



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

**TRANSMITTAL**

**DATE:** January 23, 2003

**TO:** Cindy Todd  
Senate Council

**FROM:** Lissa Holland  
Graduate Council

**Research and Graduate Studies**

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The Graduate Council met on October 17, 2002, and approved the following:

**NEW COURSE**

**PATTERSON SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE**

**DIP 710/** **Great Books of World Politics (3)**  
**PS 734** Overview of classic texts on war and statecraft.  
Prerequisites (if any): Consent of Instructor

## The Great Books of World Politics

Michael C. Desch  
 Professor and Associate Director,  
 Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce  
 POT 449  
 257-4671  
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Wednesday 3:00-5:30PM

Office Hrs. Mon 1:30-3:30PM  
 Fr. 2:00-4:00PM  
 And by appointment

"The Great Books of World Politics," as the name implies, covers many of the fundamental texts dealing with war and diplomacy from the ancient Greeks through the present. Specific authors will include Thucydides, Sun-tzu, Kautilya, Plutarch, Polybius, Augustine, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Bacon, Rousseau, Hume, Bentham, Grotius, Vattel, Montesquieu, Smith, Kant, The Federalists, Tocqueville, Burke, Mill, Hegel, Clausewitz, Marx, Freud, Schmitt, Heidegger, and Rawls among others.

Why should students of diplomacy and international commerce (or anyone else) take this course?  
 1) Every well educated person should have a general familiarity with these authors and you would be surprised by how such a familiarity will improve your chances of getting a good job. 2) Most of the basic arguments and problems of statecraft were raised in these books. 3) Such a course will prove invaluable as a general preparation for comprehensive exams.

The requirements of this seminar are simple: Participants must do all the readings, agree to take the lead in the discussion of one or two (depending upon final course size) seminars, submit two 5-page memoranda [20% each], and complete a 20 page paper for the final [40%]. Class participation is essential [20%]. I will provide a list of memorandum questions and students must submit a one page proposal and then see me in my office before mid-term to discuss their paper topic.

The following readings marked "◆" are the assigned readings from the classic texts. Copies will be available from me to xerox or are on reserve. Those readings marked "☞" are supplementary readings which you are strongly encouraged to do in order to help you understand the selections from the original texts in the context of the larger corpus of the author's work. Students should purchase copies of Robert Kaplan, Warrior Politics: Why Leadership Demands a Pagan Ethos (New York: Random House, 2002) and Thomas L. Pangle and Peter J. Ahrensdoerf, Justice Among Nations: On the Moral Basis of Power and Peace (Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas Press, 1999).

-2) The Classical View of World Politics, I and II:(8/28/02) (9/4/02) [Bradshaw]

◆Thucydides, The Peloponnesian War (GB)

Bk. I, 1-23, 66-88.  
Bk. II, 34-46.  
Bk. III, 36-50.  
Bk. V, 84-116.  
Bk. VI, 8-26  
Bk. VIII, 45-98.

☞Pangle and Ahernsdorf, Chapter 1.  
☞Kaplan, Chapter 1.

3) Other Classical Views of World Politics. [Stapleton/Rogers](9/11/02)

◆Sun Tzu, The Art of War, James Clavell, ed., (New York: Dell, 1983). [xerox]

- Entire book.

◆Ibn Khaldun, ?

☞Kaplan, Chapter 4.

4) The Roman View of War and Statecraft (9/18/02)

◆Plutarch, The Lives of Noble Grecians and Romans (GB)

- Pericles.  
- Fabius.  
- Pericles and Fabius compared.  
- Alcibiades.  
- Coriolanus.  
- Alcibiades and Coriolanus compared.  
- Alexander  
- Caesar.

◆Polybius, Bk. VI in Kurt von Fritz, The Theory of the Mixed Constitution in Antiquity (New York: Arno Press, 1975), 355-87.

5) Just War. [Swift](9/25/02)

◆St. Augustine, City of God (GB)

Bk. I, 1-8, and 21

◆ Swift excerpts.

◆St. Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica (GB)

Qs 29, 37, 38, 39, 40, and 41.

☞Pangle and Ahernsdorf, Chapter 3

6) World Politics and the Origins of Modern Statecraft (10/02/02)

❖Niccolo Machiavelli, The Discourses on the First Ten Books of Titus Livy [ed. Bernard Crick] (Harmondsworth, UK: Penguin, 1970). [Xerox]

Bk. II, chaps. 11-15, 16-18, 24-27, and 28-33

❖Machiavelli, The Prince (GB).

Chaps. 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14.

☞Pangle and Ahernsdorf, Chapter 5.

☞Kaplan, Chapters 5 and 6.

**Memorandum #1 Assigned and Due 10/16/02.**

7) Anarchy and the State of Nature in World Politics.(10/9/02)

❖Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan (GB)

Chaps. XIII, XVIII, XIX, and XXIX.

❖ Francis Bacon, "Of Empire" in James Spedding, et al., eds., The Works of Francis Bacon Vol. 12. (Boston: Brown and Taggard, 1860), 140-46.

☞Kaplan, Chapter 7.

8) Anarchy and the Social Contract.(10/16/02)

❖John Locke, Second Treatise on Civil Government (GB)

I, II, III, VII, VIII, IX, and XVI.

❖Jean-Jacques Rousseau, "The State of War" in David P. Findler and Stanley Hoffmann, eds., Rousseau on International Relations (Oxford: Clarendon, 1991), 33-47. (xerox)

9) World Politics and Republican Liberalism.(10/23/02)

❖ Immanuel Kant, "Perpetual Peace" in Ted Humphrey, Ed., Perpetual Peace and Other Essays on Politics, History, and Morals (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1983), 107-45. (xerox)

-Entire.

❖David Hume, "The Balance of Power" in T.H. Green and T. H. Grose, eds., Essays: Moral, Political, and Literary Vol. 1

❖ Jeremy Bentham, Plan for an Universal and Perpetual Peace (London: Peace Book Co., 1939), 1-44.

☞ Pangle and Ahernsdorf, Chapter 6.

☞ Kaplan, Chapter 8.

10) International Law. [Rogers](10/30/02)

❖ Hugo Grotius, The Law of War and Peace, W.S.M. Knight, trans. (London: Peace Book Co., ?). (Xerox)

❖ Emmerich de Vattel, The Law of Nations on Principles on the Law of Nature Applied to the Conduct and Affairs of Nations and Sovereigns (Northampton. MA: Simeon Butler, 1820). [Available on-line at <http://www.constitution.org/vattel.thm>]

- Preliminaries, Bk. I, Chap. 1; Bk. II, Chap1; Bk. II, Chap. 1; and Bk. IV, Chap. 1.

11) World Politics and Commercial Liberalism. (11/6/02)[Gift]

❖ Charles de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu, The Spirit of the Laws (GB)

- Bks. IX, X. XIX. XX, XXI

❖ Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations (GB)(10/31/01)

-Bk. IV.

**Memorandum #2 Assigned and Due 11/13/02**

12) Democracy Confronts the World.(11/13/02)

❖ Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, The Federalist Papers (GB)

Nos 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 22, 24, 25, 29, 64, and 75.

❖ Alexis d' Tocqueville, Democracy in America (GB) (11/9/00)

Vol. I, Chap xiii "Conduct of Foreign Affairs ..." and Vol. II, Book III, Chaps xxii-xxvi.

13) Revolution and Intervention.(11/20/02)

❖ Edmund Burke, "Two Letters on the Trade of Ireland," "Speech on conciliation With America," and "First Letter on a Regicide Peace" in David P. Fidler and Jennifer M. Welsh, eds., Empire and community: Edmund Burke's Writings and Speeches on International Relations (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1999), 72-78, 118-146, and 287-

320.

❖ John Stuart Mill, "A Few Words on Non-intervention" in Dissertations, and Discussions: Political Philosophical and Historical Vol. 3 (London: Longmans, Green, Reader and Dyer, 1867), 153-78.

❖ Karl Marx, "The Future Results of the British Rule in India" in Marx and Frederick Engels, On Colonialism: Articles from the New York Tribune and Other Writings (New York: International Publishers, 1972), 81-87.

☞ Michael C. Desch, "Liberals, Neocons, and Realcons," Orbis Vol. , No. (Fall 2001): 14.

14) Us versus Them: The State and World Politics. (11/27/02).

❖ G.W.F. Hegel, Philosophy of Right (GB)

III, A-2; B, and C.

❖ Carl Schmitt, The Concept of the Political, translated and with Introduction by George Schwab (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996). (xerox)

Entire.

☞ Tracy Strong, "Forward: Dimensions of the New Debate Around Carl Schmitt" in Schmitt, The Concept of the Political. (xerox)

15) War and Modern World Politics (11/2/04/02)[Psy person?]

❖ Carl Maria von Clausewitz, On War (xerox)

Bks. I and V.

❖ Sigmund Freud, "Thoughts for the Times on War and Death" (GB)

Entire.

❖ Sigmund Freud, "Why War?" in James Strachy, ed., Sigmund Freud Collected Papers [Vol. 5] (New York: Basic Books, Inc. 1959) 273- 87.

16) Contemporary Political Theory and World Politics. [Yaneralla] (12/11/02)

❖ John Rawls, "The Law of Peoples," Critical Inquiry 20 (Autumn 1993): 36-68. (Xerox)

❖ Martin Heidegger, "'Only a God Can Save Us: Der Spiegel's Interview with Martin Heidegger" in Richard Wolin, ed., The Heidegger Controversy: A Critical Reader (New

York: Columbia University Press, 1991), 91-116. (Xerox)

❖ Francis Fukuyama, et al., "The End of History?" The National Interest No. 16 (Summer 1989): 3-35.

**Final Paper Due By 5:00 PM, Wednesday December 18, 2001 in POT 455**