

**PLSC 170 – Winter 2009**  
**Introduction to International Politics**  
**Dr. Ken Stiles**  
**784 SWKT**

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**Course Description and Purpose:**

This course is designed for the uninitiated. We will discuss the key concepts, actors, principles, and developments in international affairs, with an emphasis on the period since 1900. We will address such questions as: Why do states go to war? Why is there terrorism? How is wealth created and distributed? Do international rules matter? How has globalization affected the people of the world? How do I fit into the greater scheme of things?

The expectation is that you will be able to understand and apply these principles to answering these questions. The hope is that by so doing you will begin to see how the world affects you and how you are affecting the world. You should come away with a sense of your “global citizenship” and a greater sense of responsibility toward those living and working around the planet – as well as to the planet itself. You should also come away with a better appreciation of how Gospel principles can help shape your global citizenship throughout your life.

**Course Readings and Assignments:**

The course is built around key concepts and principles of international relations. This will be enhanced through a deeper understanding of recent world history and current events. To accomplish this, we will study two books: Charles W. Kegley’s World Politics: Trend and Transformation (12<sup>th</sup> edition), and Kendall W. Stiles’ Case Histories in International Politics (5<sup>th</sup> edition).

The course requirements are structured around a series of tests, a paper, and a variety of learning activities of your choosing. This will allow each student to learn skills that the Department of Political Science considers fundamental to a liberal arts education, as well as focus on topics and tasks that you find personally rewarding and useful.

To begin, the class will be divided randomly into five groups, beginning in the second week of class. Each group will be assigned a teaching assistant and a timetable of deadlines for the paper assignment (See below). You will turn in your elective activities to that teaching assistant, although your tests and other activities will be graded by a variety of TAs.

The paper assignment is worth twenty-five (25) percent of your grade. It will involve three stages: 1) submission of a paper topic followed by a one-on-one discussion with a TA, 2) submission of a rough draft which will be critiqued by a TA in writing and face-to-face, and 3) submission of a final draft of the paper which will be graded by Prof. Stiles. The paper requirement is as follows:

Select two (2) of the chapters from the Case Histories textbook. This selection can be random or strategic. Using a concept from a third chapter, apply the concept to explaining, comparing, and contrasting the two cases. The object will be to show that the concept you have chosen helps (or does not help) to understand better the events described in the two cases. To accomplish this, you should not only read the definition of the concept from the Case Histories book, but also find an original source's definition from a scholarly book, journal article, or other peer-reviewed academic source. With that definition, move to the other two cases and think about the connections to the concept and between the cases. The paper should spell these out clearly, showing not only where the concept helps to explain things and where the concept does not. You will find a model paper posted on Blackboard along with the grading rubric.

The next assignments are three tests to be administered in the Testing Center at roughly equal intervals (February 3, March 3, and April 7). Each will cover the material going back to the previous test and will consist of roughly thirty objective questions and ten short answer questions. The tests will cover the material discussed in the readings and in class as well as some supplemental geographical and historical material to be assigned. Each test is worth fifteen (15) percent of the total grade.

During Final's Week you will also take a final examination, worth twenty (20) percent of the grade. The final examination will be comprehensive and include short-answer and essay questions.

The remaining ten percent of the course grade will come from a series of elective activities, chosen from the list below. Each activity will require some form of documentation (also listed), and will be awarded varying points, depending on the level of difficulty of the task and the degree of accuracy and completeness of your report. Your TA will receive and grade these activities. They will stop accepting them on April 2<sup>nd</sup> in order to log all the grades before the last day of class. You will receive as many points on your grade as you accumulate. The TAs will keep a running total on Blackboard. You may not accumulate more than fifteen points.

On-line Textbook supplemental activities – one to two points. Please provide either a print-out of your work or a 100-word summary, including dates. Point totals will be awarded on the basis of the activity's level of complexity.

Attend a discussion group (held by each TA every other week) – two points. Please sign the roll.

Attend an "International Politics Cinema" event (held every other week by a different TA) – two points. Please sign the roll.

Attend a Kennedy Center lecture – two points. Please provide a 100 word summary and response.

Interview a foreigner – two points. Interview someone who is not a U.S. national either face-to-face or by phone or by electronic communication. In the interview, you should ask about the individual's home country to learn about its domestic political system and foreign policy. Create a transcript of your conversation – as close as possible to verbatim. Submit it, along with a 100 word analysis.

The World-wide Church – two points. Identify a region of the world or a global issue. Learn whether the LDS Church has been active in this region or on this issue and discuss the effects it has had. Write up a 100 word summary.

CIA World Factbook exercise – two to four points. Please select a country from the CIA World Factbook site (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>) and explain the causal connection between its economic, geographical, domestic political, and foreign policy characteristics. Point values to be awarded will depend on the sophistication of your analysis. Specifically, a 100 word write-up that is relatively superficial will receive two points, while a 300 word write-up that has interesting insights will earn four points.

News Story Cross-Check exercise – two to four points. Identify a major news story from the New York Times, then find stories about the same even in four other newspapers, each from a different country. Submit electronic or paper copies of the stories, along with a 100-300 word analysis of differences across the reports. The degree of sophistication of your analysis and the significance of your insights will determine whether you receive two, three, or four points.

News Tracking exercise – two to four points. Identify a major news story during the month of January. Try to predict what will happen after the first report, then gather at least five total follow-on stories over the next six weeks. Submit paper or electronic copies of the stories, along with a 100-300 word analysis of the developments. Finally, judge whether you predicted the trends and why or why not. The degree of sophistication of your analysis and the significance of your insights will determine whether you receive two, three, or four points.

Book Review – four points. Provide a 300 word assessment and analysis (not just a summary) of a book in international politics. The book must be published by a university press and be at least 300 pages long. Please remember that you may not use previously published materials, whether in print or on-line.

WikiFix – three to five points. Find a Wikipedia article that needs “fixing” (citations, facts, editing, up-dating) – and fix it. Make sure to carefully document your work, including any outside sources you use in the process. Points will be awarded on the basis of the level of difficulty involved in the project.

Create Your Own Activity!! – variable points. Ask you TA about any other activities you may decided to do. They must involve an academic purpose, tangible outcomes, and an international relations focus. Anything not on the list must be approved before it is undertaken, and this approval must come by at least March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Summary of Grade Points**

Paper –twenty-five percent  
Three tests –fifteen percent each  
Final examination –twenty percent  
Elective activities –ten percent

### **Link to Department Learning Objectives**

The readings, lectures, and assignments in this course bring students closer to achieving the following learning outcomes identified by the Department of Political Science:

- \* Demonstrate a familiarity with each of the four sub-fields of political science.
- \* Possess a factual and theoretical knowledge of countries, political processes, political theories, and political thought.
- \* Use appropriate methods of analysis and research, including qualitative and quantitative methods, historical comparisons, and textual interpretation to answer political questions.
- \* Write professional grade research papers on political science questions.
- \* Think critically, analytically, and synthetically.
- \* Bring honesty and integrity to daily life, public affairs, and professional activities.
- \* Properly cite sources using a recognized citation style.
- \* Want to serve the communities and organizations where students belong.

### **BYU Policies:**

**Academic Honesty:** The first injunction of the BYU Honor Code is the call to "be honest." Students come to the university not only to improve their minds, gain knowledge, and develop skills that will assist them in their life's work, but also to build character. President David O. McKay taught that "character is the highest aim of education" (The Aims of a BYU Education, p. 6).

BYU students should seek to be totally honest in their dealings with others. They should complete their own work and be evaluated based upon that work. They should avoid academic dishonesty and misconduct in all its forms, including plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, cheating, and other academic misconduct.

Incidents of academic misconduct are to be reported to the administration of the center, which will deal with the matter according to the statement on "Procedures for Handling Incidents of Academic Dishonesty or Other Academic Misconduct" as written in the current undergraduate catalog.

**Students with Disabilities:** BYU is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates persons with disabilities who are otherwise qualified to participate in BYU's programs and activities. It is the policy of BYU to prohibit unlawful discrimination against persons with disabilities and to provide reasonable assistance in bringing them into the mainstream of campus life. To accomplish this, BYU complies with all applicable disability laws.

If a student has any disability which may impair their ability to complete courses successfully, they should contact the University Accessibility Center (801-422-2767) or the director of the BYU Salt Lake Center (801-933-9400 or 273-3434). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the University Accessibility Center or the office of the director at the center. If students need assistance or if feel they have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, they may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office on the main campus at 801-422-5895, D-282 ASB.

**Statement of Nondiscrimination:** Brigham Young University is committed to providing an academic and employment environment that is free from unlawful discrimination and to achieving a prompt and equitable resolution of all grievances alleging unlawful discrimination which are filed with the university. Unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, or disability will not be tolerated. The university policies and procedures with respect to non-discrimination as it applies to students in the areas of unlawful gender discrimination, unlawful sexual harassment and inappropriate gender-based behavior are found in separate university policy, Unlawful Sexual Harassment and Inappropriate Gender-Based Behavior Policies

**Preventing Sexual Harassment:** Unlawful discrimination on the basis of gender will not be tolerated whether initiated by university faculty, administrative or staff personnel, students or by third parties on the campus. The university prohibits unlawful sexual harassment against all persons involved in the campus community, including administrators, faculty, staff, students, visitors, vendors, contractors and other third parties. The university also prohibits inappropriate gender-based behavior in the workplace or in the academic setting directed at another due to that person's gender and which violates the Church Educational System Honor Code or the individual dignity of university personnel, students or campus visitors, but which does not rise to the level of unlawful sexual harassment.

If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to your professor or contact the Equal Employment Office at 801-422-5895 or the Honor Code Office at 801-422-2847.

## **Course Reading Schedule:**

### **Overview**

Tuesday, January 6: Syllabus and Course Overview  
Kegley, chapter 1

Thursday, January 8: Theories and Principles  
Kegley, chapter 2

### **Power and International Relations**

Tuesday, January 13: Great Power Relations  
Kegley, chapter 4

Thursday, January 15: Power and Arms  
Kegley, chapter 14

Tuesday, January 20  
Case Histories 5, 10

Thursday, January 22: Alliances and the Balance of Power  
Kegley, chapter 15

Tuesday, January 27  
Case History 2

Thursday, January 29: Foreign Policy Decision-Making  
Kegley, chapter 3

Tuesday, February 3: Examples of Foreign Policy  
Case Histories 3, 4, 7

### **First Test Due at midnight**

Thursday, February 5: The Global South  
Kegley chapter 5

### **Actors in International Relations**

Tuesday, February 10: International Organizations  
Kegley, chapter 6

Thursday, February 12  
Case History 18

Tuesday, February 17, Thursday, February 19: No Class

Tuesday, February 24: Non-Governmental Organizations  
Kegley, chapter 7

Thursday, February 26  
Case History 19

Tuesday, March 3: Human Rights and Mass Movements  
Kegley, chapter 8  
**Second Test Due at midnight**

Thursday, March 5  
Case Histories 12, 14

Tuesday, March 10: International Law  
Kegley, chapter 16

Thursday, March 12  
Case History 13

Tuesday, March 17: Collective Security and Global Collaboration  
Kegley, chapter 17, Case History 11

**Global Economy and Security**  
Thursday, March 19: International Finance  
Kegley, chapter 9

Tuesday, March 24: International Trade  
Kegley, chapter 10

Thursday, March 26  
Case Histories 1, 17

Tuesday, March 31: Globalization and Human Security  
Kegley, chapter 11, Case History 16

Thursday, April 2: Globalization and the Environment  
Kegley, chapter 12, Case History 15

Tuesday, April 7: Unconventional Warfare and Terrorism  
Kegley, chapter 13  
**Third Test Due at midnight**

Thursday, April 9  
Case Histories 8, 9

Tuesday, April 14: Globalization and the World's Future  
Kegley, chapter 18

Friday, April 17: **Final Examination, 3pm-6pm**

## **Grading Criteria for Paper**

- 4** 1. Clarity of purpose
  - 2** Concept clearly listed, along with cases.
  - 2** Proposition provided.
  
- 5** 2. Definition of concept
  - 3** Concept clearly defined.  
Valid outside source used and properly
  - 1** cited.
  
- 4** 3. Organization
  - 2** Choice of themes consistent with concept and logically presented.
  - 2** Sequencing of presentation is logical and coherent.
  
- 4** 4. Persuasiveness
  - 2** Initial proposition referred to periodically.  
Overall conclusion consistent with
  - 2** evidence.
  
- 4** 5. Insightfulness
  - 2** Obvious points identified.
  - 2** Non-obvious points identified.
  
- 4** 6. Mechanics
  - 3** Spelling, grammar, sentence structure follow conventions, do not impede comprehension or flow.
  - 1** Academic tone adopted.

### **(25 points possible)**

Note: A model paper is available for inspection on the Blackboard site. Note also that this paper uses a concept that does NOT come from the text.

**Along with material from the lectures and readings, the items below will be on the tests. The place-names will be on the first test (on February 3<sup>rd</sup>). The dates will be on**

**the second test (on March 3<sup>rd</sup>). You should be able to identify the places on a blank map and provide the date for each event.**

**Place-Names:**

Europe/Asia:

Afghanistan	Greece	Poland
Albania	India	Qatar
Armenia	Indian Ocean	Romania
Austria	Indonesia	Russia
Azerbaijan	Iran	Singapore
Bahrain	Iraq	Slovakia
Belarus	Israel	Slovenia
Belgium	Japan	South Korea
Black Sea	Jordan	Spain
Bosnia	Kazakhstan	Sri Lanka
Cambodia	Kosovo	Strait of Malacca
China	Kosovo	Suez Canal
Croatia	Kuwait	Sweden
Cyprus	Lebanon	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Mediterranean Sea	Taiwan
Denmark	Malaysia	Tibet
North Sea	Moldova	Turkey
Finland	Mongolia	United Arab Emirates
Gaza Strip	Norway	West Bank
Germany	Norway	

Africa/Americas/Oceania:

Algeria	Ecuador	New Zealand
Argentina	Egypt	Nigeria
Atlantic Ocean	El Salvador	Pacific Ocean
Australia	Ethiopia	Panama Canal
Belize	Falkland Islands	Paraguay
Bering Strait	Fiji	Persian Gulf
Bolivia	Greenland	Peru
Botswana	Grenada	Puerto Rico
Brazil	Guam	Red Sea
Burundi	Guatemala	Rwanda
Canada	Guyana	Saharan Desert
Caribbean Sea	Haiti	Senegal
Chad	Honduras	South Africa
Chile	Horn of Africa	Sudan

Colombia	Jamaica	Suriname
Costa Rica	Kenya	Tunisia
Cote d'Ivoire	Liberia	Uruguay
Cuba	Madagascar	Venezuela
Dem. Rep. Congo	Mexico	Western Sahara
Dominican Republic	Morocco	Zimbabwe

### **World Politics Chronology:**

#### Pre-1945:

- 1900 China's Boxer Rebellion
- 1901 Queen Victoria dies (UK)
- 1901 Teddy Roosevelt becomes President (US)
- 1903 US gains control of the Panama Canal Zone
- 1905 Russian Tsar overthrown
- 1911 Mexican Revolution
- 1912 Fall of Manchu/Qing dynasty (China)
- 1912 Balkan Wars begin
- 1914 World War I begins after Archduke Ferdinand is assassinated
- 1914 US invasion of Mexico
- 1915 Turkey massacres Armenians
- 1916 Battles of Verdun and the Somme begin trench warfare in Europe
- 1917 Russian Revolution culminates in Lenin's seizure of power
- 1918 World War I ends on November 11<sup>th</sup>
- 1919 Treaty of Versailles settles World War I
- 1920 League of Nations begins operations
- 1922 Mussolini seizes power in Italy
- 1924 Stalin comes to power in Russia
- 1929 New York stock market crashes, accelerating the spread of global recession
- 1932 Franklin Roosevelt is elected
- 1933 Russia experiences a severe famine
- 1933 Hitler is elected in Germany
- 1934 Mao Zedong embarks on Long March with Chinese Communists
- 1935 Hitler's persecution of Jews becomes systematic
- 1936-1940 Spanish Civil War pits fascists against republicans
- 1937 Japan invades Manchuria (China)
- 1938 Nazis take power in Austria with Germany's support
- 1938 Germany, UK sign Munich Pact
- 1939 Germany invades Poland. World War II begins
- 1940 Germany invades the Netherlands, France, and other countries
- 1941 Germany invades the Soviet Union, ending their alliance
- 1941 Japan attacks Pearl Harbor
- 1943 Allies invade, defeat Italy
- 1944 Allies invade Normandy
- 1945 Franklin Roosevelt dies (US)
- 1945 Germany surrenders

- 1945 Trinity Test shows atomic weapons are operational
- 1945 Japan surrenders after US drops two atomic bombs
- 1945 The United Nations begins operations

Post-1945:

- 1947 Cold War begins
- 1947 Soviet Union consolidates control over Eastern Europe
- 1947 US announces Marshall Plan aid program for Western Europe
- 1948 Berlin Airlift
- 1948 Israel established
- 1948 India, Pakistan declare independence
- 1949 NATO is formed
- 1949 Mao Zedong comes to power in China
- 1949 USSR successfully tests an atomic weapon
- 1950 North Korea invades South Korea. US invades in response
- 1953 Eisenhower comes to power. Korean War ends
- 1954 Algerians fight French for independence
- 1956 USSR intervenes to stop rebellion in Hungary
- 1957 European Common Market formed
- 1959 Fidel Castro come to power in Cuba
- 1959 Egypt seizes the Suez Canal
- 1960 Widespread African decolonization begins
- 1960 OPEC formed
- 1961 Berlin Wall erected
- 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis
- 1964 Tonkin Gulf incident begins Vietnam War escalation
- 1965 US intervenes in the Dominican Republic
- 1966 Mao initiates the Cultural Revolution
- 1967 Israel defeats Arab states in Six-Day War
- 1967 Nigeria experiences deadly civil war
- 1973 Vietnam War ends
- 1973 Yom Kippur/Ramadan War coincides with oil crisis
- 1973 Augusto Pinochet seizes power in Chile with US support
- 1975 Khmer Rouge seize power in Cambodia. Genocide committed.
- 1976 Soweto uprising suppressed in South Africa
- 1979 USSR invades Afghanistan
- 1979 Jimmy Carter brokers Camp David Accords
- 1979 Ayatollah Khomeini seizes power in Iran, prompting second oil crisis
- 1980 Iran and Iraq begin 8-year war
- 1982 Israel invades Lebanon
- 1982 Argentina invades the Falklands
- 1983 Ethiopian famine begins
- 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev takes power in the Soviet Union
- 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre (China)
- 1989 Berlin Wall dismantled, marking the end of the Cold War
- 1989 US invades Panama to expel Manuel Noriega

1990 South African apartheid ends as Nelson Mandela is freed  
1991 Persian Gulf War  
1991 USSR dismembered  
1993 European Union formed  
1996 Rwandan genocide  
2001 Terrorists attack US  
2003 US invades Iraq

## **STAGGERED DEADLINES FOR WRITING GROUPS**

### **GROUP A**

Topic and TA conversation – no later than January 30<sup>th</sup>  
Rough draft and TA conversation – no later than February 13<sup>th</sup>  
Final draft – no later than February 27<sup>th</sup>

### **GROUP B**

Topic and TA conversation – no later than February 6<sup>th</sup>  
Rough draft and TA conversation – no later than February 20<sup>th</sup>  
Final draft – no later than March 6<sup>th</sup>

### **GROUP C**

Topic and TA conversation – no later than February 13<sup>th</sup>  
Rough draft and TA conversation – no later than February 27<sup>th</sup>  
Final draft – no later than March 13<sup>th</sup>

### **GROUP D**

Topic and TA conversation – no later than February 27<sup>th</sup>  
Rough draft and TA conversation – no later than March 13<sup>th</sup>  
Final draft – no later than March 27<sup>th</sup>

### **GROUP E**

Topic and TA conversation – no later than March 6<sup>th</sup>  
Rough draft and TA conversation – no later than March 20<sup>th</sup>  
Final draft – no later than April 3<sup>rd</sup>