Introduction to International Relations
DePaul University
Department of Political Science

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PSC 140, Sec 102
Autumn Quarter 2018
Arts and Ltrs Hall, Rm 414
Tues/Thurs, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Course Description:

This course examines the evolution of the international state-system, its basic dynamics, and the key issues facing state actors today. The first part of the course will focus on the theoretical approaches to understanding the nature of international relations, with a particular emphasis upon the two dominant paradigms (realism and liberalism). The second part of the class will examine the historical context of international politics, and the dominant features of the state system as it evolved over the past century and a half. In the last part of the course, we will turn toward a discussion of the continuing issues and challenges that define the present era.

Course Requirements:

Each student is expected to read the assigned material before class and to be prepared to discuss its contents each week. Class attendance and participation is mandatory, and will comprise 10 percent of your grade. Those missing over 50 percent of the class meetings will fail the course. Periodic quizzes on the assigned reading will also be included in your participation grade. There will be a mid-term exam (worth 40%), and a final exam (worth 40%).

There is also one short paper assignment, a reflection on any four films, documentaries or public events of your choosing that relate to the course. The paper (4 - 5 pages, double spaced) should identify these events/films, discuss their primary themes, their connection to the course material, and offer your comments on them. For more information on this assignment – including a list of suggested films and documentaries - see the course D2L website under ‘Assignments.’ All papers must be submitted via the course D2L website, and are due by the end of exam week.

Required Reading

The textbook listed below can be purchased at the college bookstore or any on-line outlet. Articles designated by an asterisk (*) are available on the D2L course website. All articles can also be found through the library’s on-line resources. Articles and material listed under the heading ‘Additional Material’ are NOT required reading.

Book to purchase:

**Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the effort to pass someone else’s work off as one’s own. This includes turning in papers that you did not write, cutting and pasting material from the internet without proper citation, or turning in a paper that you purchased either on-line or from another source. Any paper submitted with plagiarized material will result in a failing grade for the assignment. More than one infraction will lead to your failing the course. For more on the University policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty, see the Student Handbook that is available on the DePaul University Website.

**Learning Disabilities:** For students with learning disabilities, please contact me at the beginning of the course. The school has a clear policy on this issue, and I am happy to accommodate students with legitimate needs. All conversations along these lines will remain confidential. You should also be in touch with the CSD Program office, which is located in the Student Center, Room 370.

**Technology:** The operation of cell phones, tablets and laptop computers are prohibited during our class meetings without prior permission from the instructor.
Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

PART I: Interpreting the World

Week 1: Introduction (September 6)
   Class 1: Introduction

Week 2: Key Ideas and Concepts (September 11, 13)
   Class 1: Anarchy, Conflict and War
   Class 2: Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, et. al.

PART II: The Inter-State System

Week 3: The Evolution of the Inter-State System (September 18, 20)
   Class 1: Understanding the Interstate System
      - Joseph Nye, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation*, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 (pp. 39 – 65 only).
   Class 2: Balance of Power and the Origins of World War I
      - David Calleo, *The German Problem Reconsidered*, Introduction only.*

Week 4: Geopolitics, the League of Nations and WWII (September 25, 27)
   Class 1 and 2: The Inter-War Period and World War II
      - Tuathail, et. al. (eds.), *The Geopolitics Reader*, pp. 13-25, 33-35 and 40-43 only.*
      - Scott Sagan, “The Origins of the Pacific War,” in *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* (Spring 1988).*

   Additional Material:
      - Documentary Film: *The War of the World – episode 1, 3 & 4.*

Week 5: The Cold War (October 2, 4)
   Class 1 and 2: The Cold War

   Additional Material:
      - Film: *Dr. Strangelove*
Week 6: Midterm Exam (October 9, 11)

Class 1: End of the Cold War

Class 2: Midterm Exam

Part III: Contemporary Issues:

Week 7: Democracy, Globalization and the New World Order (October 16, 18)

Class 1: The Globalization and the Demise of the Nation State?

Class 2: The Promise of Democracy?

Week 8: Ethnic Conflict, Failed States and Intervention (October 23, 25)

Class 1: Managing Conflict in Post-Cold War Era

Class 2: Human Rights, International Law and Humanitarian Intervention
- “What are Human Rights” and “International Human Rights Law” on United Nations website (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights).*
- John Jansevic, Humanitarian Intervention.*
- Ezra Klein, *The Syrian Civil War Explained*, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKb9GVU8bHE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKb9GVU8bHE)

Additional Material
- Frontline Documentary: *Trafficked in America*
- Frontline Documentary: *On Our Watch (Genocide in Darfur).*
- Documentary Film: *Ghosts of Rwanda*.
- Film: *Lord of War*
Week 9: America’s War on Terror (October 30, November 1)
Class 1: 9/11, the War on Terror and Iraq
- Jeffrey Record, “The Bush Doctrine and War with Iraq,” Parameters (2003).*
- John Ikenberry, “America’s Imperial Ambition, Foreign Affairs (Sept/Oct 2002).*

Class 2: Obama’s War on Terror
- Stephen Walt, “The Unbearable Lightness of America’s War Against the Islamist State,” Foreign Policy, December 2015.*

Additional Material:
- Frontline Documentary: Bush’s War and Bitter Rivals: Iran and Saudi Arabia

Week 10: Challenges to International Order (November 6, 8)
Class 1: The Trump Era
- John Ikenberry, “The Plot Against American Foreign Policy,” Foreign Affairs, May/June 2017.*

Class 2: New Threats?
- Vali Nasr, “Iran Among the Ruins,” Foreign Affairs, March/April 2018.*

Additional Material:
- Frontline Documentary: Putin’s Revenge

Week 11: Summation and Review (November 13)

Last Day of Classes for Autumn Quarter November 13.

Final Exam date: Thursday, November 15, 11:30 am to 1:45 pm

Papers due: Friday, November 15, 5:00 pm.