

POLS 184 (13204)  
Fall 2008  
University of Illinois at Chicago

Dr. Brandon Valeriano  
140 BSB  
TR 9:30 – 10:20 (Sections Friday)

### **Introduction to International Relations**

This course provides an introduction to and overview of the concepts and approaches used to analyze world politics by focusing on the three central questions of international relations: the morality of conflict, the causes of conflict, and how to establish peace. Emphasis will be placed on systematic investigations of the concepts and the skills required to debate current issues in world affairs from a multicountry framework. Various international topics and issues will be discussed and debated. All students should be aware of current international events and prepared to discuss them in the classroom setting and beyond.

### **Course Goals**

*By the end of this semester, each student should be able to:*

1. Understand morality, justice, and power from the international perspective
2. Be aware of diverse international concerns and perspectives
3. Be able to critically analyze our own (United States) actions in a global context
4. Understand the concepts and causes of international community and discord

### **Required Books**

- Erich Maria Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front (ISBN: 0449213943)
- Hans J. Morgenthau, Politics among Nations, Brief Edition. (ISBN: 0070433062)
- Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder, Essential Readings in World Politics, Third Edition. (ISBN: 0393931143)

### **Office Hours and Contact Info**

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### **Course Requirements**

Mid-term (25%)  
Final exam (30%)  
Two “Debate” Papers (5-6 pages, 15% each)  
Participation (Includes attendance and debates, 15%)

## The Course

The course is divided into three main sections. The first section will deal with the morality of conflict and its possible use in the international system. This section will illustrate the main theories of international relations and how they relate to the use of force. We will look at the worldviews of Realism, Idealism (Liberalism), and Radicalism.

The second section will deal with the causes of conflict in the international system. We will ask what conditions lead to war and what we know about war to this point. This section will focus on understanding the deadliest state of international affairs, conflict/war.

The third section will deal with the causes of peace. What is required to build a lasting peace in the international system? Can a lasting peace even be built in the current era? This section will focus on understanding the common conditions for peace in the global system.

We will start each day by talking about current events. ***Each student is required to keep up with the international – interstate news and be able to participate in class discussion.*** Next we will move to a lecture on the concepts to be discussed for the day. There is no mandatory attendance policy, but missing class or the discussion section more than three times will adversely affect your participation grade. Missing an excessive amount of class is grounds for failure automatically. It will be difficult to finish any exam if you do not have notes for the class from each day, simply reading the book and avoiding class is the surest path to failure.

## The Papers

Each student will have to pick two presentation topics listed for the Friday sections. You will be required to present a review of the issue presented in the article and discuss its empirical accuracy. It is also important that you state your own opinion. You must complete a short paper on the topic (5-6 pages, length can be unlimited). These papers should be well reasoned and researched papers detailing your position, evidence for your position, conclusions, and future recommendations. The paper will be due the next class day after the presentation. Grading will be based on 1/3 summary of position, 1/3 evidence for position, and 1/3 opinion and assessment.

The goal of your “debate” presentation during the class section meeting should be to suggest one important topic from your chapter that is of significant interest to you and the class. Ideas include novel solutions to problems, interesting points not considered before, or to challenge the central claims presented in the article. It is also important that the other students in the class read the paper topic and be prepared to discuss the issue in question. Failure to read the debate topic for the day and have an informed opinion on the issue will adversely affect your participation grade. **Be sure to keep a copy of every paper you turn in.**

## **News**

Each day we will start off with a discussion of international news if there are events that take place relevant to international politics. Students should be prepared to bring up and discuss these events. Any reputable national news source is acceptable. I prefer the New York Times, BBC, and the Washington Post. Finding news events that are relevant will take time and skill. Some of reports are buried in the news coverage of the day and it is your responsibility to find the relevant ones that others may have missed.

## **Participation**

Participation is simply showing up and contributing to class. Either asking questions, bringing up news articles, following up on lecture points, or private conversations with the professor/teaching assistant (if you are more comfortable with that) all count towards your participation grade. I do not take attendance and feel that missing class will be reflected on your final grade because you will miss important material.

## **Exams**

Each exam will consist of three parts: short answer, identifications, and an essay. The essay will cover the major issue we discuss in class for the period. You will be expected to write a coherent, well thought out essay regarding aspects of each class day. Identifications will require you to discuss issues, topics, or people of importance to the course. Short answers will be page long answers about an issue or topic.

## **Disclaimers**

Writing Deficiency Policy - Students who exhibit writing deficiencies will be required to seek help from the Writing Center and provide documentation that they have done so. You may seek help from the Writing Center if you think it would help you even if I do not refer you.

## **Course Outline**

### **A. Morality**

1. Just War
2. Realism
3. The National Interest
4. Idealism
5. Radicalism

### **B. Causes of Conflict**

1. Power Politics
2. Offensive Realism
3. Bush Doctrine
4. Clash of Civilizations
5. Civil (Ethnic) Conflict

### **C. Causes of Peace**

1. Democratic Security Communities
2. Deterrence
3. World Government and IGOs
4. International Law and Political Economy
5. Balance of Power
6. Concerts and Collective Security

## **Course Readings and Assignment Dates**

August 26

Distribute Syllabus

Discussion: Where do you get your news?

August 28

Lecture: What is International Relations/Morality?

Discussion: Justice, Conflict, and Peace

Read: Morgenthau, Ch 14-15

August 29

*Discussion Section Overview*

*Assign debate/paper topics*

Sept 2

L: The Just War Tradition

Read: Thomas Aquinas, On War

Online: <http://ethics.sandiego.edu/Books/Texts/Aquinas/JustWar.html>

Sept 4

L: Classical Realism

Read: Thucydides, "Melian Dialogue," *Essentials*, Page 12

Machiavelli, "The Prince"

Online: <http://www.constitution.org/mac/prince00.htm>

Read Chapters 5, 15, 17, 18, 21

Sept 5

*Topic: Are great wars over?*

*Debate: John Mueller, Retreat from Doomsday: The Obsolescence of Major War", Essentials, Page 242*

Sept 9

L: Principles of Realism

Read: Morgenthau, *Politics among Nations*

In this order Chap 1, 3, 1-2, 10, skim 8-9

Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power," *Essentials*, Page 60

Sept 11

L: National Interest and Its Critics

Read: Morgenthau, Online: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/reference/resources/journals/>

Search for American Political Science Review, click on JStor, basic search for "Another "Great Debate": The National Interest of the United States"

Wolfers, "National Security as an Ambiguous Symbol"

Online: [http://instituty.fsv.cuni.cz/~plech/Wolfers\\_BS.pdf](http://instituty.fsv.cuni.cz/~plech/Wolfers_BS.pdf)

Sept 12

Topic: *Oil and Politics: Democracy, Conflict, and Progress*

Debate: Thomas Friedman, "The First Law of Peteropolitics", *Essentials*, Page 543

Sept 16

L: Constructivism and Gender Theory

Read: Wendt, "Anarchy Is What States Make of It," *Essentials*, Page 93

Tickner, "Man, the State, and War," *Essentials*, Page 118

Sept 18

L: Idealism

Read: Wilson, "The Fourteen Points," *Essentials*, Page 26

Kant, "To Perpetual Peace," *Essentials*, Page 19

Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," *Essentials*, Page 80

Sept 19

Topic: *Has Liberalism Won?*

Debate: Fukuyama, "End of History", *Essentials*, Page 33

Sept 23

L: Marxism/Radicalism

Read: Lenin, "Imperialism," *Essentials*, Page 18

Online: Tolstoy, "Patriotism and Government"

[http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/anarchist\\_archives/bright/Tolstoy/patriotismandgovt.html](http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/anarchist_archives/bright/Tolstoy/patriotismandgovt.html)

Zinn, "Just Cause, Not a Just War"

[http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Zinn/JustCause\\_NotJustWar.html](http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Zinn/JustCause_NotJustWar.html)

Gandhi, "Passive Resistance" <http://www.mkgandhi.org/swarajya/ch017.htm>

"Of Means and Ends" <http://www.mkgandhi.org/swarajya/ch016.htm>

## **Part II: Causes of War**

Sept 25

L: Individuals and War

Read Online: Mead, "Warfare is Only an Invention – Not a Biological Necessity"

[http://www.ppu.org.uk/learn/infodocs/st\\_invention.html](http://www.ppu.org.uk/learn/infodocs/st_invention.html)

Online: Hobbes, "Of the Natural Condition of Mankind"

<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-c.html>

Sept 26

Topic: *The Experience of the Individual and War*

Discussion Day:

***All Quite on the Western Front (Have Read Before Today)***

Sept 30

L: What is War/What is Terrorism

Read: Clausewitz, "War as an Instrument of Policy," *Essentials*, Page 334

Whole Book (Optional):

<http://www.clausewitz.com/CWZHOME/VomKriege2/ONWARTOC2.HTML>

Schelling, "The Diplomacy of Violence," *Essentials*, Page 338

Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Terrorism," *Essentials*, Page 398

Abrahms, "Why Terrorism Does Not Work" *Essentials*, Page 418

Oct 2

L: Scientific Study of War

Read: J David Singer, "Incomplete Theorist: Insight Without Evidence"

Online: Ejournal search, World Politics

Hedley Bull, "International Theory: The Case for the Classical Approach"

Online: Ejournal search, World Politics

Stuart Bremer, "Dangerous Dyads"

<http://jcr.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/36/2/309>

*Oct 3*

*Topic: Resources as a Cause of War*

*Debate: Michael Ross, "Oil, Drugs, and Diamonds," Essentials, Page 441*

Oct 7

L: Realism as a Cause of War (Arms Races, Alliances, and Power Politics)

Read Online: Vasquez, "Coloring It Morgenthau,"

Ejournal Search, British Journal of International Studies"

Oct 9

L: Offensive Realism and the Bush Doctrine

Read: Bush Doctrine, *Essentials*, Page 47

*Oct 10*

*Mid Term Review*

**Oct 14**

**Mid Term Exam**

Oct 16

L: Clash of Civilizations

Read: Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," *Essentials*, Page 203

*Oct 17*

*Topic: What do we need to know about Islam and why do they hate us?*

*Debate: Sadowski, "Political Islam: Asking the Wrong Questions," Essentials, Page 210*

Oct 21

L: The Origins of Civil Conflict: Ethnic Fractionalization and Inequality or Insurgency and Economics?

Read: No Reading

Oct 23

L: What Do Know About War

Read: No Reading

*Oct 24*

*Topic: What are Human Rights?*

*Debate: Sen, "Universal Truths," Essentials, Page 598*

*Ignatieff, "The Attack on Human Rights," Essentials, Page 601*

Part III: Peace

Oct 28

L: What is peace and how do we measure it?

Read: No Reading

Oct 30

L: The Democratic Peace

Read: Kant, "To Perpetual Peace," *Essentials*, Page 19

The Democratic Peace Idea,

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monograph\\_reports/MR1346/MR1346.appc.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monograph_reports/MR1346/MR1346.appc.pdf)

*Oct 31*

*Topic: Nuclear Proliferation*

*Debate: Sagan, "How to Keep the Bomb from Iran," Essentials, Page 360*

Nov 4

Deterrence and Weapons of Mass Destruction

L: Deterrence Theory

Read: Herman Kahn's Domsday Machine

Online: <http://tracearchive.ntu.ac.uk/frame2/articles/borg/kahn.html>

Cohn and Ruddick, "A Feminist Ethical Perspective on Weapons of Mass Destruction," *Essentials*, Page 458

Nov 6

Start Dr. Strangelove

*Nov 7*

*Finish Dr. Strangelove*



Nov 11  
L: World Government  
Read: Morgenthau Ch 22-23

Nov 13  
L: International Organizations  
Read: Mearsheimer, "False Promise of International Institutions," *Essentials*, Page 319  
Morgenthau, Ch 20-21

Nov 14  
*Topic: Genocide*  
*Debate: Power, "Bystanders to Genocide," Essentials, Page 290 or*  
*Valentino, "Mass Killings and Genocide," Essentials, Page 368*

Nov 18  
L: International Law  
Read: Morgenthau Ch. 16  
Kissinger, "Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction," *Essentials*, Page 310  
Roth, "The Case for Universal Jurisdiction," *Essentials*, Page 316

Nov 20  
L: International Political Economy as a Path to Peace  
Read: Wallerstein, "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System,"  
*Essentials, Page 137*  
Gilpin, "The Nature of Political Economy," *Essentials, Page 479*  
Milner, "Globalization, Development, and International Institutions," *Essentials, Page*  
*486*  
Wolf, "Why Globalization Works," *Essentials, Page 509*

*Nov 21*  
*Topic: International Institutions and Peace*  
*Debate: Moravcsik, "A Too Perfect Union?" Essentials, Page 273*

Nov 25  
L: Balance of Power as a Path to Peace  
Read: Morgenthau Ch 11-13

Nov 27  
No Class Thanksgiving

*Nov 28*  
No Section Thanksgiving

Dec 2  
L: Concerts and Collective Security  
Morgenthau Ch 19

Dec 4

L: Diplomacy

Read: Morgenthau, Page 155-165, Ch 24-25

*Dec 5*

*Topic: Failed States*

*Debate: Krasner, "Sharing Sovereignty," Essentials, Page 176*

Dec 8-12 Finals