

PSC 231-002 – World Politics
Fall 2006
Tuesday & Thursday 7-8:15am
Room CBC-C216

Professor Eric Brahm
Office: Wright Hall A216
Tel: (702) 895-1498
eric.brahm@unlv.edu
Office Hours: T 8.30-10, R 10-11.30

This course provides an introduction to the study of international relations. Throughout the semester, we will discuss a range of theoretical approaches to the study of international relations and apply them to contemporary problems.

Specifically, student should complete this course with an ability to:

- Describe the basic tenets of realism, liberalism (idealism), and constructivism and be able to apply them to international problems.
- Explain how at least three factors in domestic politics affect foreign policy.
- Describe the nature of collective action problems.
- Apply these tools in assessments of patterns of cooperation and conflict in world politics.

Course Requirements

Texts

Goldstein, J. S. and J.C. Pevehouse (2006) *International Relations*. 7th Edition, New York: Longman. ISBN: 0321424832.

An electronic version of this book is also available for purchase through www.mypoliscilab.com

I also expect you to keep up with current events on a regular basis through a major international news source. I recommend you subscribe to *The Economist* (see www.economistacademic.com). Other good sources of information include The New York Times (www.nytimes.com), Financial Times (www.ft.com), International Herald Tribune (www.iht.com), Asia Times (www.atimes.com), and Le Monde (www.lemonde.fr/).

Assignments

Exams (Exams 1 & 2 20 points each, Final Exam 25 points): There will be 3 exams throughout the semester. While strictly speaking they will not be cumulative, many of the concepts we discuss early on will be relevant throughout the semester. The exams will test your grasp of core IR concepts, your ability to explain major IR theories, and use them to examine global issues. Make-up exams will only be allowed when the instructor is notified in writing before the scheduled exam and only for verifiable and excusable grounds. Students must acquire scantron sheets and blue books for all exams.

Map Quizzes (3 points each, 15 points total): Understanding geography is important to an understanding of international relations. As news reports repeatedly point out, Americans are

fairly ignorant about geography. Therefore, you will come out of this course with a stronger sense of the globe. Students must acquire scantron sheets for all quizzes.

Participation (20 points): Attendance and participation are important and make up equal parts of this grade. Every absence after the second will reduce your participation grade by .5 points. Students who arrive late or leave early will be marked absent without prior approval by the instructor. Students who expect to miss class because of the observance of a religious holiday will have an opportunity to make up missed work provided that the instructor has been notified in writing regarding the anticipated absence by the last day of late registration. Students who expect to miss class due to an officially sanctioned, UNLV activity (e.g., intercollegiate athletics) must notify the instructor in writing at least 7 days prior to the anticipated absence and provide written verification of participation. The instructor also reserves the right to conduct quizzes.

Attending class will help you succeed in this course, but you will excel further through active participation. Good participation involves contributing to the discussion through providing information from the readings and by sharing ideas related to the application of various concepts we will discuss. The classroom will be an environment in which everyone is treated with respect. Keep interruptions to a minimum. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off, late arrivals and early departures avoided, and no “side-bar” conversations held.

Final Grades: The points for each of these elements totals 100. Translated into letter grades, course grades will be determined by the following: A (93-100); A- (90-93); B+ (87-90); B (83-87); B- (80-83); C+ (77-80); C (73-77); C- (70-73); D+ (67-70); D (63-67); D- (60-63); F (60 and below).

Grading Notes: Incompletes will only be offered when requested in writing on behalf of a student by the Chair of the Department of Political Science or the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. All grade disputes must be in writing and must be submitted within one week of the assignment or exam being returned to you.

Ordinarily no makeups will be given for missed assignments. However, if extraordinary circumstances require one, then students must do the following in order to qualify: (1) inform the instructor of the problem at some time prior to the exam itself and (2) provide documentation of the problem. All make-up exams will be scheduled immediately upon your return to class.

Extra credit will not be offered.

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution. For details on the Student Conduct Code, see <http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife/judicial/StudentConductCode04.pdf>

The instructor reserves the right to have students' assignments submitted electronically and assessed by plagiarism detection software. The University requires all members of the University Community to be familiar with and to follow copyright and fair use laws. YOU ARE INDIVIDUALLY AND SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATIONS OF COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE LAWS. THE UNIVERSITY WILL NEITHER PROTECT NOR DEFEND YOU NOR ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEE OR STUDENT VIOLATIONS OF FAIR USE LAWS. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To help familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit its copyright page at www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright. Plagiarism of any form will result in a failing grade for the course and the instructor will file a case with the Office of Student Conduct.

Student Accommodation

The UNLV Disability Resource Center (DRC) houses the resources for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to let me know within the first two weeks of the semester and contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>

Course Schedule (subject to change)

August 29 Introductions	Assignment: Register for the text companion site at www.mypoliscilab.com - the Class ID is cm618520.
August 31 Powerplay-End of the Cold War	Reading: Chapter 1
September 5 The Isle of Ted	Read simulation instructions
September 7 Realism	Reading: Chapter 2
September 12 Realism	Reading: Chapter 2
Map Quiz 1: Africa	
September 14 Liberalism	Reading: Chapter 3
September 19 Alternatives	Reading: Chapter 3
September 21 Foreign Policy	Reading: Chapter 4
September 26 Foreign Policy	Reading: Chapter 4
September 28 Exam 1	
October 3 Conflict and War	Reading: Chapter 5
Map Quiz 2: Europe	
October 5 Conflict and War	Reading: Chapter 5, pp. 160-163
October 10 Military Force & WMDs	Reading: Chapter 6
Video: Kim's Nuclear Gamble. U264.5.K7 K54 2003 (53 min.) http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/kim/view/	
October 12 Military Force & WMDs	Reading: Chapter 6
October 17 International Organization	Reading: Chapter 7
Map Quiz 3: Middle East	
October 19 International Organization	Reading: Chapter 7
October 24 Humanitarian Intervention	Due: country position paper
October 26 Human Rights Simulations Pt 2	

October 31 Exam 2	
November 2 International Trade	Reading: Chapter 8
November 7 International Trade	Reading: Chapter 8
November 9 International Finance	Reading: Chapter 9
Video: The Fall of an Asian Tiger. DS917.8 .F34 1999 (48 min.)	
November 14 International Finance	Reading: Chapter 9
Map Quiz 4: Central & South America	
November 16 North-South Gap	Reading: Chapter 12
November 21 North-South Gap	Reading: Chapter 12
November 23 Thanksgiving Recess	
November 28 Development	Reading: Chapter 13
Map Quiz 5: Asia	
November 30 Development	Reading: Chapter 13
December 5 Global Environmental Politics	Reading: Chapter 11
December 7 Global Environmental Politics	Reading: Chapter 11
December 12 8:00 AM	Final Exam