

POLS/INST 184: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Spring 2014

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30am – 10:20am

Lecture Center C, Room 003

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Katharine M. Floros

BSB 1170B

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office hours: Wednesday, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

COURSE CONTENT:

This course is designed to be an introduction to the political science subfield of international politics. No background or prerequisites are required. The course will cover the major theories in international relations, security and economic relations between states, and global challenges states face from the environment and non-state actors.

EVALUATION (3 cr):

10% Reading/Map Quizzes

Throughout the semester, 10 quizzes will be given *during discussion sections* to test your comprehension of the reading material and the location of states on regional maps. All together, these quizzes will be worth 10% of the final grade.

10% Discussion Section Participation

Students should arrive in discussion section every Friday having read the chapter under discussion with special attention given to the “Policy Choices” box assigned for that week. Students will be quizzed on the reading material, but they will also be assessed on their participation in debates and discussion, with special emphasis on the valued added to the discussion by the student.

40% Exams (each @ 20%)

You will be required to take two exams. The first exam is tentatively scheduled for **March 11** and will cover the material from the beginning of the term until the exam day. The final exam is scheduled for **May 7** and will cover the material from the first exam until end of the semester.

40% Current Events Papers – Instruction sheet will be distributed with more information at a later date.

10% January paper (March 4)

15% February paper (April 3)

15% March Paper (May 1)

GRADES

90-100: A 80-89: B 70-79: C 60-69: D <60: F

GUIDELINES:

1. Late papers: Late papers will be penalized 1 letter grade (10 pts.) per day including weekends and holidays, except in the case of a verified emergency or documented medical excuse. In order for the penalty for tardiness to be waived, you must contact your TA **before** the due date. No exceptions! I WILL NOT accept papers via e-mail.

2. Academic Integrity: The University expects students to fulfill their academic obligations through honest and independent effort. Any of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own and according to university and class rules. Any attempt to gain an advantage not given to all students is considered dishonest whether or not it is successful. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious offense subject to strong disciplinary actions, included but are not limited to failing this course. For additional information, see the Student Code of Conduct at: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/dos/docs/Student%20Disciplinary%20Policy%202011-12%20Final-1.pdf>

3. Special provisions: Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please contact ODS at 312-413-2183 (voice) or 312-413-0123 (TTY).

4. Grade disputes: Students must wait 24 hours after receiving a grade or graded work before approaching the professor about the grade. If a student cannot understand the comments on a paper or exam, s/he may approach the TA for clarification; however, if the student desires to challenge the grade, all challenges must be made *in writing* to the professor more than 24 hours after the grade was received. Students must be able to explain *in writing* why the grade deserves to be adjusted. Students should submit the written grade dispute along with the original graded work to the professor. The professor reserves the right to either raise or lower the grade, based on her assessment of the material. TAs should not be bothered with grade disputes.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Kaarbo, Juliet and James Lee Ray. 2011. *Global Politics*, 10th ed. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
- Drezner, Daniel W. 2011. *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

READING SCHEDULE:

	Date	Topic	Reading	Exams
1	Jan. 14	Class introduction		
	Jan. 16	Theories of IR	Kaarbo & Ray, Ch. 1	
2	Jan. 21			
3	Jan. 23	Historical Setting	Kaarbo & Ray, Ch. 2	
	Jan. 28			
4	Jan. 30	Modern Era	Kaarbo & Ray, Ch. 3	
	Feb. 4			
5	Feb. 6	States and Transnational Actors	Kaarbo & Ray, Ch. 4	
	Feb. 11			

	Feb. 13	Foreign Policy	Kaarbo & Ray, Ch. 5	
6	Feb. 18			
	Feb. 20	International Conflict	Kaarbo & Ray, Ch. 6	
7	Feb. 25			
	Feb. 27	Ethnic Conflict and Terrorism	Kaarbo & Ray, Ch. 7	Jan. Current events paper due
March 4				
8	March 6			Catch up day
	March 11			Mid-term exam
9	March 13	Avoiding Conflict	Kaarbo & Ray, Ch. 8	
	March 18			
10	March 20	Global Security	Kaarbo & Ray, Ch. 9	
	No Class – Spring Break			
11	April 1	Global Security, cont.	Kaarbo & Ray, Ch. 9, cont.	
	April 3	IPE of Developed Countries	Kaarbo & Ray, Ch. 10	Feb. current events paper due
April 8				
12	April 10	IPE of Developing Countries	Kaarbo & Ray, Ch. 11	
	April 15			
13	April 17	Environment	Kaarbo & Ray, Ch. 13	
	April 22			
14	April 24	Future of World Politics	Kaarbo & Ray, Ch. 14	
	April 29			
15	May 1	Catch up day		March current events paper due
	Wednesday, May 7, 10:30 am -12:30 pm			Final exam

OTHER STUDENTS IN THE CLASS:

If you have any questions about assignments, deadlines, or other matters in the class, you may wish to contact other students before contacting the instructor or teaching assistant. Use the following space to collect information from other students in the class.

(name) (phone #) (e-mail)

(name) (phone #) (e-mail)