

Political Science 145
The Politics of Global Problems
Spring Quarter, 2008

Monday & Wednesday 3:30 PM – 5:18 PM

Room: 20 Page Hall (PA)

Instructor: M. J. Reese

Office: 3081 Derby Hall (DB)

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday
1:25pm–3:25pm

or by appointment

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Course Description

The Politics of Global Problems is an introductory course in International Relations (IR). This course will provide a broad theoretical and historical overview of the international system, the principal actors in this system, and some of the contemporary challenges facing international society.

This course proceeds in three parts. In the first section of the class, we will discuss basic theoretical concepts in the study of the international system such as anarchy, nations, states, power, interdependence, and social reality. In the middle portion of the course, we will consider the historical perspectives of several important states and how their respective experiences typify different problems states face in the anarchy of the international system. In the final section, we will consider some important issues facing the contemporary international community such as terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the problems posed by environmental limitations, the globalization of the world political economy, the challenges of economic development, and the changing nature of international politics itself.

The end purpose of this class will be to provide students with the necessary tools to understand and interpret international political events and problems. The course, while valuable to Political Science majors, has been designed with non-Political Scientists in mind as well. The ultimate intention is to provide practical information and analysis to assist students in forming their own perspective on the nature of the international problems, and how they may be solved, in the coming century.

Readings

There are two required books for this course. Both books should be available at the University Bookstore, Local Booksellers (Long's, SBX, etc.) and Internet bookstores such as at Amazon.com, Half.com, Barnesnoble.com, and the like. I highly suggest you attempt to find the books online as you will likely find the best prices there. However, you are responsible for performing the required readings on time – no leeway will be given to compensate for shipping delays.

Goldstein, Joshua S and Jon C. Pevehouse. *International Relations (8th Edition)*. New York, NY: Pearson & Longman Publishers, 2008. ISBN: 0-205-57317-7

Pastor, Robert A. *A Century's Journey: How The Great Powers Shape the World*. New York, NY: Basic Books, 1999. ISBN: 0-465-05475-7

In addition, it is highly suggested that you get in the habit of monitoring the international news. While I personally prefer *The Economist* (www.economist.com), other reputable publications such as the *New York Times* (www.nytimes.com) or *Newsweek* (www.newsweek.com), among others, will suffice. Connecting current events to the material presented in this course, while not strictly required, is the surest way to achieve high grades in exams.

The Determination of Grades

The final course grade will be determined by weighting your performance in four areas:

1. Quizzes (Best 2 scores out of 3)	10%
2. Midterm Exam I	20%
3. Midterm Exam II	30%
4. Final Exam	<u>40%</u>
FINAL GRADE	100%

My grading scale for the quizzes, exams, and final course grades is as follows:

A	=	100% - 92%	C+	=	80% - 78%
A-	=	92% - 90%	C	=	78% - 72%
B+	=	90% - 88%	C-	=	72% - 70%
B	=	88% - 82%	D+	=	70% - 68%
B-	=	82% - 80%	D	=	68% - 60%
		E (also known as "F")	=		Less than 60%

GEC-Mandated Goals & Objectives for this Course

Political Science 145 – Diversity: International Issues

Goals/ Rationale:

Diversity: International Issues courses help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and the world.

Learning Objectives:

Students exhibit an understanding of political, economic, cultural, physical, and social differences among the nations of the world, including a specific examination of non-Western culture.

Student Responsibilities

Attendance:

This is primarily a lecture course. Lecture courses will do you no good if you are not around to hear the lectures. As a result, you are expected to attend every class session. I will not, however, take attendance after the first day. If you do happen to miss a lecture, you will still be held responsible for the material covered. It is up to you to acquire the lecture notes from a classmate. This is important because we sometimes cover material in lecture not contained in the assigned reading. You may therefore miss something crucial for passing an exam if you do not make the necessary arrangements. However, it is obviously in your interest to attend class on the days that quizzes and tests are administered. You will be allowed to take a make-up quiz or exam only if you present me with a documented excuse for your absence on the day of administration. In cases of illness, for instance, a documented excuse would consist of a signed note from your doctor or the OSU Medical Center.

Reading:

You will be asked to complete a reading assignment in preparation for each lecture. Each lecture's associated readings are listed underneath the topic for that day in the class schedule. These readings should be performed *before* each class begins. It is important to keep up with this reading. Getting too far behind is a recipe for doing badly on quizzes and exams. I cannot emphasize enough that although we do not discuss everything in lecture covered in your readings, items will appear on your quizzes and exams that involve these reading-only points and issues (i.e. merely showing up for the lectures will *not* be enough to do well in this course).

Quizzes:

The quizzes will be held at random and will not be announced ahead of time. There will be three of these *closed book* "pop quizzes" held during the quarter. Each quiz will be held at the start of class. These quizzes will focus upon recent lectures and your reading assignment for the day they are administered. Each quiz will consist of five multiple-choice questions. At the end of the course, I will "throw out" the worst of your three quiz scores. The quiz component of your final grade (10%) will then be calculated by averaging your other two quiz scores.

Exams:

There will be three *closed book* exams held during this course: two midterms and a final exam. Each exam will be structured similarly with an “identification of terms” section and an “essay” section. One week before each exam, I will hand out a study guide to assist you in your preparations. If you know the guide well, you should do well on the exam. We shall discuss the exams more as they draw closer.

Communication with Your Instructor:

I encourage every student to feel free to contact me with any problems, concerns, or questions about the course. I am easiest to contact via e-mail (reese.150@osu.edu) which I do check with consistent regularity. I will make myself available twice every week for regular office hours (Monday and Wednesday 1:25-2:25pm) and will also be available for additional meetings by appointment. If you do wish to make an appointment to meet outside of my regularly scheduled office hours, I request that you give me at least 24 hours notice to make sure I can accommodate you.

It is unfortunate that many students wait until finals week to contact me about their performance. If you run into problems with the course material, or are not achieving the grades you believe yourself capable of, please contact me sooner rather than later for advice and assistance. If you wait too long, you may have little or no opportunity mathematically to turn your performance around and achieve the A grade I know each of you are capable of.

Academic Honesty:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. I must and will report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

Disability:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs (ideally, no later than March 31st). The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Course Schedule

SECTION I: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

March	24	Introduction	
	26	Basic Concepts in International Relations	Read: - Goldstein and Pevehouse, "Chapter 1: The Globalization of International Relations"
	31	Realism	Read: - Goldstein and Pevehouse, "Chapter 2: Power Politics"
April	2	Alternatives to Realism (Liberalism, Marxism, Constructivism, Feminism, Peace Studies)	Read: - Goldstein and Pevehouse, "Chapter 3: Alternatives to Power Politics"
	7	Foreign Policy	Read: - Goldstein and Pevehouse, "Chapter 4: Foreign Policy"
	9	Catch-Up Day & Exam Review	
	14	MIDTERM I	The exam will held at the regular class time & location

SECTION II: SEVERAL IMPORTANT STATES & THEIR PROBLEMS

16 The United States – The Problem of Power

Read: - Pastor, “Chapter 6: The United States”

Recommended Reading: Pastor, “Chapter 1: The Great Powers in the Twentieth Century”

21 France & The European Union – The Problem of Vulnerability

Read: - Goldstein and Pevehouse, “Chapter 10: International Integration”

- Pastor, “Chapter 3: France”

23 Britain & The European Union – The Problem of Decline

Read: - Pastor, “Chapter 2: Great Britain”

Recommended Reading: Pastor, “Chapter 4: Germany”

28 China – The Problem of Modernization

Read: - Pastor, “Chapter 8: China”

Recommended Reading: Pastor, “Chapter 7: Japan”

30 Russia – The Problem of Weakness & Exam Review

Read: - Pastor, “Chapter 5: Russia”

Recommended Reading: Pastor, “Chapter 9: Looking Back and Forward”

May 5 MIDTERM II

The exam will held at the regular class time & location

SECTION III: SEVERAL CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

7 International Conflict – The Middle East

Read: - Goldstein and Pevehouse, “Chapter 5: International Conflict”

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, “Chapter 6: Military Force and Terrorism” (READ ONLY TO pp. 201)

12 Conflict, International Organizations, & Law – WMD Proliferation

Read: - Goldstein and Pevehouse, “Chapter 6: Military Force and Terrorism” (READ REST OF CHAPTER)

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, “Chapter 7: International Organization, Law, and Human Rights”

14 Collective Action Problems – Environment & Overpopulation

Read: - Goldstein and Pevehouse, “Chapter 11: Environment and Population”

19 International Political Economy – Globalization

Read: - Goldstein and Pevehouse, “Chapter 8: International Trade”

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, “Chapter 9: Money and Business”

21 Development and Dependence – Inequality and the Developing World

Read: - Goldstein and Pevehouse, “Chapter 12: The North-South Gap”

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, “Chapter 13: International Development”

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, “Chapter 14: Postscript”

26 **MEMORIAL DAY (*****NO CLASS*****)**

28 **Catch-up Day and Exam Review**

Thursday, June 5th

*******FINAL EXAM*******

**THE FINAL WILL BE HELD FROM 3:30 PM –
5:18 PM AT THE REGULAR CLASS LOCATION**