

## PSC 240.02 – The International System

### Course Details:

**Room:** Graham

**Times:** TR 11:00am–12:15pm

**Website:** blackboard.uncg.edu

**Instructor:** Adam Van Liere

**Office:** Graham 411

**Office Hours:** TR 12:30pm–2:00pm  
& By Appointment

**Email:** anvanlie@uncg.edu

### Course Objectives:

We live in an active and changing world, but this is not a world driven by purely accidental occurrences. This course is designed to provide you with some of the analytical concepts and tools necessary to make sense of the various issues facing the international system. 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 we 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 lives. Finally, we will examine other issues in international politics—such as failed states, terrorism, and the environment—issues that do not fit as nicely into the first two sections but are important nonetheless.

### Course Requirements:

- Exams & Quizzes 60%**
- **02/21:** Realism & Liberalism (20%)
  - **04/08:** International Political Economy (20%)
  - **05/13:** Other Topics in IR (10%)
  - Six Reading Quizzes Throughout the Semester (10%)

- Papers 30%**
- **02/19:** Realism & Liberalism (15%)
  - **04/03:** International Political Economy (15%)

- Attendance & Participation 10%**
- Will Check Attendance 10 Times Over the Semester
  - 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:

Betts, Richard K. 2008. *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. New York, NY: Longman.

Oatley, Thomas. 2008. *International Political Economy: Interests and Institutions in the Global Economy*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. New York, NY: Longman.

Additional reading assignments listed on the detailed course schedule will be posted as PDF files on Blackboard. The list of assigned 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:**

*The Exams:* The exams will be held in class on **February 21, April 8, and May 13**. Each exam 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 posed on Blackboard at 12:30pm on Tuesday and must be completed by 12:30pm on Friday of that same week. Any of the assigned readings up to that point are fair game for the quiz; however, 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 20 minutes to compute the quiz. Your final quiz grade for the course will be an average of the five highest quiz scores.

*The Papers:* The papers are due at the beginning of class on **February 19 and April 4**. The papers will focus on topics related to the material in the first two sections of the course and attempt to get you to think about ways to apply this material to contemporary situations. Instructions regarding the format and topics for both papers will be posted on Blackboard approximately one month prior to the due date.

*Attending the Lectures:* Attendance will be taken 10 times over the course of the semester and will form the basis for your overall Attendance/Participation grade, up to 80%. Very 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. ***Please note that laptop users must sit in the front row of the classroom.***

*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 February, 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:

01/15 *Introduction to PSC 240*

### ***Realism & Liberalism***

01/17 ***Origins of the International System***

- Thucydides, “The Melian Dialogue” (Betts, 56-60)
- Machiavelli, “Doing Evil in Order to Do Good” (Betts, 61-65)
- Hobbes, “The State of Nature and the State of War” (Betts, 66-69)
- Kant, “Perpetual Peace” (Betts, 122-128)
- Cobden, “Peace Through Arbitration” (Betts, 129-131)
- Gellner, “Nations and Nationalism” (Betts, 336-346)

01/22 ***The Security Dilemma & The Prisoner’s Dilemma***

- Jervis, “Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma” (Betts, 412-427)
- Fairbanks & Shulsky, “Arms Control: The Historical Experience” (Betts, 440-450)
- Waltz, “The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: More May Be Better” (Betts, 451-462)
- **Reading Quiz 1 Posted**

01/24 ***Realism & Conflict***

- Waltz, “The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory” (Betts, 87-93)
- Blainey, “Power, Culprits, and Arms” (Betts, 106-118)

01/29 ***Power Transition Theory & the World Wars***

- Gilpin, “Hegemonic War and International Change” (Betts, 94-105)
- Betts & Christensen, “China: Can the Next Superpower Rise Without War?” (Betts, 631-642)

01/31 ***Polarity Theory & The Cold War***

- Mearsheimer, “Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War” (Betts, 18-33)
- Nye, “The Cold War” (PDF)

02/05 ***Liberalism & Conflict***

- Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics” (Betts, 135-149)
- Keohane & Nye, “Power & Interdependence” (Betts, 161-168)
- **Reading Quiz 2 Posted**

02/07 ***International Institutions***

- Wilson, “Community of Power vs. Balance of Power” (Betts, 132-134)
- Keohane, “International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?” (PDF)

02/12 ***Contrasting the Experiences of Europe & Africa***

- McCormick, “The Idea of Europe” (PDF)
- Ottaway, “Post-Imperial Africa at War” (PDF)

02/14 ***Foreign Policy Decision-Making***

- Milward, “War as Policy” (Betts, 297-308)
- Allison, “Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis” (PDF)

02/19 ***Review: Realism & Liberalism***

- **Paper 1 Due:** Bring Hard Copy to Class

02/21 **Exam 1: Realism & Liberalism**

## ***International Political Economy***

- 02/26 ***An Introduction to International Political Economy***
- Oatley, “International Political Economy” (Chapter 1)
- 02/28 ***The Origins of the “American System”***
- Commanding Heights, “The Battle of Ideas” (In-Class Video)
- 03/04 ***International Trade & the “American System”***
- Oatley, “The World Trade Organization and the World Trade System” (Chapter 2)
  - Oatley, “The Political Economy of International Trade Cooperation” (Chapter 3)
  - **Reading Quiz 3 Posted**
- 03/06 ***Who Wins & Who Loses in International Trade***
- Krugman, “In Praise of Cheap Labor” (PDF)
  - Mazur, “Labor’s New Internationalism” (PDF)
- 03/11 **NO CLASS** – Spring Break
- 03/13 **NO CLASS** – Spring Break
- 03/18 ***International Finance & the American System***
- Oatley, “The International Monetary System” (Chapter 10)
  - Oatley, “Contemporary International Monetary Arrangements” (Chapter 11)
- 03/20 ***Debt & the Developing World***
- Oatley, “Developing Countries and International Finance I” (Chapter 14)
  - Oatley, “Developing Countries and International Finance II” (Chapter 15)
- 03/25 ***Competing Theories of Development***
- Oatley, “Trade and Development I” (Chapter 6)
  - Oatley, “Trade and Development II” (Chapter 7)
  - **Reading Quiz 4 Posted**
- 03/27 ***Globalization, Part 1***
- Oatley, “Globalization: Consequences and Controversies” (Chapter 16)
- 04/01 ***Globalization, Part 2***
- Oatley, “Multinational Corporations in the Global Economy” (Chapter 8)
  - Oatley, “The Politics of Multinational Corporations” (Chapter 9)
- 04/03 ***Review: International Political Economy***
- **Paper 2 Due:** Bring Hard Copy to Class
- 04/08 **Exam 2: International Political Economy**

## ***Other Topics in International Relations***

- 04/10 ***Failed States***
- Eizenstat, Porter, & Weinstein, “Rebuilding Weak States” (PDF)
  - Rotberg, “Failed States in a World of Terror” (PDF)
- 04/15 ***International Terrorism***
- Huntington, “Patterns of Violence in World Politics” (Betts, 486-510)
  - Crenshaw, “The Strategic Logic of Terrorism” (Betts, 511-524)

- Sageman, “Jihadi Networks of Terror” (Betts, 546-558)
  - **Reading Quiz 5 Posted**
- 04/17 ***Population Growth & International Politics***
- Weiner, “Security, Stability, and Migration” (Betts, 580-595)
  - Linden, “The Exploding Cities of the Developing World” (PDF)
- 04/22 ***The Environment & International Politics***
- Cooley, “The War Over Water” (Betts, 596-606)
  - Homer-Dixon, “Environmental Changes as Causes of Conflict” (Betts, 607-622)
- 04/24 ***International Law & Human Rights***
- Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It” (Betts, 198-218)
  - Finnemore, “Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention” (Betts, 236-251)
  - Ikenberry & Slaughter, “A World of Liberty Under Law” (Betts, 625-630)
- 04/29 ***Thinking About the Future, Part 1***
- Betts, “The Soft Underbelly of Primacy” (Betts, 559-576)
  - Nye, “U.S. Power and Strategy After Iraq” (PDF)
  - **Reading Quiz 6 Posted**
- 05/01 ***Thinking About the Future, Part 2***
- Fukuyama, “The End of History?” (Betts, 6-17)
  - Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” (Betts, 34-52)
  - Kaplan, “The Coming Anarchy” (PDF)
- 05/13 **Exam 3: Select Topics in International Relations**