Contact Information

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Course Description

In this course, we will explore the sources of conflict and cooperation between states in the international system. Utilizing both empirical evidence and theoretical perspectives, this course is a survey of the elements of international relations and contemporary international affairs. Topics we will cover include the nation-state system, causes and types of conflict, diplomacy, foreign policy, and international political economy. While this course primarily deals with international relations, there will often be an emphasis on the connection between intra- and inter-national politics, exploring questions such as how do the preferences of the American people influence US policy abroad?

Expectations

- Come to class. I know that seems like an obvious one, but it’s important nonetheless. You will have a tough time passing this course without attending it. Class attendance is not mandatory, but as Woody Allen pointed out 80% of success comes from showing up, and so it will likely be in this class.

- Do the readings beforehand; you will find that they provide important background for the lectures. Without that background, you may have a difficult time keeping up during class sessions. Most practically, questions for the exams will come from both the lecture and the readings. Not all relevant material will be duplicated in both sources.

- Keeping up with the world around you is not only important for discussion in this class, it is also important to becoming a good citizen. While not required for this course, I highly recommend keeping up with national political events during the course of the semester. Good resources online include The New York
Times (www.nytimes.com), the Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com), CNN (www.cnn.com) or the International Herald Tribune (www.iht.com). Examples for discussion in class or exam questions are likely to be drawn from current events.

- In addition, please show respect to your classmates and to me by turning off all cell phones and pagers before entering classroom. Failure to do so may result in a request to leave the class for the duration of the session. Sleeping or unnecessary chatting may also lead to a request to leave the lecture.

**Readings**

The readings for this course will be drawn from several sources. One book is required for this course and are available at the Tech Bookstore:


Other materials will be distributed in class or will be available online on Blackboard.

**Course Requirements**

Semester grades will be determined by each student’s performance on two exams and a final, one written assignment, and class participation. Grades will be weighted as follows:

- 15% – Exam I (September)
- 20% – Exam II (October)
- 30% – Final Exam (December 3rd)
- 25% – Research Paper (November 13th)
- 10% – Participation
- 5% – Map Quiz

**Exams:** Two exams will be given during the course of the semester. These exams will cover material from the assigned readings, lectures, and class discussion. The final exam will be a cumulative exam, but greater weight will be placed on the material covered in the last third of the course.

**Research Paper:** A 5-7 page research paper will be due November 13th. Papers will examine the events of a historical conflict through the lens of one of the theoretical frameworks we have discussed in class. A one paragraph proposal of your

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1Please note: There will be no opportunity for additional extra credit assignments (so don’t ask).
research topic will be due on October 16th. Students may wish to set up an appointment with the professor or teaching assistant prior to October 16th in order to discuss paper topics. A handout concerning the research paper will be distributed in class in the near future. It will also available on Blackboard.

**Late Assignments:** All work for the course must be handed in on time. All late assignments will be penalized on FULL LETTER GRADE for each day past the deadline. If papers will be late due to illness or other serious impediment to school work, please let me know as soon as possible and an extension may be offered at my discretion.

**Makeup Exams:** Requests to take examinations at times other than those listed above must be made in advance and will be granted at the discretion of the instructor. If a student fails to take an exam, the decision to allow a makeup and the penalty associated with that makeup, if granted, is again at the discretion of the instructor.

**Academic Integrity:** Students will be expected to adhere to the university honor code for all assignments. Work handed in by any student should be solely the work of that student – end of story. If you draw on the ideas of others, please cite them. Failure to do some will result in a zero for the assignment at the very least.

**ADA:** Any student with a learning disability or physical handicap that might affect class performance should notify me as soon as possible. TTU can make a variety of arrangements that help insure equal opportunity. It is your right and we are glad to work with you on this. For necessary accommodations to be made, please let me know prior to the first exam.

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**Course Outline**

**Part I: Theoretical Building Blocks and Central Concepts**

**August 26: Course Basics**

**August 28: States, Nations, and Power**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 1.

**September 2: Realism**

- G&P, 35-42, 57-64.

**September 4: The Balance of Power**

- G&P 42-56.
September 9: Liberalism
- G&P 66-75.
- Russett Reading.

September 11: Game Theory and Bargaining
- Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War.”

September 16: Constructivism and Critical Theories

September 18: Exam I

Part II: Sources of Conflict and Cooperation

September 23: Causes of War – Levels of Analysis
- G&P 112-142.

September 25: Causes of War – The History of World War I
- Nye Reading.

September 29: War-Fighting and the Security Dilemma
- G&P, 142-167.

October 2: Nuclear Weapons and Deterrence
- G&P 160-171.

October 7: Foreign Policy Decisionmaking
- G&P 75-90.

October 9: Terrorism
- G&P 150-152.
- Crenshaw, Martha. “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.”

October 14: The United Nations and Collective Security
- G&P, 216-236.
October 16: International Intervention

October 21: Afghanistan and Iraq
  - Biddle, O’Hanlon and Pollack. 2008. “Standing Down as Iraq Stands up”.
    *Foreign Affairs*

October 23: Exam II
Part III: International Political Economy

October 28: Why Do States Trade?

October 30: Why Do States Limit Trade?
  - G&P 174-178.

November 4: International Economic Organizations
  - G&P 178-180, 202-204.

November 6: The European Union

November 11: Globalization and Trade
  - G&P 188-195.

November 13: Globalization and Money
  - Scheve and Slaughter. 2007. “A New Deal for Globalization”.
    *Foreign Affairs*.

November 18 & 20: International Trade Simulation
  - Reading TBA
December 2: International Development

• G&P, Chapter 7.

December 4: Exam Review

*** Final Exam – December 8, 4PM ***