

POL*K103: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: POL*K103 Introduction to International Relations

Course Schedule: MWF 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

Location: D105

Instructor: Prof. Steven Neufeld

Office: C142

Phone: 383-5233

Email: SNeufeld@trcc.comnet.edu

Office Hours: Mon and Wed 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

I. Course Description

International relations is the study of cooperation, competition, and conflict between countries, or nation-states, as we refer to them in the social sciences. This course will examine international relations from a political-economy perspective. This means that we will look at both political and economic relationships between nation-states and how political and economic relationships between nation-states influence each other. We will also consider how international political and economic factors influence domestic political and economic situations within countries and vice versa.

The first part of the course will begin by discussing key institutions and actors in international relations. We begin with the nation-state, which is the main actor in international relations, and different theories of international relations. We then discuss the United Nations (the UN), the main international organization attempting to manage political relations between nation-states, and its efforts to address problems of ethnic conflict and genocide through the International Criminal Court (ICC). Finally, we discuss globalization and its effects on nation-states, and we examine the main global institutions promoting globalization and managing the global economy: the International Monetary Fund (the IMF), the World Bank (the WB), and the World Trade Organization (the WTO). In addition to examining the functions and activities of each global institution, we will also discuss who has power and control over these institutions and the consequences of their activities. A key theme in this part of the course will be differences in the political and economic strength of nation-states, the control that developed countries (especially the U.S) have over global institutions, and the relationships of competition and conflict between developed countries (often referred to as “the North”) and developing countries (often referred to as “the South”) in the world today.

The second part of the course will examine U.S. foreign policy and major issues potentially affecting the position of the United States as the dominant political and economic power internationally. This includes the rapid economic development of China, the Arab-Israeli conflict, terrorism, current democracy movements in the Middle East, and the potential proliferation of nuclear weapons in N. Korea and Iran. We will examine the underlying causes giving rise to these issues, and discuss and debate how the U.S. should respond to them.

II. Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes for the course include:

- 1) Global Awareness:

- Understand the political and economic consequences of globalization and neo-liberalism
 - Understand the role of major international institutions such as the UN, the IMF, the World Bank, and the WTO
 - Identify and interpret North-South political and economic conflicts in the world today
 - Understand various contemporary political issues, including the rise of China, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the War on Terrorism, and nuclear proliferation
- 2) Critical Thinking: To analyze and evaluate argumentation and persuasion in order to improve, refine, and refute it.
- Understand and apply major theoretical perspectives on international relations, including realism, liberalism, constructivism, and world systems theory
 - Analyze and synthesize from original writings
 - Analyze and synthesize evidence from classroom debates on current events
- 3) Information Literacy: To assess what information is needed to answer questions and solve problems and to retrieve, evaluate, and use that information effectively.
- 4) Communication: To understand and convey ideas using reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

III. Course Readings

The required text for the class is:

- John T. Rourke, *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in World Politics, 14th Edition*, Dubuque, IA: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2010.

Additional required readings available on-line are listed in the course schedule in Section VI. Assigned readings are to be done before coming to class.

IV. Grading and Assignments

Course evaluation will be based on the following:

- There will be two take-home exams, one at the end of each section of the course. The last take home exam will be the final exam, which will not be cumulative. Each exam will count for 25% of the final grade.
- There will be several student team debates throughout the course. Students will be expected to participate in two debates, one for each half of the course. For the weeks that you are not a debate participants, you will write an evaluation of the debate. The two debates you participate in will count for 25% of your final grade, and your written evaluations of the other debates will count for 50% of your final grade.

All assignments and exams involve written work, and poor quality writing, including poor spelling and grammar, will negatively affect your grade. At a minimum, you should spell

check all work before it is submitted. If you want assistance with your writing skills, I strongly urge you to visit The Writing Center in room C117.

All exams and assignments must be typed. Late work will be penalized accordingly. Assignments and exams submitted by email without permission will also be penalized. Failure to complete assignments and/or exams will hurt your final grade more than submitted work that receives an F but reflects some level of effort. Class participation will help boost your final GPA for the course.

V. Cell Phone Policy

Students are notified that cellular phones and beepers are allowed in class or in the Learning Resource Center only if they are turned off or turned to a silent mode. Under no circumstances are phones to be answered in class. When there are extenuating circumstances that require that a student be available by phone or beeper, the student should speak to the instructor prior to class, so that together they can arrive at an agreement.

VI. Weekly Outline and Readings

Part I. Perspectives and Major Actors

Week 1: Introduction
Fri, 1/20: Introduction

Readings: None

Week 2: The Nation-State
Mon, 1/23: The Nation-State
Wed, 1/25: State Strength and Failed States
Fri, 1/27: Developmental vs. Predatory States

Readings:

- *The Economist*, “Fixing a Broken World”, at http://www.economist.com/node/13035718?story_id=13035718
- *The Economist*, “Where Life is Cheap and Talk is Loose”, at <http://www.economist.com/node/18396240>
- Wharton School of Law and Public Policy, “‘The Resource Curse’: Why Africa’s Riches Don’t Trick Down to Africans”, at <http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article.cfm?articleid=1830>
- Mark Tutton, CNN, “Can Africa Break It’s ‘Resource Curse’”, at <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/africa/08/23/africa.resource.curse/index.html>

Week 3: Theoretical Perspectives
Mon, 1/30: Realism
Wed, 2/1: Liberalism and Constructivism
Fri, 2/3: World Systems Theory

Readings:

- *University of Chicago Magazine*, “Liberal talk, realist thinking”, at <http://magazine.uchicago.edu/0202/features/index.htm>

- Jack Snyder, *Foreign Policy*, “One World, Rival Theories”, at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2004/11/01/one_world_rival_theories?print+yes
- Carlos Martinez-Vela, “World Systems Theory”, at <http://web.mit.edu/esd.83/www/notebook/WorldSystem.pdf>
- “World Systems Theory”, at <http://www.faculty.rsu.edu/users/f/felwell/www/Theorists/Wallerstein/Presentation/Wallerstein.pdf>

Week 4: The United Nations

Mon, 2/6: The United Nations

Wed, 2/8: UN Debate

Fri, 2/10: Debate Wrap-Up

Readings:

- Rourke, Issue 16 pp. 306-327
- Brian Urquhart, *New York Review of Books*, “Humanitarianism is Not Enough”, at <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2005/may/26/humanitarianism-is-not-enough/>
- James Dobbins, Rand Review, “Nation-Building: UN Surpasses U.S. on Learning Curve”, at <http://www.rand.org/publications/randreview/issues/spring2005/nation.html>

Week 5: Genocide and International Law

Mon, 2/13: Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing

Wed, 2/15: The ICC

Fri, 2/17: The ICC Debate

Readings:

- Rourke, Issue 10, pp. 163-182, and Issue 17, pp. 328-343
- Nicholas Kristof, “Genocide in Slow Motion”, at <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2006/feb/09/genocide-in-slow-motion/>
- *The Economist*, “Courting Disaster?”, at <http://www.economist.com/node/16219717>
- Waging Peace, “The ICC and Its Critics”, at http://www.wagingpeace.info/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=121&Itemid=35
- Voice of America, “International Criminal Court faces Challenges”, at <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/a-13-2009-04-09-voa57-68733737.html>

Week 6: Globalization and the Nation-State

Mon, 2/20: President’s Day Holiday—No Class

Wed, 2/22: Globalization

Fri, 2/24: Globalization and the Nation-State

Readings:

- Readings: Rourke, Issues 1 and 2, pp. 2-44
- Jayantha Dhanapala, *Global Policy Forum*, “Globalization and the Nation-State”, at <http://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/172/29952.html>

Week 7: Free Trade and the WTO

Mon, 2/27: Perspectives on Trade
Wed, 2/29: The WTO
Fri, 3/2: WTO Debate

Readings:

- Rourke, Issue 11 pp. 186-213
- Anup Shah, “The WTO and World Trade”, at <http://www.globalissues.org/article/42/the-wto-and-frehttp://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/172/29952.html>
- Martin Khor, The Star on-line, “Blame game stalls Doha talks”, at <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?sec=focus&file=/2011/2/28/focus/8151570>
- Martin Khor, The Star on-line, “Crunch time for WTO talks”, at <http://thestar.com.my/columnists/story.asp?file=/2011/4/25/columnists/globaltrends/8545555>

Week 8: The IMF and the World Bank
Mon, 3/5: The Debt Crisis
Wed, 3/7: The IMF and the World Bank
Fri, 3/9: Debt Crisis Debate

Readings:

- Kenneth Rogoff, “Third World Debt”, at <http://www.econlib.org/library/Enc1/ThirdWorldDebt.html>
- Vincent Ferraro and Melissa Rosser, “Global Debt and Third World Development”, at <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/globdebt.htm>
- Bretton Woods Project, “What are the Bretton Woods Institutions”, at <http://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/item.shtml?x=320747> (Read additional links in the “See Also” section at the bottom of the page)
- Rick Rowden, “A World of Debt: Why Debt Relief Has Failed to Liberate Poor Countries”, at http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Reforming_System/World_of_Debt.html

First Exam handed out; Due 4/1

Part II. Issues and Challenges for the U.S.

Week 9: US Hegemony and US Foreign Policy
Mon, 3/12: The Cold War and US Hegemony
Wed, 3/14: U.S. Foreign Policy and Neo-Conservatism
Fri, 3/16: Hard Power vs. Soft Power

Readings:

- Joseph Nye, Jr., *Foreign Policy*, “The War on Soft Power”, at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/12/the_war_on_soft_power
- Joseph Nye, Jr. *Foreign Policy*, “Think Again: Soft Power”, reprinted in Yale Global on-line at <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/think-again-soft-power>
- Shane Smith, “Sanctions: Diplomatic Tool, or Warfare by Other Means?”, at <http://www.beyondintractability.org/bi-essay/sanctions>
- Michael Chaitkin, New York University Center on International Cooperation, “Negotiation and Strategy: Understanding Sanctions Effectiveness” at http://iis-db.stanford.edu/pubs/22805/chaitkin_negotiation.pdf

Week 10: Spring Break—No Classes

Week 11: U.S. Relations with China

Mon, 3/26: The Rise of China

Wed, 3/28: China Debate

Fri, 3/30: China Debate Wrap-Up

Readings:

- Rourke, Issue 6, pp.96-110
- Gideon Rachman, *Foreign Policy*, “Thinking Again: American Decline” at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/01/02/think_again_american_decline
- Niall Ferguson, *Newsweek*, “‘Chimerica’ is Headed for Divorce” reprinted in *The Daily Beast* at <http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2009/08/14/chimerica-is-headed-for-divorce.html>
- Andrew Billo, CNN, “The Risk of America’s Asia Strategy”, at <http://edition.cnn.com/2012/01/06/opinion/billo-asia-us/index.html>

Week 12: The U.S. and the Middle East

Mon, 4/2: The Modern Middle East

Wed, 4/4: Islamic Fundamentalism

Fri, 4/6: OPEC

Readings:

- Rourke, Issue 7, pp.111-128
- Council on Foreign Relations, “Crisis Guide: Iran”, at http://www.cfr.org/interactives/CG_Iran/index.html
- “Samuel Huntington’s ‘Clash of Civilizations?’: A Summary” at <http://skram-marks.blogspot.com/2008/11/samuel-p-huntingtons-clash-of.html>
- James Graham, HistoryOrb.com, “Samuel P. Huntington’s Clash of Civilizations”, at <http://www.historyorb.com/world/clashofcivilizations.shtml>
- David Brooks, *New York Times*, “Huntington’s Clash Revisited”, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/04/opinion/04brooks.html>

Week 13: The Arab-Israeli conflict

Mon, 4/9: The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Wed, 4/11: The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Fri, 4/13: Palestinian State debate

Readings:

- Rourke, Issue 7, pp.111-128
- Council on Foreign Relations, “Crisis Guide: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” at <http://www.cfr.org/israel/crisis-guide-israeli-palestinian-conflict/p13850>

Week 14: Terrorism

Mon, 4/16: Terrorism

Wed, 4/18: Afghanistan

Fri, 4/20: Terrorism Debate

Readings:

- Rourke, Issue 18, pp.344-360
- Noam Chomsky, “Who are the Global Terrorists?”, at <http://www.chomsky.info/articles/200205--02.htm>
- Seth Jones, Foreign Affairs, “It Takes the Villages”, at <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/print/66327>
- Seth Jones and Martin Libicki, “How Terrorist Groups End: Lessons for Countering al Qa’ida”, at http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG741-1.sum.pdf

Week 15: The Arab Awakening

Mon, 4/23: Crony Capitalism and the Middle East

Wed, 4/25: Democracy and Its Possibilities

Wed, 4/27: Democracy Debate

Readings:

- “Inequality and Crony Capitalism in Syria”, at <http://amiddleeastblog.blogspot.com/2011/05/inequality-and-crony-capitalism-in.html>;
- “Arab Burden of Crony Capitalism” at <http://fw.ifslearning.ac.uk/Archive/2011/May/Features/arabburden.aspx>;
- Schneider, “Arab nations lag behind rest of world economically, despite oil and natural gas”, at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/23/AR2011022303586.html?hpid=topnews>
- Partridge, “How the economic policies of a corrupt elite caused the Arab Spring”, at <http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/the-staggers/2011/06/economic-arab-egypt-region>

Week 16: Nuclear Proliferation and WMD

Mon, 4/30: Nuclear Proliferation

Wed, 5/2: Iran and North Korea

Fri, 5/4: Nuclear Weapons Debate

Readings:

- Rourke, Issues 14 and 15, pp.252-303
- Council on Foreign Relations, “The Global Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime”, at <http://www.cfr.org/proliferation/global-nuclear-nonproliferation-regime/p18984>
- Leslie Gelb, The Daily Beast, “The Wrong Way on Iran”, at <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2010/02/21/the-wrong-way-on-iran.html>

Week 17: Conclusion

Mon, 5/7: Concluding Comments

Final Exam handed out; Due 5/14 by 10:00 a.m.