

PSC 240.01 – The International System

Course Details:

Room: Stone Hall 142
Times: TR 3:30 – 4:45 pm

Website: blackboard.uncg.edu

Instructor: Adam Van Liere

Office: Graham Hall 411

Office Hours: TR 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
& By Appointment

Email: anvanlie@uncg.edu

Course Objectives:

Conflicts emerge or subside, regimes change or become entrenched, tariffs are raised or lowered, and international cooperation is grasped and just as quickly passes through our fingers. We live in an active and changing world, but this is not a world driven by purely accidental occurrences. As with other political and social phenomena, events in the international system can be explained through careful theoretical analysis of the underlying causes. This course is designed to provide you with some of the analytical concepts and tools necessary to make sense of these issues. To do this the course is divided into three primary sections. In the first section we will focus on what has long been considered the central problem of international politics—*war and peace*—and will develop the *realist* and the *liberal* perspectives regarding conflict and cooperation. In the second section we will focus on international political economy; a set of issues that are not as seductive as war and peace but are more likely to have a bigger impact on our day-to-day. Finally, we will examine select issues in international politics—failed states, terrorism, human rights, and the environment—issues that do not fit as nicely into the first two sections but are important nonetheless.

Course Requirements:

- Exams & Quizzes 60%**
- **10/02:** Realism & Liberalism (20%)
 - **11/08:** International Political Economy (20%)
 - **12/13:** Select Topics in IR (10%)
 - Five Short Reading Quizzes Throughout the Semester (10%)

- Papers 30%**
- **09/27:** Realism & Liberalism (15%)
 - **11/06:** International Political Economy (15%)

- Participation 10%**
- Will Keep Track of Who Participates, Asks Questions, etc.
 - Frequent Participation DOES NOT Guarantee a Better Grade IF that Participation Proves Counterproductive, Disruptive, etc.

Required Texts:

Viotti Paul R. and Mark V. Kauppi. 2007. *International Relations and World Politics: Security Economy, Identity*. 3rd Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

*In addition to the textbook, other reading assignments listed in the detailed course schedule will be posted as PDF files on Blackboard. The list of these readings is subject to change as the semester progresses. However, I will inform you of any additions or changes in advance.

Other Information and Guidelines:

Attending the Lectures: Attendance will not be taken in this course, but I strongly encourage all students to attend the lectures regularly. The lectures and the reading assignments compliment one another, however, they are not substitutes for one another. Basic outlines of each lecture will be posted on Blackboard prior to that lesson as an aid for taking notes in class. Under no circumstances will I make the actual slides used in class available to students.

The Exams: Attendance is mandatory on the dates of exams: **October 2**, **November 8**, and **December 13**. The exams will be a combination of short answer and essay questions that will test your understanding of important concepts and ideas as well as your ability to apply them to current issues, etc. The exams will not be cumulative insofar as how they deal with specifics of that section of the course. There are overarching concepts, however, that can (and will) make an appearance in multiple sections and exams.

The Quizzes: Whenever there is a quiz it will be posted on Blackboard at 12noon on Tuesday and must be completed by 12noon on Thursday. Although any of the assigned readings up to that point are fair game for the quiz, I will announce which reading(s) it covers when I post the quiz. The quiz must be completed individually and without the aid of the reading(s), your notes, or any other outside sources. Once you have started, you will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz. Your final quiz grade for the course will be an average of the five scores.

The Papers: The papers are due at the beginning of class on **September 27** and **November 6**. In addition to the hard copy of the paper you turn in at the beginning of class, all students must submit an electronic copy via the “Digital Dropbox” on Blackboard by 10pm that evening. The papers themselves will focus on topics related to the material in the first two section of the course. Approximately one month before the paper is due I will post a series of prompts and directions for that paper.

Opportunities for Participation: Although this is a lecture course, I will attempt to include discussions of current events in the class, and I would encourage all of you to follow international news so that you may participate in these discussions. Outside of the classroom, students may participate by utilizing my office hours or setting up appointments to ask questions about the material or review assignments. Additionally, beginning in September I will setup times for small, informal meetings with groups of students to talk about international politics, current events, etc.

Policy on Late Work: **Late work will not be accepted.** If you have a commitment scheduled for the day of an assignment that cannot be rescheduled, you should contact me well before that date so we may discuss options. In the event that you miss an assignment because of a documented emergency, you or your agent must contact me as soon as possible so we may discuss options. In all instances, you are better off communicating with me sooner rather than waiting until the end of the semester.

Student Conduct Code: The Academic Integrity Policy of UNCG is in effect in this class and all others at the University. I am committed to treating violations of this policy seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at **academicintegrity.uncg.edu**.

Lecture & Reading Schedule:

- 08/21 *Introduction to PSC 240*
- Viotti & Kauppi, “Introduction: Trends, Actors, Perspectives, and Concepts” (Chapter 1)

Realism & Liberalism

- 08/23 *Origins of the International System*
- Viotti & Kauppi, “International Relations and World Politics in Historical Perspective” (Chapter 2)
- 08/28 *The Security Dilemma & The Prisoner’s Dilemma*
- Viotti & Kauppi, “Interests, Objectives, and Power of States” (Chapter 3)
- 08/30 **NO CLASS**
- 09/04 *Realism & Conflict*
- Viotti & Kauppi, “War, Just Wars, and Armed Intervention” (Chapter 5)
- 09/06 *Power Transition Theory & the World Wars*
- Nye, “Balance of Power and World War I” (PDF)
 - Nye, “The Failure of Collective Security and World War II” (PDF)
- 09/11 *Polarity Theory & The Cold War*
- Nye, “The Cold War” (PDF)
- 09/13 *Liberalism & Conflict*
- Russett & Oneal, “International Systems: Vicious Circles and Virtuous Circles” (PDF)
- 09/18 *International Institutions*
- Viotti & Kauppi, “International Cooperation and International Security: International Organizations, Alliances, and Coalitions” (Chapter 6)
- 09/20 *Contrasting the Experiences of Europe & Africa*
- McCormick, “The Idea of Europe” (PDF)
 - Ottaway, “Post-Imperial Africa at War” (PDF)
- 09/25 *Foreign Policy Decision-Making*
- Viotti & Kauppi, “Diplomacy: Managing Relations Among States” (Chapter 4)
- 09/27 *Review: Realism & Liberalism*
- **Paper 1 Due:** Bring Hard Copy to Class, Submit Electronic Copy by 10pm
- 10/02 **Exam 1: Realism & Liberalism**

International Political Economy

- 10/04 *An Introduction to International Political Economy*
- Viotti & Kauppi, “Global Economy: Politics and Capitalism” (Chapter 10)
- 10/09 *The Origins of the American System*
- Viotti & Kauppi, “The Political Economy of International Trade, Money, and Regional Integration” (Chapter 11)
- 10/11 *International Trade & the American System*
- Oatley, “The Political Economy of International Trade Cooperation” (PDF)
- 10/16 **NO CLASS – Fall Break**

- 10/18 *Who Wins & Who Loses in International Trade*
- Krugman, “In Praise of Cheap Labor” (PDF)
 - Mazur, “Labor’s New Internationalism” (PDF)
- 10/23 *International Finance & the American System*
- Oatley, “The International Monetary System” (PDF)
- 10/25 *Debt & the Developing World*
- Cooper, “Chapter 11 for Countries?” (PDF)
- 10/30 *Competing Theories of Development*
- Viotti & Kauppi, “The Political Economy of Investment and Sustainable Development” (Chapter 12)
- 11/01 *Globalization*
- Viotti & Kauppi, “An Emerging Global Civil Society: International Law, International Organization, and Globalization” (Chapter 9)
- 11/06 *Review: International Political Economy*
- **Paper 2 Due:** Bring Hard Copy to Class, Submit Electronic Copy by 10pm
- 11/08 **Exam 2: International Political Economy**

Select Topics in International Relations

- 11/13 *Failed States*
- Eizenstat, Porter, & Weinstein, “Rebuilding Weak States” (PDF)
 - Rotberg, “Failed States in a World of Terror” (PDF)
- 11/15 *International Terrorism*
- Viotti & Kauppi, “International Terrorism & Transnational Crime” (Chapter 8)
- 11/20 *Population Growth & Poverty*
- Eberstadt, “The Population Implosion” (PDF)
 - Linden, “The Exploding Cities of the Developing World” (PDF)
- 11/22 **NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break**
- 11/27 *Human Rights & Refugees*
- Viotti & Kauppi, “Humanitarianism: Human Rights & Refugees” (Chapter 15)
- 11/29 *The Environment & International Politics*
- Viotti & Kauppi, “The Global Environment” (Chapter 13)
- 12/04 *Envisioning the Future for the United States*
- Nye, “U.S. Power and Strategy After Iraq” (PDF)
 - Tharoor, “Why America Still Needs the United Nations” (PDF)
- 12/06 *Envisioning the Future for the World*
- Hoffman, “Clash of Globalizations” (PDF)
 - Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” (PDF)
 - Kaplan, “The Coming Anarchy” (PDF)
- 12/13 **Exam 3: Select Topics in International Relations**