

# Introduction to International Relations

## Political Science 170

### Winter 2008

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*If you can't come during my office hours, contact me to set up another time. Don't be afraid to come see me. My job is not to be distant and to try to fail you. My job is to explain things and help you understand. I like my job.*

#### Subject Matter:

International Relations is the subset of Political Science that studies relationships between countries. That is, we are more interested in what goes on *between* countries than *within* countries. (Of course, we also have to know what goes on within countries to know how they will interact with others.) And we are particularly interested in the political aspects of those relationships. International Relations scholars examine history to better understand present trends, and they evaluate present trends to suggest the best policies and to predict future relations. Some of the many interesting IR questions include the following:

- What are the causes of war? How do we promote peace?
- Why are people killing each other this week in (fill in names of countries here)?
- Can we make the world more just?
- How do we create global prosperity?
- Do democracies go to war?
- Does economic interdependence create peace?
- Is war ever morally justifiable?
- Do nuclear weapons make the world more dangerous?
- Does nationalism make peace between nations impossible?
- What foreign policies should my country adopt?
- Is China becoming a superpower? Will the U.S. remain a superpower?
- How do countries try to influence other countries?
- Can the West get along with Islamic countries?
- Are there global human rights norms?
- Do powerful countries control the international economy?
- What can we do about global terrorism?

### Primary Course Goals:

1. **Citizenship:** To increase your ability and willingness to participate in the political process in your home country. You should have a better understanding of some of the core issues facing policymakers and voters, and also the critical thinking ability to wrestle with complicated issues.
2. **Scholarship:** To lay a foundation for the academic study of international relations. You should learn not only about current issues in the world but also about the core concepts and great ideas that help scholars make sense of the complexities of international relations.

### International Relations Tool Kit:

We obviously cannot discuss every interesting or important issue facing voters, scholars, and policymakers in the world today. No course, or even series of courses, could hope to accomplish that task. We can, however, assemble a tool kit that you can continue to use in your study of International Relations. Our tool kit will include the following:

1. **Concepts:** These are the fundamental vocabulary that scholars and policymakers use to communicate with each other—building blocks like “power,” “anarchy,” and the “security dilemma.”
2. **Geography:** You should be able not only to find countries on a map but also to explain how geography influences political relations between states.
3. **Great Ideas (aka Theories):** You should be familiar with the great thinkers of international relations and their ideas about how world politics is organized (or disorganized), where war and peace come from, and so on.
4. **Historical Precedents:** The old cliché is (partially) true: “Those who don’t know the past are doomed to repeat it.” We cannot understand our own post-Cold War era unless we have a historical baseline for comparison: What can we learn about today from the problems of the past? But we must also ask, How is our era unique?
5. **Current Applications:** We will practice applying our concepts, theories, and historical precedents to current issues.

### Grading:

5%	Exam 1
25%	Exam 2
25%	Exam 3
19%	Exam 4
6%	Current Events Essays
10%	Reading Response Essays
10%	Geography Quizzes

All four **Exams** will be given in class and strictly time limited. Exams will consist of short answer questions and short essays. Exam 1 is a shorter—but not easier—exam very early in the semester to give you an idea what the format of the other exams will be. In preparing for exams, general understanding is useful, but does not substitute for a firm grasp of the details. Also, you should be aware that satisfactory or average work will receive a C grade. Only good or excellent work receives higher grades.

Because the course is organized so that later topics build on earlier topics, all the exams will be comprehensive: each exam will require you to have integrated all the previous materials in the course. However, the primary focus of each exam, including the final, will be the most recent material. You may not use cellphones or any electronic device during quizzes or exams. Remember also that according to BYU policy the final exam *cannot* be given early; please make your travel plans accordingly.

**Geography Quizzes** will require you to learn place names in every region of the world. There will be 5 quizzes covering country names and key geographic features such as bodies of water; all are listed below. Once a region has been covered on a quiz, those place names may also appear on exams. All quizzes will be given at the beginning of class, and I do not give makeup quizzes for unexcused absences or late arrivals.

To help you get more out of lectures and class discussions, you are required to turn in 10 **Reading Response Essays** based on daily class readings. The dates and topics will be announced in class. Each essay should be no longer than 1½ pages, typed and double spaced, and will be graded on a check, check-plus, check-minus basis. **Because essays are designed to help you prepare for class, all assignments are due *in class* on the day indicated in the syllabus. Late assignments will *not* be accepted, and you must be personally present in class to turn in your assignment.** You will have plenty of choice about which assignments to complete, but it is your responsibility to make sure that you turn in ten. I encourage you to start turning in assignments early in the semester, in case unforeseen circumstances force you to skip later assignments.

To help you make connections between academic concepts and real-world events, you are also required to turn in 3 **Current Events Essays** based on articles you have found in a major newspaper (or its online edition). I will provide a list of high-quality newspapers (e.g., the *New York Times* or *Washington Post*) that you can use to complete the assignment. Dates and topics are in the schedule below. For each assignment, you should collect 3-4 relevant newspaper articles and write a short essay—about 2-3 pages (typed and double spaced)—linking the current events to the assigned topic. Your selected articles could be on a single event or on several events with a common theme. The best assignments will combine careful article selection with thoughtful essays. Essays will be graded on a check, check-plus, check-minus basis, but on a more rigorous scale than the Reading Response Essays.

Finally, you should remember that all forms of **cheating**—including plagiarism—are grave violations of the standards of any university. I have given failing grades as a result of academic dishonesty at BYU and will do so again if necessary. BYU's Academic Honesty Policy is in the university catalog and on the web at <http://honorcode.byu.edu>.

If you have any questions about what constitutes academic honesty in this class, please don't hesitate to ask me.

### Absences:

Attendance in class is expected. I will not take attendance every day, but may do so at any time. Absences will be excused if you are unable to be in class for non-voluntary reasons such as illness, a family emergency (e.g., death in the family), or BYU-approved travel. Other absences will be treated as unexcused. Multiple unexcused absences will affect your grade. If you have to miss class and want to make sure I don't mark you absent, please leave me a brief voicemail or email explaining why you will not be in class.

For *excused* absences, you may take a make-up exam or geography quiz. Please contact me as soon as possible—preferably in advance—so we can make the necessary arrangements. But if you miss a class day when a writing assignment is due, there are enough choices offered that you can usually skip that day's assignment and do another one.

*For unexcused absences, I do not give makeup quizzes or accept late writing assignments.* However, exams are different: if you miss an exam for an unexcused reason (e.g., you attended a friend's wedding or just overslept), you may take the exam late with a penalty. The amount of the penalty will depend in part on how long you wait before contacting me. Once I have returned the graded exam to the class, I will no longer give late exams.

### Readings:

The reading load is heavy for an intro-level course. You should **expect to read over 75 pages per week on average**. There are two required books:

Joseph S. Nye, *Understanding International Conflicts*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Longman

Steven Spiegel, Jennifer Morrison Taw, Fred Wehling, and Kristen Williams, *World Politics in a New Era*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Wadsworth/Thomson

There will also be a large set of required readings that will be available on Blackboard or as a packet at the Joseph F. Smith Building copy center (B 115 JFSB). Earlier editions of both texts will also work: I'll post the page numbers for earlier editions on Blackboard.

### Other University Policies:

Federal law and BYU policy provide protections for students against sexual discrimination and harassment (including student-to-student harassment) and also require reasonable accommodation of students with disabilities. If you feel you have encountered sexual harassment or discrimination, please talk to me, the Equal Employment Office (422-5895), or the Honor Code Office (422-2847). 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) and discuss it with me.

### Geography List:

These are all the place names and geographic features you will need to know for the five quizzes. Helpful maps can be found at the beginning of the Spiegel text, but you may also need to consult an atlas or online sources. A particularly helpful online compilation of maps can be found in the CIA's *World Factbook*:

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/docs/refmaps.html>

You can find blank maps for practicing at a number of online sites (google: "blank world maps").

### **Quiz #1: Europe**

Iceland	Ireland	United Kingdom	Northern Ireland
English Channel	Portugal	Spain	France
Belgium	Netherlands	Germany	Switzerland
Austria	Denmark	Norway	Sweden
Finland	Italy	Slovenia	Croatia
Kosovo	Albania	Balkans (region)	Bosnia-Herzegovina
Greece	Turkey	Bulgaria	Serbia
Romania	Hungary	Slovakia	F.Y.R.O. Macedonia
Czech Republic	Poland	Moldova	Ukraine
Russia	Belarus	Kaliningrad	Lithuania
Latvia	Estonia	Baltics (region)	Atlantic Ocean
North Sea	Baltic Sea	Strait of Gibraltar	Mediterranean Sea
Aegean Sea	Black Sea	Bosporus	Dardanelles
Montenegro			

### **Quiz #2: Middle East**

Turkey	Cyprus	Mediterranean Sea	Syria
Lebanon	Israel	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Golan Heights	Jordan	Egypt	Sinai Peninsula
Suez Canal	Red Sea	Saudi Arabia	Yemen
Arabian Sea	Oman	Qatar	United Arab Emirates
Bahrain	Kuwait	Persian Gulf	Horn of Africa
Strait of Hormuz	Iraq	Iran	Afghanistan
Azerbaijan	Armenia	Georgia	Caucasus (region)
Russia	Caspian Sea	Black Sea	Sudan
Eritrea	Djibouti	Bab el Mandeb	Somalia

**Quiz #3: Asia and Oceania**

Russia	Ural Mountains	Siberia	Kazakhstan
Uzbekistan	Turkmenistan	Caspian Sea	Iran
Afghanistan	Pakistan	India	Kashmir
Arabian Sea	Tajikistan	Kyrgyzstan	Sri Lanka
Bangladesh	Indian Ocean	Himalayas	Tibet
China	Mongolia	North Korea	South Korea
Japan	Sea of Japan	Pacific Ocean	Taiwan
Hong Kong	Vietnam	Laos	Burma/Myanmar
Thailand	Cambodia	Malaysia	Singapore
Indonesia	Strait of Malacca	South China Sea	Spratly Islands
Philippines	Australia	Papua New Guinea	New Zealand
Diego Garcia	Guam	Hawaii	

**Quiz #4: Africa**

Atlantic Ocean	Morocco	Western Sahara	Algeria
Tunisia	Libya	Egypt	Sahara Desert
Mauritania	Mali	Niger	Chad
Sudan	Senegal	Guinea	Sierra Leone
Liberia	Cote d'Ivoire	Ghana	Nigeria
Cameroon	Gabon	Republic of Congo	Central African Republic
Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire)		Angola	Namibia
South Africa	Botswana	Zimbabwe	Mozambique
Madagascar	Zambia	Tanzania	Burundi
Rwanda	Uganda	Kenya	Somalia
Ethiopia	Eritrea	Djibouti	Red Sea
Indian Ocean			

**Quiz #5: Americas**

Brazil	Argentina	Falkland Islands	Uruguay
Paraguay	Chile	Bolivia	Peru
Ecuador	Colombia	Venezuela	Guyana
Suriname	Andes Mountains	Panama	Panama Canal
Caribbean Sea	Guatemala	El Salvador	Honduras
Nicaragua	Costa Rica	Cuba	Jamaica
Haiti	Puerto Rico	Mexico	Dominican Republic
Greenland	Canada	Bering Strait	Russia
Pacific Ocean	Atlantic Ocean	Gulf of Mexico	

PART ONE: KEY CONCEPTS AND THEORIES

- Jan 7           What is IR?
- Jan 9           Levels of Analysis, Anarchy, Security Dilemma  
                  Spiegel ch. 1, pp. 53-93, 401-9, 539-41  
Reading Questions (**No writing assignment today!**): What is anarchy? What is the security dilemma? What was the main result of the Peace of Westphalia? What legal rights does sovereignty include? What are some ways state sovereignty is limited in practice? What are levels of analysis? What are some factors we study at the domestic level of analysis? At the individual level? (Note that it is more important to be able to *differentiate* the three levels than to understand all the examples of domestic- or individual-level research discussed in the reading.)
- Jan 11          Power  
                  Spiegel 410-18, 434-40, 122-32  
                  Nye ch. 8
- Jan 14          Power  
                  E. H. Carr, *The Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919-39*, 1964 [1939], ch. 8
- Jan 16          Geopolitics  
                  Raymond Duncan, Barbara Jancar-Webster, and Bob Switky,  
                  "Political Geography," pp. 282-99
- Jan 18          Realism  
                  Nye 1-20, 33-43  
                  Spiegel 33-47
- Jan 21          HOLIDAY: NO CLASS
- Jan 23          Realism  
                  Hans Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations*, 1958, ch. 1 and 3
- Jan 25          **EXAM 1 (beginning of class!)**  
                  **Geography Quiz #1: Europe**  
                  Realism  
                  Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, 1513, excerpt
- Jan 28          **Geography Quiz #2: Middle East**  
                  Neoliberalism  
                  Spiegel 47-53  
  
                  Michael Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs,"  
                  *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Fall 1983, excerpt

- Jan 30      **Current Events #1: State Power/Influence**  
 Neoliberalism  
               Nye 43-54  
  
                   Thomas Friedman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, 2000, ch. 12
- Feb 1        **Geography Quiz #3: Asia and Oceania**  
 Morality in International Relations  
               Nye 20-28  
  
                   Neta Crawford, "Just War Theory and the U.S. Counterterror War,"  
*Perspectives on Politics*, March 2003
- Feb 4        Morality in International Relations  
               E. H. Carr, *The Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919-39*, 1964 [1939], pp.  
               157-69  
  
                   Ray Hillam and David Andrews, "Mormons and Foreign Policy,"  
*BYU Studies*, Winter 1985
- PART TWO: EXPLAINING WAR AND PEACE
- Feb 6        Causes of WW1  
               Spiegel 184-221  
               Nye ch. 3
- Feb 8        **Geography Quiz #4: Africa**  
 Balance of Power, Alliances and WW1  
               F. H. Hinsley, *Power and the Pursuit of Peace*, 1963, pp. 289-91,  
               297-302
- Feb 11      Domestic Politics and WW1  
               Jack Snyder, "Civil-Military Relations and the Cult of the Offensive,  
               1914 and 1984," *International Security*, Summer 1984, pp. 108-37
- Feb 13      Misperception and WW1  
               Stephen Van Evera, "The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of  
               the First World War," *International Security*, Summer 1984
- Feb 15      **Geography Quiz #5: Americas**  
 Individuals and WW1  
               Daniel Byman and Kenneth Pollack, "Let Us Now Praise Great  
               Men," *International Security*, Spring 2001
- Feb 18      HOLIDAY: NO CLASS
- Feb 19      Exam Review  
**(Tuesday)**

- Feb 20      **EXAM 2**
- Feb 22      Causes of World War II  
                  Nye ch. 4  
                  Spiegel 221-57
- Feb 25      Why the Cold War Started  
                  Nye 115-34  
                  Spiegel 259-311
- Feb 27      **Current Events #2: Realism vs. Neoliberalism**  
                  Mutual Assured Destruction  
                  Spiegel 418-33  
  
                  Thomas Schelling, "The Diplomacy of Violence," *Arms and Influence*, 1966, excerpt
- Feb 29      Why the Cold War Stayed Cold  
                  Nye 139-50  
  
                  John Lewis Gaddis, "The Long Peace," *International Security*, Spring 1986
- Mar 3        Why the Cold War Ended  
                  Nye 134-39  
  
                  Stephen Brooks and William Wohlforth, "Power, Globalization, and the End of the Cold War," *International Security*, Winter 2000/01
- PART THREE: POST-COLD WAR CONFLICT**
- Mar 5        Post-Cold War System  
                  Spiegel 311-33  
  
                  Stephen Brooks and William Wohlforth, "American Primacy in Perspective," *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2002
- Mar 7        Should We Miss the Cold War?  
                  John J. Mearsheimer, "Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War," *Atlantic Monthly*, August 1990
- Mar 10      Nationalism or Globalization?  
                  Spiegel 163-72, 175-76, 184-89, 209-10  
  
                  Benjamin Barber, "Jihad vs. McWorld," *Atlantic Monthly*, March 1992

- Mar 12 Clash of Civilizations  
Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993
- Mar 14 Confrontation with China?  
Spiegel 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Blackboard), pp. 230-41  
  
David Shambaugh, "Containment or Engagement of China?" *International Security*, Fall 1996
- Mar 17 **Current Events #3: Morality in International Politics**  
Islamic Threat?  
John Esposito, *The Islamic Threat*, 1995, pp. 3-24, 229-53
- Mar 19 Terrorism  
Spiegel 440-57  
  
Michael Scott Doran, "Somebody Else's Civil War," *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2002
- Mar 21 Democracy in the Middle East  
Alfred Stepan, "An 'Arab' More Than a 'Muslim' Electoral Gap," *Journal of Democracy*, July 2003  
  
Victor Davis Hanson, "Democracy in the Middle East: It's the Hardheaded Solution," *Weekly Standard*, 21 October 2002  
  
Robert Cooper, "Military Occupation is Not the Road to Democracy," *New Statesman*, 3 May 2004
- Mar 24 Exam Review
- Mar 26 **EXAM 3**
- Mar 28 NO CLASS: COOPER CONFERENCE TRAVEL
- Mar 31 Is Nuclear Proliferation Dangerous?  
Kenneth N. Waltz, "Toward Nuclear Peace," in Robert J. Art and Kenneth N. Waltz (eds.), *The Use of Force*, 1988
- Apr 2 Is Nuclear Proliferation Dangerous?  
Lewis Dunn, "What Difference Will it Make?" in Robert J. Art and Kenneth N. Waltz (eds.), *The Use of Force*, 1988

PART FOUR: POST-COLD WAR COOPERATION

- Apr 4        **Current Events #4: Nuclear Proliferation**  
World Trade and Globalization  
Spiegel 97-122, 133-41, 348-74, 487-505  
Nye ch. 7
- Apr 7        Southern Development  
Spiegel 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Blackboard), pp. 329-58  
  
Congressional Quarterly, “Globalization Backlash,” *CQ Researcher*,  
September 2001
- Apr 9        International Law and the ICC  
Spiegel 529-51, 557-71  
  
Monroe Leigh, “The United States and the Statute of Rome,”  
*American Journal of International Law*, January 2001  
  
Associated Press, “U.S. Sees ICC in More Benevolent Light,” *New  
York Times*, 29 December 2006
- Apr 11       Human Rights  
Michael Ignatieff, “The Attack on Human Rights,” *Foreign Affairs*,  
November/December 2001
- Apr 14       Exam Review
- Apr 23       **8 am (note delayed start!): Final Exam**