

Fall 2015
INR 2002 Introduction to World Politics

Dr. Timothy Steigenga
HC 104

Phone: ext. 6-8610

Email: tsteigen@fau.edu

Office Hours: T-Th: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

T-Th: 9:30a.m. – 10:50a.m.

AD 102

Course Content, Goals, and Objectives:

This course focuses on the interactions between nation states, intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and other international actors. We will attempt to answer questions about the nature of the international system, why nations go to war, how foreign policy is constructed, and what the future holds in terms of the evolution of international relations. The course covers important issues in the areas of: the structure of the international system, war and the use of force (including low intensity conflict, terrorism and anti-terrorism, nuclear deterrence, nuclear proliferation, and psychological theories of war), competing and complimentary theories of foreign policy, global issues (ranging from political economy and north-south relations to interdependence, regional integration, globalization, transnationalism, and environmental politics), and the future of world politics. Students who successfully complete this course should have a basic understanding of: the major approaches used by social scientists to explain the interactions between nations and other international actors; the forces that shape the modern international system; the cultural, socio-economic, and religious factors that influence contemporary world politics; distinctions between national identity and state identity; and critiques of bounded disciplinary approaches to interpreting world politics. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Required Texts:

The following book is required for the course:

Available at the bookstore or Amazon: Charles W. Kegley Jr. and Shannon L. Blanton *World Politics 2012-2013 Edition* (K)

All other readings are in PDF form on Blackboard.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Exams: There will be two exams and a non-cumulative final for this course.

Grading:

Participation	10 percent
Exam 1	25 percent
Exam 2	25 percent
Final Exam	25 percent
Study Questions	15 percent

I will use the following system for translating number grades into letters:

93-100 = A 87-89 = B+ 80-82 = B-
90-92 = A- 83-86 = B 77-79 = C+ etc.

Attendance, Participation, and Exam Policy: Students are expected to attend class and participate in class discussion. I will keep an attendance record. My rule of thumb for grading participation is that everyone starts with a B- (81%) for showing up to class. If you participate, the grade goes up from there. If you miss classes, the grade goes down from there. If you have difficulties speaking in class, feel free to email me with your questions or comments and you will receive credit toward your class participation grade.

Exam Policy: You must notify your professor at least 24 hours in advance if you cannot take the exam or participate in a class assignment. Unexcused absences from an exam or assignment will result in a grade of "zero" for the exam or assignment. Absence due to illness, death in the family, court appearance, etc. will only be excused upon valid documentation, provided the absences are not excessive. Exams will consist of short essay questions, identifications, and multiple choice questions.

Study Questions: the syllabus contains study/discussion questions based on the readings. You are expected to think about these questions as you do your readings and be prepared to discuss them in class. To receive credit you must **type up answers to the questions and bring them to class** on the day for which they are assigned. To check that you are completing the questions, I will collect your responses three times **randomly** during the semester (each counts as 5 points toward your final grade). **All responses must be typed and printed. You will not receive credit for responses sent after class starts or via email.** Please note that there are no study questions assigned after exam 2.

Academic Integrity Policy: Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001 and <http://www.fau.edu/divdept/honcol/students/honorcode.html>. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the entire course.

Classroom Etiquette Policy: In order to enhance and maintain a productive atmosphere for education, personal communication devices, such as cellular telephones, laptops, and pagers, are to be disabled in class sessions.

"In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and follow all procedures. The OSD is a part of Diversity Student Services on the MacArthur Campus in Jupiter and is located in the Student Resource building in SR 117. The phone number is 561-799-8585, and the TTY number is 561-799-8565."

Course Outline

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS AND STUDY QUESTIONS
Tues. Aug 18	Introduction to the Class	
Thurs. Aug 20	The Theoretical Perspectives of Realism and Idealism: From Thucydides to Morgenthau	Thucydides, The Melian Dialogue Read: K pp. 2-4, 11-35. What examples of Realism are prominent in this dialogue? Who seems like an idealist and why?
Tues. Aug 25	Is Realism Still Relevant? Facing the Critics and evaluating IR Theory	A+J pp. 1-27 Hans J. Morgenthau and J. Ann Tickner Scowcroft Versus Greenberg K pp. 35-51 How does Tickner critique Morgenthau? Do you agree with her? Why or why not?
Thurs. Aug 27	Anarchy and the Security Dilemma: Neorealism in International Relations	A+J pp. 29-49 "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics" Kenneth N.Waltz A+J pp. 178-198 "Offense, Defense and the Security Dilemma" Robert Jervis What is the character of the units in the international system according to Waltz? What is meant by the security dilemma? Why does it matter if the offense or defense has the advantage?
Tues. Sept 1	Balance of Power Theory: Alliance Formation, Multipolarity and Bipolarity	K pp. 266-278 A+J pp. 96-103 "Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning" Stephen M. Walt What is the difference between balance of power theory and balance of threat theory? Is balance of threat a critique of realism? How?
Thurs. Sept 3	The Beginning and the End of the Cold War: Do We Miss It and Why?	Read: K pp. 83-105
Tues. Sept 8	From the New World Order to 9/11: American Primacy in Perspective and the Rise of Ne-Conservatism	K, pp. 106-115. A+J pp. 454-460, G. John Ikenberry "America's Imperial Ambition" What is the Bush Doctrine and why is it so revolutionary? Do we now face imperial dangers? If so, what are they?
Thurs. Sept 10	International Order and the Mitigation of Anarchy	Review K pp. 29-46, 321-322 A+J pp. 61-68, Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy Is What States Make of It" Define what we mean by order in the international system. What does Wendt mean when he claims that anarchy is what states make of it?
Tues. Sept 15	Complex Interdependence, Regimes, and Hegemonic Stability Theory	K 32, 212-213.

Thurs. Sept 17	The Scope and Limits of International Law	K 220-221, 303-320 Video: Frontline: "On our Watch: Darfur."
Tues. Sept 22	International Organizations and the United Nations	K Chapter 6: 147-195 Betts, "The Delusion of Impartial Intervention"
Thurs. Sept 24	International Organizations and the United Nations	
Tues. Sept 29	EXAM 1	
Thurs. Oct 1	War and the Use of Force: War as a Psychological Concept	Video: "Faces of the Enemy"
Tues. Oct 6	Why Nations Go to War: Levels of Analysis	A+J pp. 149-162 "The Diplomacy of Violence" Thomas C. Schelling K Chapter 7: 195-213 I Has the utility of military power dropped significantly during the past 30 years? Why or why not? What is the difference between coercive diplomacy and the simple use of force?
Thurs. Oct 8	Civil Wars, Nationalism, and Terrorism	K Chapter 7: 214-233 A+J pp. 415-430, Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" Did Huntington correctly predict that we would enter a "Clash of Civilizations"? Why or why not? Is ethnic separation the best way to end an ethnic civil war? Why or why not?
Tues. Oct 13	Low Intensity Warfare, Small Arms Proliferation, and the Costs of Preparing for War	K Chapter 8: 234-265 (review K 266-278).
Thurs. Oct 15	Sanctions Policy: Economic Warfare and Coercion	John Mueller and Karl Mueller, "Sanctions of Mass Destruction" (cpk). Jesse Helms, "What Sanctions Epidemic?" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (Jan-Feb.) 1999 (cpk) K 373-375 What are the downsides to the use of sanctions? Why do we use sanctions so often? How would realists and idealists differ on the issue of sanctions use?
Tues. Oct 20	The Nuclear Game: Nuclear Deterrence	K 250-254.

Thurs. Oct 22	Nuclear Proliferation and Arms Control	K Chapter 9, 279-292 Video: Frontline, Missile Wars
Tues. Oct 27	Foreign Policy :The Rational Actor in Political Decision Making	K Chapter 3 What is the "unitary rational actor" assumption in theories of IR and why is it important to the theories of realism and neorealism? What sorts of things undermine the "unitary rational actor" assumption? Give at least one specific example in terms of US foreign policy.
Thurs. Oct 29	Video: Frontline: “Hot Politics”	As you watch the video, consider how bureaucratic politics, individual factors, and short and long-term domestic political calculations impact decision making on climate change.
Tues. Nov 3	Bureaucratic Politics, Perception and Misperception in Foreign Policy	K Chapter 3, and pages 5-11 Alexander L. George 491-507 (blackboard) How does bureaucratic politics relate to the rational actor assumption? How does “value complexity” impact policy decisions? What are the options for dealing with value complexity? How would this apply to the burqa controversy in France?
Thurs. Nov 5	Exam 2	
Tues. Nov 10	International Political Economy: Mercantilism, Liberalism, and the Bretton Woods System	K Chapter 10 Video: The Crash
Thurs. Nov 12	North-South Economic Relations: Imperialism, Colonialism, Interdependence, and Globalization	K Chapters 10 and 11 Using the video and your readings explain how the world economic system is related to the crash. What is moral hazard? What does it have to do with the crash?
Tues. Nov 17	Globalization and Human Rights: Putting Humans into Human Rights	K Chapters 12 and 13
Thurs. Nov 19	The Eco-politics of the Environment	K Chapter 14
Tues. Nov 24	The Future of World Politics and the Theory (or lack of theory) to Explain It	K Chapter 15
Nov 26-29	Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving Break
Nov 30-Dec 2	Reading Days	
Thurs. Dec 3	FINAL EXAM—7:45am- 10:15am	

