

**PSC 240 The International System**  
**Spring; Graham 313**  
**MW 14:00-15:15**

Instructor: Greg Knehans  
Office: 224 Graham  
Office Hours: TR 2-3, M 1-2, and by appointment  
Email: gnknehan@uncg.edu

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 three tests (Feb 23, March 30 and May 4) and two analytical research papers in response to topics assigned in class (7 page minimum). The papers will be due on March 16 and May 7. Each test and each paper will be of equal value (20%) 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.

**Required Text**

Goldstein, Joshua & Jon Pevehouse. International Relations; 2008-2009 Update (2009). New York: Pearson Longman.

The New York Times (available online at [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com))

There may be additional readings announced later which will be available on Blackboard.

**Course Outline**

1/21: Introduction

1/26-29: Chapter 1

2/2-2/4: Chapter 2

2/9-2/11: Chapter 3 (pp 82-93); Chapter 3 (pp 93-104), Chapter 12 (pp. 441-456)

2/16-2/18: Chapter 3 (pp 105-120)

2/23-2/25: **First Exam 2/23**

3/2-4: Chapter 13

3/9-11: Spring Break

3/16-18: Chapters 8-9, First Paper Due 3/16

3/23-25: Chapter 12 (pp. 422-441)  
3/30-4/1: **Second Exam 3/30**; Chapter 5  
4/6-8: Chapter 11  
4/13-15: Chapter 7  
4/20-22: A Case Study in International Relations I  
4/27-29: A Case Study in International Relations II  
5/4: **Third Exam**  
5/7: Second Paper Due by 5 pm.

### **Some General Notes and Guidelines**

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 Participation: When you don't read in advance, don't engage with the ideas expressed by the writers, the instructor, and the other students, or when you attend class only sporadically, both your learning and your classmates' learning is greatly inhibited. Additionally, class becomes really boring. So you are expected to show up, to pay attention, and to prepare the readings in advance of the class period for which they are assigned. I encourage you to take notes as you read and bring them to class for reference during discussions. I take attendance and note participation daily. Obviously, if you aren't here, you can't participate. That said, just showing up and staying awake isn't participation. Participation includes paying attention, asking questions, contributing to class discussion in a way that demonstrates that you have completed the reading, responding politely to your classmates' questions, etc. Uninformed discussion will hurt, not help, your grade.

Honor Code: I expect all students in this course to abide by both the letter and spirit of the university's academic integrity policy. Violations of the university honor code will be prosecuted. The full text of the Academic Integrity Policy can be viewed at: <http://www.uncg.edu/reg/Policy/HonorPolicy.html>. Specifically pertinent to this course is the following infraction: "Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise." Do NOT engage in plagiarism. If caught, you will fail (receive a zero for the assignment). If you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism, please see me immediately.

PLEASE NOTE: While it is very easy to plagiarize off of the internet and other sources, it is just as easy to find where you plagiarized from. Typically, if I suspect plagiarism, it takes me less than a minute to find the source.