

The International System
PSC 240-01; Spring 2008
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We live in an era of dramatic international change with global challenges not only to states but also to the human community worldwide. This course introduces the student to the contemporary international system. It addresses new phenomena such as globalization, international civil society, and recent ethnic/religious conflict, as well as the traditional issues of international politics — international organization and law, war, weapons, diplomacy, trade, and relations between nation-states.

Student Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- describe the elements of the international system;
- understand the instruments of state power and international diplomacy;
- explain foreign policy-making;
- discuss international relations theory; and
- use basic research methods in the field of international relations

Assignments

Written work in this course will consist of two midterm tests (February 15 and March 31), a test during the final exam period (May 12: 8:00am to 11:00am), and two analytical research papers in response to topics assigned in class (7 page minimum). The papers will be due on February 29 and April 25. Each test and each paper will be of equal value in determining your final grade. Due to the timely nature of the material to be discussed, each student is required to be knowledgeable about current international affairs as reported in *The New York Times*. Information from this source will be reflected in the tests.

There will be no class on January 30 and February 1.

Required Texts

Charles W. Kegley, Jr. *World Politics: Trends and Transformation*, 11th Edition, 2007-2008 Update
The New York Times (available online at www.nytimes.com)

Course Outline

- I. Changing World Politics January 14 – 25
 - A. New Forces in International Politics: Globalization, Ethnic/Religious Identity, Terrorism, Non-State Actors, Transnationalism
 - B. The Cold War
 - C. The Post Cold War Era
 - D. Realism, Idealism, and Other Theories of International RelationsReadings: Kegley, Chapters 1-2, 4; pp. 169-173; 193-204; 209-217; 597-603.
Blackboard Documents:
Joseph S. Nye, Jr., *The Paradox of American Power*, Chapter One
Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations*, Chapter One

- II. Basic Concepts in International Relations January 28 – February 13
 - A. World Systems
 - B. The Nation-State
 - C. National PowerReadings: Kegley, pp. 55-66.
Blackboard Documents:
Charles A. Kupchan, *The End of the American Era*, Chapter 2

- III. Power, Force and National Interest February 18 – March 5
 A. Utility of Force and War
 B. Instruments of State Behavior
 C. Foreign Policy-Making
 Readings: Kegley, Chapters 11-13; pp. 67-91.
- IV. International Economic System March 7 - 28
 A. Bretton Woods
 B. Economic Integration and Globalization
 C. North-South Relations, MNCs and Development
 Readings: Kegley, Chapters 5, 8-9; pp. 181-186, 205-209, 595-597.
 Blackboard Documents:
 Thomas L. Friedman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, pp. ix-xix; Chapters 1-2.
- V. International Law April 2 - 16
 A. The Legal Tradition
 B. War Crimes Tribunals
 C. New Areas of International Law
 Readings: Kegley, pp. 536-554.
- VI. International Organization April 18 – May 6
 B. United Nations System
 C. Peacekeeping
 C. Globalism in a Post-Sovereign World
 Readings: Kegley, Chapters 7 and 10; pp. 173-181, 186-193, 554-578, 591-592.

Some General Notes and Guidelines

Blackboard: Please establish access to the Blackboard site for this course. Regular announcements, reserve readings, the syllabus, assignments, and other critical information for the class will be maintained there.

Check the site daily if possible. You are responsible for knowing all course information on the site.

Tests and other assignments: Except in the cases of a bona fide medical emergency or the sudden death or grave illness of an immediate relative with confirming documentation, I do not approve make-up tests or accept assignments late. If you have a commitment scheduled for the day of a test or assignment, you should contact me well before the date so that we can consider the possibility of taking the test or submitting the assignment early. Given the percentage each test and assignment counts in this class, it should be expected that you will fail the course if you do not take a test or turn in a required paper. It is absolutely critical that you complete all of the work in the course.

Class rules: This class is wide open for discussion. So please come prepared, be on time, and actively participate. In our exchanges all of us have the right to expect professionalism and courtesy. **All students are expected to abide by the University's academic integrity regulations. If you are not familiar with the University's policy, please see <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity/>.**

Unfortunately, there have been a few plagiarism cases in this class over the last couple of years. They have resulted in an "F" for the course and further penalties from the University.

Office hours: This semester my regular office hours will be MW, 2-3pm. I look forward to meeting and talking with you about your work. We can arrange another appointment time if these hours are not workable for you. Please check the appointment sign-up sheet on my office door for other available times. Outside of class, you can reach me most quickly by e-mail. My e-mail address is j_pubant@uncg.edu.