence”)

OCTOBER 6 – **EXAM 1**

International Political Economy

OCTOBER 11 – POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

- RSK pp. 333–342
- MS 485–492 (Gilpin, “The Nature of Political Economy”)

OCTOBER 13 – ECONOMICS AND SECURITY

- RSK pp. 342–362

OCTOBER 18 – TRADE AND INTERDEPENDENCE

- RSK pp. 363–395

OCTOBER 20 – THE NORTH-SOUTH GAP

- **QUIZ 2**
- RSK pp. 431–452

- Recommended: MS pp. 542–554 (Humphreys et al., “What Is the Problem with Natural Resource Wealth?”)

International Organization

OCTOBER 25 – THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

- RSK pp. 287–298
- MS pp. 224–232 (Fortna, “Does Peacekeeping Work?”)
- UN Charter, Chapter VII (read)
 - <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter7.shtml>

OCTOBER 27 – THE EUROPEAN UNION, SUPRANATIONALISM, AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

- RSK pp. 397–418
- Background on the EU (skim)
 - http://europa.eu/abc/index_en.htm
 - http://europa.eu/abc/12lessons/index_en.htm

NOVEMBER 1 – INTERNATIONAL LAW AND WORLD ORDER

- RSK pp. 261–279
- MS pp. 265–270 (Kissinger, “The Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction”)
- MS pp. 270–274 (Roth, “The Case for Universal Jurisdiction”)
- Recommended: MS pp. 274–291 (Rodman, “Is Peace in the Interests of Justice?”)

NOVEMBER 3 – HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

- **QUIZ 3**
- RSK pp. 279–287
- MS pp. 233–253 (Power, “Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen”)

Part III: New Developments and Challenges

NOVEMBER 8 – CIVIL WAR

- RSK pp. 208–218
- Bass, Gary J. “What Really Causes Civil War?” in *New York Times*, August 13, 2006. http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/13/magazine/13wwln_idealab.html

NOVEMBER 10 – TERRORISM

- RSK pp. 218–225
- MS pp. 392–415 (Kydd & Walter, “The Strategies of Terrorism”)

NOVEMBER 15 – 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. Access from UTD campus, off-campus proxy, or VPN: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/20033972.pdf>

NOVEMBER 17 – GLOBALIZATION

- RSK pp. 418–429
- MS pp. 554–573 (Stiglitz, “Freefall: America, Free Markets, and the Sinking of the World Economy”)

NOVEMBER 22 – THE RISE OF CHINA

- Readings TBA

NOVEMBER 24 – THANKSGIVING, NO CLASS!

NOVEMBER 29 – “THE ARAB SPRING”

- Readings TBA

DECEMBER 1 – IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN (AND LIBYA?)

- Readings TBA

DECEMBER 6 – EXAM 2

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

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