

Political Science 235: Section 401

Introduction to World Politics

Spring 1998

Tuesdays/Thursdays 6-7:15
Whitehall Classroom #235

Instructor: Mr. Mike Gunter
Office: 1602 Patterson Office Tower
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 5 to 6 p.m.
 and by appointment
Phone: 257-4436

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following required texts are available at Kennedy's Bookstore, Wildcat Textbooks or the UK Bookstore:

- 1) Kegley, Charles and Eugene Wittkopf. *World Politics: Trend and Transformation*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997 (6th edition).
- 2) O'Rourke, P.J. *All the Trouble in the World*. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1994.
- 3) Kaplan, Robert D. *The Ends of the Earth: A Journey to the Frontiers of Anarchy*. New York: Vintage Books, 1997.
- 4) Paterson, Matthew. *Global Warming and Global Politics*. London: Routledge, 1996.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING

In addition to the above texts, the articles below will form the basis of various class discussions throughout the semester. In an effort to conserve your textbook costs I am not requiring that you purchase these items. However you are still responsible for each of these readings. Multiple copies of each item are on two-hour reserve at the main library. Copies may also be checked out through me.

1. Gunter, Michael M. Chapters 1, 4 and 7 in *The Kurds of Iraq: Tragedy and Hope*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992.
2. Hardin, Garrett. "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science*, vol.162 (1968), pp.1241-1248.
3. Huntington, Samuel P. "Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993, pp.22-49.
4. Janis, Irving. "Groupthink," *Psychology Today*, Nov. 1971, pp.43-46, 74-76.
5. Kaplan, Robert. "The Coming Anarchy," *The Atlantic Monthly*, vol. 273:2 (Feb. 1994), pp.44-76.

6. Mingst, Karen and Margaret Karns. "Challenges and Dilemmas of the Post-Cold War Era" and "The Future of the United Nations," *The United Nations in the Post-Cold War Era*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1995.

7. Soroos, Marvin. "The Tragedy of the Commons in Global Perspective," *The Global Agenda: Issues and Perspectives*, Charles Kegley and Eugene Wittkopf (eds.), New York: McGraw-Hill, 1995, pp.422-435.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND REQUIREMENTS

This course is by definition an introduction to world politics -- an examination of the fundamental theoretical concepts within international relations. History and current events are important in this regard, however lectures and reading assignments are designed to go a step further and foster independent critical analysis. Your interpretation of the material thus becomes the focus.

The scope of the course is broad. Many of you will not fully understand every concept the first time you encounter it. This need not be a handicap. Think critically and ask questions when such obstacles arise.

There will be several writing assignments and essay exams in this course. Of all that you learn in college, writing is one of the most important. Regardless of your career goal, you will need to know how to write well. Writing also helps us learn. It focuses our thoughts and forces us to organize and document them.

Finally, and most importantly, I think of a course as being a contract between teacher and student. My job is to do my best to help you learn. Students are encouraged to come to my office hours to ask questions or make suggestions. Your side of the agreement is to do your best to learn. Coming to class prepared (doing the reading before class and taking notes on that reading) goes a long way in this regard.

Attendance and participation in class are expected. Material discussed in class will appear on exams and other assignments. Pop quizzes appear throughout the semester and, as outlined below, participation will play a key role in determining final grades, especially border-line cases.

Please be advised that the reading load is heavy at times and requires a substantial time commitment outside of class meetings. I recommend that you carefully look over the course materials and decide how much time you are willing to invest before committing yourself to this class.

CURRENT EVENTS JOURNALS:

There is both an oral and written component to the current events journals. Twice during the semester I will collect your journals to evaluate at least five of your one page summaries of an article or series of articles for a given week. Once during the semester you will be expected to give a short (3 to 5 minutes) oral presentation on one of your journal entries. Please see the "journals" handout for additional information.

POSITION PAPER:

This is a 5-7 page typed paper which encourages you to incorporate articles within your current events journals as well as the Kaplan or O'Rourke texts. Detailed description of the requirements for this assignment are found in the "position paper" handout.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

According to UK's Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook: "When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording or anything else from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism...Cheating is defined by its general usage." (p.73). A general rule of thumb is to cite any phrase that is not common knowledge and longer than four words.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious violations of University policy and will be dealt with according to University guidelines. For specifics, see pages 72-80 of the above booklet. It is available from the Dean of Students on the 5th floor of Patterson Office Tower.

GRADING POLICY:

Grading is based upon the standard +/- system below:

- A = 93 % and above
- A- = 90-92
- B+ = 87-89
- B = 83-86
- B- = 80-82
- C+ = 77-79
- C = 73-76
- C- = 70-72
- D+ = 67-69
- D = 63-66
- D- = 60-62
- F = 59 and below

You are responsible for turning in assignments on time. Late assignments are docked one letter grade for each day after the due date. In other words an A quality paper which is one day late receives a B. Make-up tests are not given, except under extenuating circumstances, i.e. illness, death in the family, religious holiday. In these cases the instructor must be informed prior to the exam.

GRADING DISTRIBUTION:

Participation	10%
Pop quizzes	20%
Current Events Journal	15%
(written 10%, oral 5%)	
Mid-term	20%

Position Paper	15%
Final Exam	20%

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

I. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Course Introduction: Jan. 15

What is international politics?

What is a nation? A state?

Kegley and Wittkopf, Chpt. 1

Week 1: Jan. 20, 22

Levels of analysis

Realism and power

Interdependence

Kegley and Wittkopf, Chpts. 2 and 13 through p.383

O'Rourke, Chpt. 1

Week 2: Jan. 27, 29

Imperialism

Nationalism

Kegley and Wittkopf, Chpt. 5

O'Rourke, Chpt. 7

Kaplan, Chpt. 18

Class discussion: "The Coming Anarchy"

Week 3: Feb. 3, 5

Film -- "Iraq: The Cradle of Civilization"

Kaplan's *The Ends of the Earth*, Part III

Kegley and Wittkopf, Chpt. 7 through p.189

Skim O' Rourke, Chpt. 2

Ethnonational Groups

Guest Speaker: Dr. Michael Gunter, Tennessee Tech University

"The Kurds of Turkey and Iraq"

Gunter, Chpts. 1, 4 and 7

Week 4: Feb. 10, 12

Balance of Power

Collective Security

Kegley and Wittkopf, Chpt. 15 through p.460

Rational Choice

Bureaucratic Decision-making

Kegley and Wittkopf, Chpt. 3

Class discussion: "Groupthink"

Week 5: Feb. 17, 19

Journals/Oral Reports due Feb. 17th

Film -- "At the Brink: The Cuban Missile Crisis"

Begin Kegley and Wittkopf Chpts. 12, 4

II. INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Week 6: Feb. 24, 26

The Causes of War

Security Dilemma

Vietnam

Kegley and Wittkopf, Chpts. 12 and 4 through p.81

Also Kegley and Wittkopf pp.415-418

O' Rourke, Chpt. 3

Week 7: March 3, 5

The Cold War

Nuclear Deterrence

Kegley and Wittkopf, Chpt. 14 and finish Chpt. 4

Nuclear Proliferation

Arms Control

Kegley and Wittkopf, Chpts. 13, 15 (pp.460-476)

Week 8: March 10, 12

Midterm March 10th

Film

Week 9: Spring Break

III. GLOBAL ACTIONS, ACTORS

Week 10: March 24, 26

International Political Economy

Globalization

Skim Kegley and Wittkopf, Chpts. 8, 9

O'Rourke, Chpt. 9

International Organizations

Kegley and Wittkopf Chpt. 6

Week 11: March 31, April 2

The United Nations

Mingst and Karns, Chpt. 1, 6

Class exercise: "The Future of the UN"

International Law

Kegley and Wittkopf, Chpt. 16

Week 12: April 7, 9

Global Commons

Population and Demographic Patterns

Kegley and Wittkopf, Chpt. 10

O'Rourke', Chpt. 4

Journals/Oral Reports due April 9thWeek 13: April 14, 16

Environmental Security

Kegley and Wittkopf, Chpts. 11

O'Rourke, Chpt. 5

*Class discussion: Hardin's "Tragedy of the Commons" and Soroos's "Tragedy of Commons in Global Perspective"*Week 14: April 21, 23

Ecopolitics

Paterson, Chpt. 1, 7 and 9

O'Rourke, Chpt. 6

Film -- "Race to Save the Planet: It Needs Political Decisions"

Position Papers due April 23rdWeek 15: April 28, 30

Conclusions/Summary

Toward the 21st Century

Class Discussion: "The Clash of Civilizations"

Kegley and Wittkopf, Chpt. 17

Review Session

Final Exam Tuesday, May 5th, 6 p.m.

* Please note changes in this schedule may be necessary as we progress through the semester. Any such changes will be announced in class.