

PSC 240 The International System: Summer 2009
Graham 209: MTWH 12:20-2:20

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Office hours: 1/2 hour before and after class)

Please note: NO LAPTOPS OR TEXTING will be allowed in this class. Anyone who texts during class will get zero points for participation - if you text again, you will fail the class. Do not think that you will be the exception to this policy.

Assignments/Grading

Quizzes: There will be a total of six quizzes, which will draw upon lectures, podcasts, readings and the New York Times. They will be held in the last 15 minutes of class, and will be unannounced. (10 points each, total of 60 points)

Tests: There will be two tests, which will take up the last hour of the classes for which they are scheduled. They will not be inclusive. (30 points each, total of 60 points)

Final: There will be a final on the last day of class. It will be inclusive. (60 points)

Attendance: Regular *participation* (not just attendance—see below). (20 points)

Required Text

There is no required text for this class. All the introductory International Relations textbooks I have used are too long, way too expensive, full of bad history and seem designed to bludgeon students into submission, so I have started to develop alternative readings/material. All material will be available on line or will be emailed to students. Students must read the global edition of The New York Times daily (available online at <http://global.nytimes.com/>). Regular quizzes will be based in part on the "World" section.

Students will also have to listen to selected podcasts available at:

http://wps.ablongman.com/long_goldstein_ir_8/73/18701/4787675.cw/index.html

Some General Notes and Guidelines

Tests: 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. 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.

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>.

Course Outline

(note: additional readings may be added later)

WEEK ONE

5/20, Wednesday: Introduction

5/21, Thursday: Basic Concepts

Podcast "Chapter 1: The Globalization of International Relations"

Wikipedia: International Relations [skip "theory" section], States, International relations theory.

WEEK TWO

5/25, Monday: IR Theory - Realism

Podcast "Chapter 2: Power Politics"

Wikipedia: Political realism, Power in International Relations, National security, National interest, Neorealism (international relations).

History of the Peloponnesian War, Thucydides (<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm>)

5/26, Tuesday: IR Theory - Liberalism

Podcast "Chapter 3: Alternatives to Power Politics"

Wikipedia: Liberal international relations theory, Idealism (international relations), Neoliberalism in international relations, Complex interdependence.

5/27, Wednesday: IR Theory - Marxism

Wikipedia: Dependency theory, World-systems approach, Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism.

5/28, Thursday: IR Theory - Feminism

Wikipedia: Feminism in international relations, Gender [Gender and Feminism section]

Marysia Zalewski on Unsettling IR, Masculinity and Making IR Theory Interesting (<http://www.theory-talks.org/2009/04/theory-talk-28.html>)

WEEK THREE

6/1, Monday: War and Death

Podcast "Chapter 5: International Conflict"

Wikipedia: Power transition theory, Hegemonic stability theory, Democratic peace theory, Just War, Nationalism, genocide.

TEST 1

6/2, Tuesday: Law and Order

Podcast "Chapter 7: International Organization, Law, and Human Rights"

Wikipedia: International law, United Nations, Human rights.

6/3, Wednesday: International Political Economy I - Origins

Wikipedia: European miracle, Age of Discovery.

J. M. Blaut, A Null Hypothesis (http://www.columbia.edu/~lnp3/mydocs/Blaut/a_null_hypothesis.htm)

6/4, Thursday: International Political Economy II - Post-WWWII

Podcast "Chapter 8: International Trade"

Wikipedia: International political economy, International trade [skip "models" section], Neoclassical economics

WEEK FOUR

6/8, Monday: International Political Economy III - Globalization & Current Crisis

Podcast Chapter 9: Money and Business

Wikipedia: Globalization, Foreign direct investment, Financial crisis of 2007–2009.

6/9, Tuesday: International Political Economy IV - Global Poverty

Podcast "Chapter 12: The North-South Gap"

Wikipedia: Third World, Developed country, Developing country, Least Developed Countries.

6/10, Wednesday: Global Environment

Podcast "Chapter 11: Environment and Population"

Wikipedia: Sustainable development, Politics of global warming, Tragedy of the commons.

Richard Monastersky, Climate crunch: A burden beyond bearing (<http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090429/full/4581091a.html>)

TEST 2

6/11, Thursday: Global Political Economy of African Music

Wikipedia: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Soukous, François Luambo Makiadi.

WEEK FIVE

6/15, Monday: East Timor I

Greg Knehans, Partial History of East Timor; Fatima Gusmao, "We must keep telling."

6/16, Tuesday: East Timor II

Noam Chomsky, The US and East Timor

6/17, Wednesday: East Timor III

Greg Knehans, In a World Full of People;

6/18, Thursday: No Class

WEEK SIX

6/22, Monday: Iraq War

Readings TBA

6/23, Tuesday: Pirates, Palestine, & Torture

Readings TBA

6/24, Wednesday: Final

No readings