

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY  
POLITICAL SCIENCE 170  
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Fall 2008  
TTH 4:30-5:45  
262 SWKT  
TA: Christian Smith

Jeff Ringer  
237 HRCB  
OH by appt  
422-3378

**Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to assist undergraduate students in developing an analytical framework of the "why" and "how" of international relations. The readings and lectures will discuss three main topics: approaches to studying world politics, international conflict and cooperation, and the international political economy.

The course is conceptually oriented and students should gear their note taking toward this end. Class notes should be, in effect, a conceptual roadmap to guide you through the maze of data about international politics. This does not mean that facts are unimportant, but only that they must be placed within an organizing or conceptual framework if they are to have meaning.

**Readings:** The following textbook is required and available for purchase at the BYU bookstore:

Goldstein/Pevehouse. 2008. International Relations, Brief 2007-2008, 4th ed. Pearson Longman.

Other readings to supplement the textbook will be assigned periodically during the semester. You are also strongly encouraged to keep abreast of major international news by reading a quality newspaper such as The New York Times or the Christian Science Monitor. Free copies of The New York Times are available each morning at the Kennedy Center. We will regularly refer to current events in our analysis of international relations and it will be helpful if you are aware of key issues.

In addition to the required textbook, each student will also choose one book from each of the following lists to read during the semester.

Fiction: Golding, Lord of the Flies; Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front; Orwell, 1984; Conrad, Heart of Darkness; Le Carre, The Spy Who Came in From the Cold

Non-Fiction: Bull, Anarchical Society; Waltz, Man the State and War; Allison, Essence of Decision; Janis, Groupthink; Friedman, The World is Flat; Zakaria, The Post-American World

**Course Requirements and Grading:** Your grade will be based on three tests, five geography quizzes and two critical essays. These assignments will be worth the following points:

Mid-term 1:	100
Mid-term 2:	100
Geography Quizzes:	100
Critical Essays:	100
Final:	100

Letter grades will be assigned as follows to the total points earned during the semester:

*A* 465+ *A-* 450-464 *B+* 435-449 *B* 415-434 *B-* 400-414 *C+* 385-399  
*C* 365-384 *C-* 350-364 *D+* 335-349 *D* 315-334 *D-* 300-314 *E* 299>

**Tests:** All tests will be objective (i.e., multiple choice) and will be based in equal parts on the readings and the lectures. The tests will be given in the Testing Center and the emphasis will be on analytical rather than descriptive questions.

**Geography Quizzes:** During the semester you will be required to take 5 map quizzes on different regions of the world. These quizzes will be posted on Blackboard and are designed to promote basic geographic knowledge about the major regions of the world.

**Critical Essays:** This assignment is designed to aid you in responding thoughtfully to the international politics issues raised in the two books you choose to read. Each essay should be a maximum of five pages in length and analyze the book's contribution to the understanding of international politics. Each paper will be worth 50 points and the due dates are listed in the syllabus. More detailed information about the essays will be distributed in class.

**Full-credit make-up exams will only be administered in the event of a university-approved absence. Otherwise late points will be deducted (10% per day).**

**Honor Code:** While all students sign the honor code, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers. See <http://www.byu.edu/honorcode> for specific examples of intentional, inadvertent plagiarism, fabrication, and falsification.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24 hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere, which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability, which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the SSD office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.

## Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

### DATE

### TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

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9/2

Course Introduction

A. Analyzing World Politics

9/4-  
16

1. The Study of International Relations

G: 1

Video: Wars of Religion

9/18-  
23

3.2 Power Politics

G: 2

Video: Deadly Game of Nations

Lord of the Flies

9/25-  
30

3.3 Alternatives to Power Politics

G: 3

**10/2**

### **MIDTERM EXAMINATION 1**

B. War and Peace

10/7-  
16

1. War

G: 4

Video: Road to Total War

All Quiet on the Western Front

**10/16**

### **FICTION ESSAY DUE**

10/21-  
30

2. International Law and Organization

G:6

**11/4**

### **MIDTERM EXAMINATION 2**

C. Wealth and Poverty

11/6-  
18

1. Trade and Money

G: 5

Video: Commanding Heights

11/20-  
12/2

2. North-South Relations

G: 7

Video: The Mission

12/4-  
9

3. Environment  
G: 8  
Video: An Inconvenient Truth

12/11

Final Review

12/11

**NON-FICTION ESSAY DUE**

**FINAL EXAMINATION  
DECEMBER 15-19, TESTING CENTER**