

WORLD POLITICS  
Political Science 333  
Kansas State University  
Spring 2005

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Office Hours:  
Friday 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
-and by appointment

Purpose

The purpose of this course is to offer a broad introduction to the study of world politics. The basic goal is to introduce students to the range of phenomena that comprise international politics and to develop the students ability to think critically about global events. Among the topics to be discussed are how foreign policies are made, the international economy, diplomacy, international law and organizations, and war. In short, this is an introductory course designed to touch upon a wide variety of phenomena that make up international politics. Although this is in no way a "current events" course, current international events will occasionally be related to your readings and lectures to provide some insight into important contemporary issues.

It is hoped that by the end of the semester students will not only be more aware of important problems and patterns in the international system, they will also be more astute analysts of world events. This is a lofty goal, but nevertheless there are no prerequisites for this course--we will attempt to build an understanding of global politics from the ground up.

Reading

Two textbooks are required for this course:

Joshua S. Goldstein, *International Relations*, sixth edition, Longman, 2005  
Irving Janis, *Groupthink*, second edition, Houghton Mifflin, 1982

These texts are available at the KSU bookstore and at Varney's for purchase. In addition, a copy of the Janis text has been placed on reserve in the library. Additional readings will be used to supplement these texts. They can be found in the reserve section of the library as well.

Requirements

You will be expected to contribute to the purposes stated above in several ways -- by thinking, reading, and questioning. To this end we have four set pieces: exams which divide the semester roughly into quarters. Each exam will consist of objective items (mainly multiple choice, but at times matching, true-false, and so on).

Our examinations will be on **September 21, October 21, November 18, and December 13**. Each will

be worth 25% of the final grade.

Although it is not a formal portion of your grade, attendance is also considered an essential element of the course. Students who pay close attention to lectures and discussions tend to earn higher exam scores. In addition, attendance will be an important consideration when grades fall between clearly defined ranges.

Make-up exams will only be given for legitimate, documented reasons, and only if arranged *before* each exam. Also, it must be mentioned that a university honor code exists, which students are expected to follow. Students caught cheating will receive appropriate penalties.

On a less restrictive note, the professor will be available during office hours for any help that you might need with the course. Please do not hesitate to contact me. Appointments may also be made outside of office hours (if necessary, leave a phone message and I will return your call).

Any student with a disability who needs accommodation or other assistance in this course should speak with me as soon as possible.

## CALENDAR OF REQUIRED READINGS

### I. The Historical Development of the International System and the Study of World Politics

August 19	Introduction	
August 24-26	Models of International Politics	Goldstein, chs. 1, 2
August 31-Sept. 2	No Class (American Political Science Association Meetings)	
September 7-9	Historical Background	Goldstein, ch. 3

### II. Traditional Politics Among Nations: Diplomacy and Security

September 14-16	Diplomacy and Foreign Policy	Goldstein, ch. 4
<b>September 21</b>	<b>EXAM ONE</b>	
September 23-28	Foreign Policy continued	Janis, all <i>except</i> chs. 3, 5, 9, 10
	<i>Reserve Reading:</i> Steve A. Yetiv, "Groupthink and the Gulf Crisis," <u>British Journal of Political Science</u>	
September 30	International Conflict	Goldstein, ch. 5
October 5-7	Pillars of International Peace	Goldstein, ch 12
October 12	Student Holiday	
October 14-19	Pillars of International Peace continued	
	<i>Reserve Reading:</i> James L. Ray, "The Abolition of Slavery & the End of International War," <u>International Organization</u>	
<b>October 21</b>	<b>EXAM TWO</b>	
October 26-28	Military Force and Arms Control	Goldstein, ch. 6

### III. New Actors and Issues in International Relations: Non-State Actors and the International Political Economy

November 2-11	International Organization and Law	Goldstein, chs. 7, 10
November 16	Catch-up	
<b>November 18</b>	<b>EXAM THREE</b>	
November 23	International Economy	Goldstein, ch. 8

November 25	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Nov. 30-Dec. 2	International Economy continued	Goldstein, ch. 9
December 7-9	International Environment and Conclusions	Goldstein, chs. 11, 14
<b>December 13</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM. 9:40 am - 11:30 am</b>	