INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL POLITICS

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Class: Mon., Wed., Fri., 9:05 a.m.–9:55 a.m.,
5 Blegen Hall
Office Hours: Fri., 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.,
or by appointment

Teaching Assistant
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off. hrs: Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m., or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In 1990 President George H.W. Bush proclaimed that the United States would lead a multinational alliance to forge a “new world order.” A little over ten years later, President George W. Bush sought to craft a multinational alliance against “terrorists of global reach,” promising to “smoke ’em out and hunt ’em down.”

In the wake of the Cold War, the world seemed poised on the edge of an unprecedented era of international peace. By the turn of the millennium and especially after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, such heady optimism was but a dim memory. While the industrialized West has constituted a zone of peace, the two decades since the end of the Cold War have brought ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Kosovo, genocide in Rwanda and arguably Darfur (Sudan), failed humanitarian intervention in Somalia, cycles of hope followed by disappointment in Israel-Palestine accompanied always by violence, continued bloodshed and chaos in sub-Saharan Africa, nuclear standoffs between India and Pakistan, occasional crises with China, and, of course, the destruction wreaked by al-Qaeda and other insurgent groups around the world. The 1990s saw tremendous gains in economic productivity and wealth in the industrialized world, increasing globalization of the means of production, and immense technological progress, but it also brought monetary meltdowns in Russia and East Asia, economic crises across Latin America, and a mixed record on common environmental challenges. And, most recently, the global economy has imploded, as risky mortgage investments have gone belly-up, with reverberations felt around the world and with unclear ramifications for global politics.

One might be tempted to conclude that the more things change, the more they stay the same. There’s some truth in that, but only a partial truth. This course will be devoted to analyzing how things have changed and how they have stayed the same in global politics. It will examine the perennial problems of international politics and how recent trends have transformed their dynamics. The course will explore, among other issues, the causes of war and peace, the limited use of force, humanitarian intervention, nuclear proliferation, nationalist conflict, international ethics, the politics of international trade and finance, foreign aid, globalization, the prospects for environmental cooperation and human rights norms, migration and refugees, terrorism, and the future of world politics.

Students will be introduced to theoretical traditions, but the course will focus primarily on explaining and understanding current and historical problems and cases in world politics. (For a more theoretical course, see POL 3835, International Relations.) By the end of the term, students should be familiar with all these issues and others, should have developed their own views on these controversial questions, and should be able to apply basic analytical frameworks and tools to answer them.
REQUIREMENTS

Readings. The average weekly reading load is around 75-90 pages. All assigned readings should be completed before the lecture. Lectures will at times use current events as illustrations. You are strongly encouraged to read regularly the international section of a major daily newspaper, such as the New York Times or the Washington Post. These are available for free on-line or, at substantially reduced rates for students, by subscription.

Sections. Learning cannot be passive. It requires students to engage actively with this course’s ideas and readings, to apply this course’s concepts to debates about contemporary international affairs, and to argue with each other. None of that is possible, of course, within a large lecture. On several Fridays over the course of the term, identified in the syllabus by SECTION, we will break the class up into smaller groups to facilitate discussion and groupwork. Attendance in sections is required, and students will be held responsible for the readings, in-class discussions, and assignments associated with the section. You will receive details regarding your section before the first section meeting.

Assignments. This course will have two midterm exams, a final exam, and several short papers/quizzes.

• The first midterm exam will cover all class meetings (and corresponding readings) held between January 21 and February 27. There will be an in-class midterm review on March 2.
• The second midterm exam will cover all class meetings (and corresponding readings) held between March 6 and April 20.
• The final exam will be cumulative and will require you to integrate ideas explored throughout the course. But it will have a particular emphasis on class meetings and corresponding readings from April 24 through the end of the course.
• Details regarding the exams’ structure and the instructor’s expectations will be presented in class as the exams approach.

NB: The instructor reserves the right to administer brief quizzes in any class meeting (lecture or section) or in a take-home format on the assigned reading.

Make-up Exams. Make-up exams will not be offered except in rare circumstances. Should you have an unanticipated emergency that causes you to miss the scheduled exam, contact the instructor as soon as possible by email or telephone. Note that you may be expected to provide evidence (e.g. a doctor’s note).

GRADING

Midterm I: 20%
Midterm II: 20%
Final Exam: 40%
Other (participation, short papers/quizzes): 20%

MISCELLANY

Academic Dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is broadly defined as submitting work that is not your own without attribution, and it is not acceptable in this or any other course. Any academic dishonesty found on any assignments will result in an F for that assignment and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent permissible under the University’s guidelines. For further guidance on what constitutes academic dishonesty, see http://www1.umn.edu/oscai/integrity/student/index.html.

Student Disabilities. Any student with a documented disability and who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations for exams and lectures should contact the instructor and Disability Services (6-1333, ds@umn.edu) at the beginning of the semester.
READINGS
The following book is required. It has been ordered for purchase at the University bookstore in the Coffman Memorial Union.


All other required readings are located on the course web-site. To log-in to the course web-site, go to your MyU portal (www.myu.umn.edu) and access the course link. Some of these files are large: if you do not have a high-speed connection at home, you should access them while you are on campus and then read them on screen (take good notes!), download them to a flash drive, and/or print them out.

COURSE WEB-SITE
Students registered for this class may access the course web-site through their MyU portal (www.myu.umn.edu). If you have any problems accessing the course web-site, please let me know immediately. On this web-site, you will find:

• the syllabus
• lecture outlines (which will, as a rule, be posted by 9 p.m. on the preceding day)
• handouts and select overheads
• required readings not available in the required textbook

You should check the web-site regularly, as I will often post announcements and articles of interest there.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

| Jan. 21 | Introduction: What is Global Politics? |
| Jan. 23 | Theory and Practice in International Politics |

• Kegley, pp. 3-27, 47-50.

1. ACTORS AND APPROACHES IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

| Jan. 26 | International Systems: Definitions, Types, Implications |
| Jan. 28 | The Rise of the State and the Origins of International Politics |


Further Reading
Jan. 30  Realism: Anarchy and the Security Dilemma
Feb. 2  The Balance of Power and the Quest for Hegemony


Further Reading

Feb. 4  Liberalism: Mitigating the Effects of Anarchy?
Trade, Contact, and International Institutions

- Kegley, pp. 32-39, 525-528, 533-542, 544-547.

Further Reading
- Michael Doyle, Ways of War and Peace (1997), Part II.

Feb. 6  Globalization: The End of the State?
SECTION


Further Reading

Feb. 9  Globalization: Transnational Actors and the Transformation of International Politics?
SECTION

- Kegley, pp. 189-218.

Further Reading
Feb. 11  Liberalism: Escaping Anarchy? The Democratic Peace

- Kegley, pp. 542-544.

Further Reading

Feb. 13  Marxism: Modes of Economic Organization

- Lamborn & Lepgold, World Politics, pp. 40-45. (Kegley discusses this on pp. 44-45, but his treatment is too thin.)

Further Reading

Feb. 16  Constructivism: Norms and Ideas in International Politics

- Kegley, pp. 40-43.

Further Reading

Feb. 18, 20  Foreign Policy Decision-Making:
Bureaucracy and Psychology
Individuals and International Politics
The Levels of Analysis and the Causes of War

- Kegley, pp. 52-74.

Further Reading
Feb. 23  Debating (Ancient) History: The Origins of World War I

- Kegley, pp. 90-95.

Further Reading

Feb. 25  Debating (Recent) History: The Origins of the Iraq War


Further Reading

Feb. 27  Debating the Future: The Rise of China


Further Reading

Policy paper (3 pp.) due in class on 2/27. Topics to be distributed on 2/20.

End of Material for Midterm I
March 2  In-Class Midterm Review

March 4  MIDTERM I

II. THE USE OF FORCE

March 6  Force Without Force: Deterrence and Compellence
March 9  When Threats Fail: Gulf War I and Gulf War II

• Kegley, pp. 420-456 (skim 428-438).
• Thomas Schelling, Arms and Influence (1966) pp. 1-18, 26-34.
• review: Pollack, “Why Iraq Can’t Be Deterred”

Further Reading
• Daniel Byman and Matthew Waxman, The Dynamics of Coercion: American Foreign Policy and the Limits of Military Might (2002).
• Robert Art and Patrick Cronin, eds., The United States and Coercive Diplomacy (2003).

March 11  Nuclear Deterrence and Nuclear Proliferation

• Jacques Hymans, “Think Again: Nuclear Proliferation,” Foreign Policy (Nov. 2005).

Further Reading

March 13  A Nuclear Iran?

SECTION


Further Reading
• Barry Posen, A Nuclear-Armed Iran: A Difficult But Not Impossible Policy Problem (Century Foundation, 2006).
March 16-20  SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS

March 23, 25  Civil War and the Prospects for Intervention

When reading about Rwanda or Darfur, don’t sweat the details. Focus on: Why does communal conflict, and even genocide, occur? Why did the West and the UN do next-to-nothing in Rwanda? Has the West learned the lessons of Rwanda?

• Kegley, pp. 380-387.

Further Reading
• Samantha Power, A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide (2003).

March 27  The United States and the Future of Iraq

SECTION


Further Reading
• http://www.barackobama.com/issues/iraq/
• http://www.nationalpriorities.org/costofwar_home
• Daniel L. Byman and Kenneth M. Pollack, Things Fall Apart: Containing the Spillover from an Iraqi Civil War (Brookings Institution, 2007).
• Brian Katulis et al., Iraq’s Political Transition After the Surge: Five Enduring Tensions and Ten Key Challenges, Center for American Progress, September 2008.
March 30  The United Nations and International Security

- Kegley, pp. 528-537.

Further Reading

April 1  Terrorism

April 3

- Kegley, pp. 387-396.

Further Reading

III. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

April 6, 8, 10  The Politics of International Trade and Finance

- Kegley, pp. 256-303.

Further Reading
April 13, 15  Globalization and Global Inequality

- Kegley, pp. 126-151, 154-160.

Further Reading

April 17  Debating Economic Globalization

**SECTION**


Further Reading

April 20  Foreign Aid and Development

**SECTIONS**

- Kegley, 151-154.

Further Reading

April 22  MIDTERM II
IV. New Challenges and a New World Order?

April 24, 27  International Law, Human Rights, and Global Governance


April 29  Climate Change

- Kegley, pp. 338-374.

Further Reading
- Thomas L. Friedman, Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution and How It Can Renew America (2008).

May 1  International Migration


May 4, 6  Ethics and International Politics


Further Reading
May 8

The Future of World Politics


Further Reading

**Final Exam — Saturday, May 16 — 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (usual location: 5 Blegen).**