

PSC 240.02 – The International System

Course Details:	Instructor: Adam Van Liere
Room: Ferguson 325	Office: Graham 412
Times: TR 11:00am – 12:15pm	Office Hours: TR 12:30 – 2:00pm & By Appointment
Website: blackboard.uncg.edu	Email: anvanlie@uncg.edu

Course Objectives:

We live in an active and changing world, but is this 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%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 02/24: International Conflict (20%)• 04/07: International Political Economy (20%)• 05/07: Other Topics in IR (10%)• Six Reading Quizzes Throughout the Semester (10%)
Papers	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 02/26: Realism & Liberalism (15%)• 04/09: International Political Economy (15%)
Attendance & Participation	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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:

- Nye, Joseph S., Jr. 2009. *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory & History*. 7th Edition. New York, NY: Longman.
- Oatley, Thomas. 2008. *International Political Economy: Interests and Institutions in the Global Economy*. 3rd 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 24, April 7, and May 7**. 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 posted on Blackboard by 12:00pm on Tuesday and must be completed by 12:00pm 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 26 and April 9**. 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. Papers may be submitted electronically prior to the deadline, however, I will not be able to offer detailed feedback for these papers.

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 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:

- 01/20 *Introduction to PSC 240*
- 01/22 *Origins of the International System*
- 01/27 *The Security Dilemma & The Prisoner's Dilemma*
- Nye, "Is There an Enduring Logic of Conflict in World Politics?" (Chapter 1)
 - **Reading Quiz 1 Posted**
- 01/29 *Realism & Conflict*
- Nye, "Origins of the Great Twentieth-Century Conflicts" (Chapter 2)
- 02/03 *Power Transition Theory & the World Wars*
- Nye, "Balance of Power and World War I" (Chapter 3)
 - Nye, "The Failure of Collective Security and World War II" (Chapter 4)
- 02/05 *Polarity Theory & The Cold War*
- Nye, "The Cold War" (Chapter 5)
- 02/10 *Liberalism & Conflict*
- Russett & O Neal, "International Systems: Vicious Circles & Virtuous Circles" (PDF)
 - **Reading Quiz 2 Posted**
- 02/12 *International Institutions*
- Albright, "United Nations" (PDF)
 - Keohane, "International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?" (PDF)
- 02/17 *Contrasting the Experiences of Europe & Africa*
- McCormick, "The Idea of Europe" (PDF)
 - Ottaway, "Post-Imperial Africa at War" (PDF)
- 02/19 *Foreign Policy Decision-Making*
- Allison, "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis" (PDF)
- 02/24 **Exam 1: International Conflict**
- 02/26 *An Introduction to International Political Economy*
- Nye, "Globalization and Interdependence" (Chapter 7)
 - **Paper 1 Due in Class**
- 03/03 *The Origins of the "American System"*
- Oatley, "International Political Economy" (Chapter 1)
- 03/05 *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)
- 03/10 **Spring Break**
- 03/12 **Spring Break**
- 03/17 *Who Wins & Who Loses in International Trade*
- Krugman, "In Praise of Cheap Labor" (PDF)
 - Mazur, "Labor's New Internationalism" (PDF)
 - **Reading Quiz 3 Posted**
- 03/19 *International Finance & the American System*
- Oatley, "The International Monetary System" (Chapter 10)
 - Oatley, "Contemporary International Monetary Arrangements" (Chapter 11)

- 03/24 ***Debt & the Developing World***
- Oatley, “Developing Countries and International Finance I” (Chapter 14)
 - Oatley, “Developing Countries and International Finance II” (Chapter 15)
- 03/26 ***Competing Theories of Development***
- Oatley, “Trade and Development I” (Chapter 6)
 - Oatley, “Trade and Development II” (Chapter 7)
- 03/31 ***Globalization, Part 1***
- Oatley, “Globalization: Consequences and Controversies” (Chapter 16)
 - **Reading Quiz 4 Posted**
- 04/02 ***Globalization, Part 2***
- Oatley, “Multinational Corporations in the Global Economy” (Chapter 8)
 - Oatley, “The Politics of Multinational Corporations” (Chapter 9)
- 04/07 **Exam 2: International Political Economy**
- 04/09 ***Failed States***
- Rotberg, “Failed States in a World of Terror” (PDF)
 - **Paper 2 Due in Class**
- 04/14 ***International Terrorism***
- Laquerur, “Postmodern Terrorism” (PDF)
 - Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism” (PDF)
 - **Reading Quiz 5 Posted**
- 04/16 ***Population Growth & International Politics***
- Eberstadt, “The Population Implosion” (PDF)
 - Linden, “The Exploding Cities of the Developing World” (PDF)
- 04/21 ***The Environment & International Politics***
- Browne, “Beyond Kyoto” (PDF)
 - Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons” (PDF)
- 04/23 ***International Law & Human Rights***
- Nye, “Conflicts After the Cold War: Intervention and Institutions” (Chapter 6)
- 04/28 ***Thinking About the Future, Part 1***
- Nye, “U.S. Power and Strategy After Iraq” (PDF)
 - **Reading Quiz 6 Posted**
- 04/30 ***Thinking About the Future, Part 2***
- Fukuyama, “The End of History?” (PDF)
 - Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” (PDF)
 - Kaplan, “The Coming Anarchy” (PDF)
- 05/07 **Exam 3: Other Topics in International Relations (From 12:00 – 3:00pm)**