

COURSE SYLLABUS

International Relations

PSCI 3328 – Fall 2013

v1.0 07312013

Course Information

Dr. Brandon J Kinne	Class: Tuesday & Thursday, 2:30–3:45pm
Office hours: Thur. 9:00–11:30am (GR 3.822)	Location: CN 1.120
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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, civil war, and the Arab Spring

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

- Kinsella, David, Bruce Russett, and Harvey Starr. 2013. *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*. Tenth edition. Boston: Wadsworth. **NOTE:** The ninth edition of this text is also acceptable, and is *much cheaper!*
- Mingst, Karen A., and Jack L. Snyder. 2011. *Essential Readings in World Politics*. Fourth edition. New York: Norton.

The reading load averages 40–50 pages per week. Our primary textbook is *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*. You may use either the ninth or tenth edition of the textbook. (Page numbers for ninth edition are listed in parentheses.) 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://www.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%)
Attendance & 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 27 – INTRODUCTION

Part I – The International System

AUGUST 29 – LEVELS OF ANALYSIS

- KRS pp. 3–20 (3–25 in 9th ed.)

SEPTEMBER 3 & 5 – THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- KRS pp. 21–35 (27–43 in 9th ed.)
- 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 10 – THE STATE AS ACTOR

- KRS pp. 43–56 (51–64 in 9th ed.)
- MS pp. 131–150 (Krasner, “Sharing Sovereignty”)

SEPTEMBER 12 & 17 – STRUCTURE, POLARITY, AND POWER

- KRS pp. 67–88 (75–103, 111–122 in 9th ed.)
- MS pp. 99–104 (Morgenthau, “The Balance of Power,” “Different Methods of the Balance of Power,” and “Evaluation of the Balance of Power”)

SEPTEMBER 19 – NON-STATE ACTORS

- **QUIZ 1**
- KRS pp. 57–66 (66–73 in 9th ed.)
- 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 24 – WAR, CONFLICT, POLICY

- KRS pp. 159–175 (193–208 in 9th ed.)
- MS pp. 334–337 (Clausewitz, “War As an Instrument of Policy”)
- Recommended: MS pp. 349–374 (Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War”)

SEPTEMBER 26 – DOMESTIC POLITICS AND FOREIGN POLICY

- KRS pp. 99–123 (135–162 in 9th ed.)

OCTOBER 1 & 3 – ARMS, SECURITY DILEMMA, AND DETERRENCE

- KRS pp. 191–226 (227–260, 342–362 in 9th ed.)
- MS pp. 326–334 (Schelling, “The Diplomacy of Violence”)
- Recommended: MS pp. 335–349 (Jervis, “Cooperation under the Security Dilemma”)

OCTOBER 8 – **EXAM 1**

International Political Economy

OCTOBER 10 & 15 – POLITICS, ECONOMICS, AND INTERDEPENDENCE

- KRS pp. 263–270, 289–320 (333–336, 363–395 in 9th ed.)
- MS 485–492 (Gilpin, “The Nature of Political Economy”)

OCTOBER 17 – GLOBALIZATION

- KRS pp. 344–353 (418–429 in 9th ed.)
- MS pp. 554–573 (Stiglitz, “Freefall: America, Free Markets, and the Sinking of the World Economy”)

OCTOBER 22 – THE NORTH-SOUTH GAP

- **QUIZ 2**
- KRS pp. 355–379 (431–452 in 9th ed.)
- Recommended: MS pp. 542–554 (Humphreys et al., “What Is the Problem with Natural Resource Wealth?”)

International Organization

OCTOBER 24 – IGOs AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

- KRS pp. 257–263, 270–286 (287–298 in 9th ed.)
- UN Charter, Chapter VII (read)
 - <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter7.shtml>
- Recommended: MS pp. 224–232 (Fortna, “Does Peacekeeping Work?”)

OCTOBER 29 – THE EUROPEAN UNION, SUPRANATIONALISM, AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

- KRS pp. 321–343 (397–418 in 9th ed.)
- Background on the EU (skim)
 - http://europa.eu/abc/index_en.htm
 - http://europa.eu/abc/12lessons/index_en.htm

OCTOBER 31 & NOVEMBER 5 – INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- KRS pp. 227–256 (261–287 in 9th ed.)
- MS pp. 265–270 (Kissinger, “The Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction”)
- MS pp. 270–274 (Roth, “The Case for Universal Jurisdiction”)
- MS pp. 233–253 (Power, “Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen”)
- Recommended: MS pp. 274–291 (Rodman, “Is Peace in the Interests of Justice?”)

Part III: New Developments and Challenges

NOVEMBER 7 – CIVIL WAR

- **QUIZ 3**
- KRS pp. 175–183 (208–218 in 9th ed.)
- 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 12 – TERRORISM

- KRS pp. 183–190 (218–225 in 9th ed.)
- MS pp. 392–415 (Kydd & Walter, “The Strategies of Terrorism”)

NOVEMBER 14 – SOFT POWER

- Nye, Joseph. “Public Diplomacy and Soft Power,” in *The ANNALS of the American Academic of Political and Social Science* 2008, vol. 616, no. 1, pp. 94–109. Access from UTD campus, off-campus proxy, or VPN: <http://ann.sagepub.com/content/616/1/94.full.pdf+html> or <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/25097996.pdf>.

NOVEMBER 19 – THE RISE OF CHINA

- Readings TBA

NOVEMBER 21 – THE ARAB SPRING

- **QUIZ 4**
- Readings TBA

NOVEMBER 26, 28 – FALL BREAK / THANKSGIVING. NO CLASS.

DECEMBER 3 – IRAQ

- Readings TBA

DECEMBER 5 – AFGHANISTAN

- Readings TBA

DECEMBER 10 – **EXAM 2**

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

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