

POLS 184 (16201)
Spring 2009
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 (USA) 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, many papers have been lost in email through the years.**

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

- Jan 13: Distribute Syllabus, Valeriano giving Lecture in California
Where do you get your news?
- Jan 15 Lecture: What is International Relations/Morality?
Discussion: Justice, Conflict, and Peace
Read: Morgenthau, Ch 14-15
- Jan 16 *Discussion Section Overview*
Assign debate/paper topics
- Jan 20 L: The Just War Tradition
Read: Thomas Aquinas, On War
Online: <http://ethics.sandiego.edu/Books/Texts/Aquinas/JustWar.html>
- Jan 22 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
- Jan 23 *Topic: Are great wars over?*
Debate: John Mueller, Retreat from Doomsday: The Obsolescence of Major War", Essentials, Page 242
- Jan 27 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
- Jan 29 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
- Jan 30 *Topic: Oil and Politics: Democracy, Conflict, and Progress*
Debate: Thomas Friedman, "The First Law of Peteropolitics", Essentials, Page 543

- Feb 3 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
- Feb 5 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
- Feb 6 *Topic: Has Liberalism Won?*
Debate: Fukuyama, "End of History", Essentials, Page 33
- Feb 10 L: Marxism/Radicalism
 Read: Lenin, "Imperialism," *Essentials*, Page 18
 Online: Tolstoy, "Patriotism and Government"
http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/anarchist_archives/bright/Tolstoy/patriotisman dgovt.html
 Zinn, "Just Cause, Not a Just War"
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>
- Feb 12 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
 Online: Hobbes, "Of the Natural Condition of Mankind"
<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-c.html>
- Feb 13 *Topic: The Experience of the Individual and War*
Discussion Day: All Quite on the Western Front (Have Read Before Today)
- Feb 17 No Class, Conference
- Feb 19 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.H TML>
 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

- Feb 20 *Topic: Resources as a Cause of War*
Debate: Michael Ross, "Oil, Drugs, and Diamonds," Essentials, Page 441
- Feb 24 L: Scientific Study of War
 Stuart Bremer, "Dangerous Dyads"
<http://jcr.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/36/2/309>
- Feb 26 L: Realism as a Cause of War (Arms Races, Alliances, and Power Politics)
 Read Online: Vasquez, "Coloring It Morgenthau,"
- Feb 27 *Mid Term Review*
- March 3 Midterm
- March 5 L: Clash of Civilizations
 Read: Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," Essentials, Page 203
- March 6 *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
- March 19 L: Offensive Realism and the Bush Doctrine
 Read: Bush Doctrine, Essentials, Page 47
- March 12 L: The Origins of Civil Conflict: Ethnic Fractionalization and Inequality
 or Insurgency and Economics?
 Read: No Reading
- March 13 L: What Do Know About War
 Read: No Reading
- March 14 *Topic: What are Human Rights?*
Debate: Sen, "Universal Truths," Essentials, Page 598
Ignatieff, "The Attack on Human Rights," Essentials, Page 601
- March 17 Part III: Peace
 L: What is peace and how do we measure it?
 Read: No Reading
- March 19 No Class, Conference
- March 24 Spring Break
- March 26 Spring Break

- March 31 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
- April 2 Deterrence and Weapons of Mass Destruction
L: Deterrence Theory
Read: Herman Kahn's Doomsday 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
- April 3 *Topic: Nuclear Proliferation*
Debate: Sagan, "How to Keep the Bomb from Iran," Essentials, Page 360
- April 7 L: World Government
Read: Morgenthau Ch 22-23
- April 9 Dr. Strangelove
- April 10 Dr. Strangelove
- April 14 L: International Organizations
Read: Mearsheimer, "False Promise of International Institutions,"
Essentials, Page 319
Morgenthau, Ch 20-21
- April 16 L: International Law
Read: Morgenthau Ch. 16
Kissinger, "Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction," *Essentials*, Page 310
Roth, "The Case for Universal Jurisdiction," *Essentials*, Page 316
- April 17 *Topic: Genocide*
Debate: Power, "Bystanders to Genocide," Essentials, Page 290 or
Valentino, "Mass Killings and Genocide," Essentials, Page 368
- April 21 L: Balance of Power as a Path to Peace
Read: Morgenthau Ch 11-13
- April 23 L: Concerts and Collective Security
Morgenthau Ch 19
- April 24 *Topic: International Institutions and Peace*
Debate: Moravcsik, "A Too Perfect Union?" Essentials, Page 273

- April 28 L: Diplomacy
Read: Morgenthau, Page 155-165, Ch 24-25
- April 30 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
- April 31 *Topic: Failed States*
Debate: Krasner, "Sharing Sovereignty," Essentials, Page 176
- May 1 Catch up and wrap up
- Finals