

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY  
POLITICAL SCIENCE 170  
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Winter 2008  
MW 4-5:15  
B050 JFSB  
TA: Christian Smith

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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 course 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 book is required and available for purchase at the BYU bookstore:

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

Other readings 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.

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

Mid-term 1:	100
Mid-term 2:	100
Geography Quizzes:	50
Critical Essays:	50
Final:	100

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

**A** 372+ **A-** 360-371 **B+** 348-359 **B** 332-347 **B-** 320-331 **C+** 308-319  
**C** 292-307 **C-** 280-291 **D+** 268-279 **D** 252-267 **D-** 240-251 **E** 239>

All tests will be objective (i.e., multiple choice) and will be based in equal parts on the readings and the lectures. Accompanying each test will be one or two map quizzes. These quizzes are designed to promote basic geographic knowledge about the major regions of the world. More specific information about the nature of the exams and the map quizzes will be given in class. Information about the critical essays is provided below.

**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).**

**Critical Essays:** This assignment is designed to aid you in responding thoughtfully to the international politics issues raised in readings, lectures and films. It is not busywork, nor simply an effort to ensure you stay awake. Rather it is an attempt to help you focus on what the author or speaker is saying, organize what you read or hear and analytically respond.

You will be graded on 5 essays during the semester. Each essay should be 2 pages and consist of the following elements:

1. The date, presenter and general summary of the topic.
2. A discussion of the main ideas or themes and the support given for them.
3. A discussion of the speaker's underlying assumptions.
4. A discussion of how the speaker's ideas compare to others with which you are familiar.
5. Your personal (and thoughtful) response to the lecture.

**Critical responses will be collected on Mondays for the previous week's lecture, video or reading assignment. Only one paper will be accepted each week. You may not store the papers and submit them in bulk. Each essay will be worth 10 points, with 50 total points possible during the semester.**

**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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1/7

Course Introduction

#### A. Analyzing World Politics

1/9-  
23

1. The Study of International Relations  
G: 1  
Video: Wars of Religion

1/28-  
30

3.2 Power Politics  
G: 2  
Video: Deadly Game of Nations

2/4-  
6

3.3 Alternatives to Power Politics  
G: 3

**2/11**

### **MIDTERM EXAMINATION 1 and GEOGRAPHY TESTS 1 & 2**

#### B. War and Peace

2/13-  
25

1. War  
G: 4  
Video: Road to Total War

2/27-  
3/10

2. International Law and Organization  
G:6

**3/12**

### **MIDTERM EXAMINATION 2 and GEOGRAPHY TESTS 3 & 4**

#### C. Wealth and Poverty

3/17-  
26

1. Trade and Money  
G: 5  
Video: Commanding Heights

3/31-  
4/2

2. North-South Relations  
G: 7

4/7-  
9

3. Environment  
G: 8

4/14

Final Review

**FINAL EXAMINATION/GEOGRAPHY TEST 5  
APRIL 18-23, TESTING CENTER**