Introduction to International Relations

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental concepts in the study of international politics and to acquaint them with the historical evolution of the modern global political system. The course has three primary goals: (1) to present leading theories and concepts for understanding international relations, including war and peace, trade, and globalization; (2) to examine international history to test theories of world politics, explicate historical events, and explain the evolution of the international system; and (3) to apply this knowledge of history and theory to analyze and assess contemporary global issues and to make predictions about potential future developments.

Some of the major questions we will tackle include: Is conflict an inescapable aspect of international politics? Why do states resort to war? What have been the effects of nuclear weapons? What will be the effects of spreading democracy, free trade, and international organizations? Why, and under what conditions, do states cooperate? What is globalization, and what will be the consequences of further internationalization of national economies and cultures? Is nationalism waxing or waning, and what are the implications of the answer? Are we on the threshold of a new era in international politics, one with the potential for lasting patterns of cooperation and peace, or must we inevitably return to a cycle of great power rivalry and competition?

This course assumes no prior familiarity with the basic concepts and literatures of international relations and world politics. However, while this is not a current events course, students are strongly encouraged to follow current events through a major newspaper with good coverage of foreign affairs; I recommend in particular the New York Times. For those particularly interested in economic and business issues, the Wall Street Journal is an excellent choice. I also recommend the magazine, The Economist, for its weekly coverage of global affairs.

This course meets three times each week. Two meetings are lectures, held on Mondays and Wednesdays; the third is a required recitation section. Students who add PS 61 during the drop/add period must also add a section. Ethan Corbin (ethan.corbin@tufts.edu), the head teaching assistant (TA), will handle all add/drop matters pertaining to sections.

This course makes extensive use of the PS61 Blackboard (http://blackboard.tufts.edu). Only those who are registered for the course have access to the course site. Your Blackboard login (i.e., username) is your last name and the last four digits of your Student ID number without spaces or dashes (i.e., yourlastname1234).

Required Texts: The readings for this course include conflicting interpretations of both theory and history. Your job is to read critically and to identify, and then to compare and evaluate, contending arguments.

The following texts will be available in the campus bookstore. You should also be able to find them in many neighborhood bookstores and on-line:


You will also need your own copy of the following case study for our in-class simulation. It is available for purchase for a small fee—as a hard, paper copy or as a PDF file—directly from the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy:

**Case #169—Nations: A Simulation Game in International Politics**

To order the case study, go to the Institute’s site: [http://www.guisd.org/](http://www.guisd.org/).

Additional readings will be available via hyperlinks listed below, or accessible through Blackboard (hereafter notated as BB) and/or via Tisch Library’s electronic databases (hereafter TL).

**Course Requirements:** Students are expected to attend class lectures, and to arrive on time and stay for the entire class period; all cell phones and PDAs must be turned off for the duration of each class meeting. Assigned readings will complement—but will not effectively substitute for—lectures. You will learn the most from this class if you do the reading on each topic before coming to lecture. Doing so will also allow you to more effectively participate in class discussions, ask and respond to questions, and offer your own opinions. Moreover, because it is important for you to assimilate not only the basic facts, but also the overarching concepts, ideas, and arguments, it would be a major error to defer doing the reading until just before exams are given and assignments are due.

In addition, students are required to register for—and regularly attend—section. Any students who have not enrolled in a PS61 section by the end of the third week of classes will be dropped from the course. Please plan accordingly.

Students will be expected to complete the following tasks:

1. **Recitation Attendance and Participation (15% of grade).** You are expected to do the readings, attend lectures and section meetings, and, as appropriate, participate in class discussions—this means, minimally, that you should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings during the class period for which they were assigned.

2. **Midterm Examinations (20% each).** There will be two in-class short answer/ID and/or multiple short essay blue book exams. Details will be announced sometime during the week before each test is given.

3. **Short Paper (10%):** This is a four-page (maximum) paper, which will be due on the last day of class and which will focus on the in-class simulation. The specific paper topic will be announced concurrent with the simulation. The paper will be graded based upon clarity of presentation, organization, and analytical quality. The paper should support its claims with evidence from class lectures and readings and should be correct in terms of grammar, punctuation and spelling. Papers deficient in these respects will be penalized.
4. Final Examination (35%). The specific format of the exam is TBA. However, please be aware that it will be *cumulative*; thus you will be expected to demonstrate mastery of the entire semester’s course materials. The exam will be held at the date and time assigned by the University, based on the “block” in which this course falls.

Late papers will be accepted and incompletes will be granted only at the discretion of the instructor and the TAs and only permitted in the event of *significant and verifiable* (i.e., documented) personal emergencies (e.g., a serious illness, death in the family). In the interest of fairness to all students, *under no condition will extensions be granted due to the stresses of academic life* (e.g., demands of other classes, other papers or exams, extracurricular activities, etc.). **Late submissions will be penalized 10% (i.e., a full letter grade) each day or portion thereof after the deadline.** This means that an assignment or exam submitted within the first 24 hours after the deadline that might have earned a 90 (an A-), would instead receive an 80 (a B-). Any assignment submitted five or more days after the deadline will automatically receive an F. Students are expected to ensure that all assignments are complete (e.g., all pages are legible and attached) when turned in; any and all incomplete assignments will receive an automatic F. Likewise, any assignments submitted to Blackboard that are locked or otherwise inaccessible to course staff members will receive an automatic F. In the interest of equity and fairness to all, no exceptions to these rules will be made. Please take care to follow all instructions, check your work, and plan accordingly.

*We will enforce a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty.* Please acquaint yourself with the guidelines for academic honesty in *Academic Integrity @Tufts* and in the *Political Science Department Student Handbook*.

**Grading Standards and Policies:** We will not employ a curve in grading assignments in this course. All excellent work (90-99%) will earn a grade in the A range; all meritorious work will earn a grade in the B range (80-89%); work without any marked merit or defect will earn a grade in the C range (70-79%); and all unsatisfactory or mediocre work will earn a grade in the D range (60-69%). All other work will earn an F (59% or lower). These are the standards set in the *Bulletin of Tufts University: School of Arts and Sciences and School of Engineering*. Please do not attempt to bargain, negotiate, or plead for a higher grade. Grading guidelines for all assignments will appear on Blackboard; without exception, all assignments will be evaluated according to these guidelines. No extra credit assignments or re-writes will be permitted. Assignments will be returned generally within ten (10) days after the due date.

**Course Schedule:** Please be aware that minor adjustments may be made to the course schedule over the course of the term. I will announce any such changes in class. Please treat the version of the syllabus posted on Blackboard as the most recent and definitive version.

**I. Key Concepts and Historical Context**

Session 1 (January 24): Course Introduction: The Study of International Politics

- No assigned reading

Session 2 (January 26): International Relations and Foreign Policy; Levels of Analysis

- Chapter 1: Is There an Enduring Logic of Conflict in World Politics?; and excerpt from Chapter 2: Explaining Conflict and Cooperation, pp. 33—55 only (Nye & Welch)
Session 3 (January 31): How Do We Know What We Know? Theory, Methodology and the Role of History in the Study of International Relations

- Excerpt from Chapter 2: Explaining Conflict & Cooperation, pp. 65—68 only (Nye & Welch)

Session 4 (February 2): The European System through World War I

- Chapter 1: The Emergence of Diplomacy and Great Powers in Paul Gordon Lauren, Gordon A. Craig, and Alexander George, Force and Statecraft: Diplomatic Problems of Our Time (Oxford University Press, 2006), pp. 3-23 (BB)
- Chapter 2: The Classical System of Diplomacy, 1815-1914 in ibid., pp. 24-46 (BB)

Recommended:
- Chapter 3: From Westphalia to World War I (Nye & Welch)

Session 5 (February 7): The Interwar Period and the Origins of World War II (in Europe)

- Chapter 4: The Failure of Collective Security and World War II (Nye & Welch)
- President Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points:
  http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/wilson14.asp
- Kellogg-Briand Pact:
  http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/imt/kbpact.htm

Session 6 (February 9): Bipolarity and the Cold War

- (Excerpt from) John Lewis Gaddis, We Now Know: Rethinking the Cold War (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997), Chapter 1: Dividing the World. NOTE: only sections V-IX are required: http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/howknow.htm
- Excerpt from Chapter 5: The Cold War, pp. 132-61 only (Nye & Welch)
- Benjamin Cohen, “The Bretton Woods System”; available at:
  http://www.polsci.ucsb.edu/faculty/cohen/recent/bretton.html

Session 7 (February 14): The Post-Cold War World and the Diffusion of Power

- Barry Posen, "Emerging Multipolarity: Why Should We Care?" (Art & Jervis)
- [Excerpts from] Mueller, Retreat from Doomsday, pp. 7-12 and 251-257 (BB)
- Excerpt from Chapter 8: The Information Revolution and Transnational Actors, pp. 268-80 only (Nye & Welch)

Recommended:
- Christopher Layne, “The Unipolar Illusion Revisited: The Coming End of the
II: Theoretical Perspectives

Session 10 (February 23): Realism and the Role of Anarchy in International Relations

- Excerpts from Thomas Hobbes, The Leviathan, Chapters VIII and XIV only: [http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-c.html](http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-c.html)
- Kenneth Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics” (Art & Jervis)
- John Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power” (Art & Jervis)
- Stephen Walt, “Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning” (Art & Jervis)

Session 11 (February 24: Monday schedule on Thursday)—The Security Dilemma and the Dynamics of Coercion and Compellence

- Robert Art, “The Four Functions of Force” (Art & Jervis)
- Robert A. Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism” (Art & Jervis)

Session 12 (February 28): (Neo)liberalism and (Overcoming Barriers to) Cooperation

- Michael Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies and Foreign Affairs” (Art & Jervis)
- Excerpt from Chapter 7: Globalization and Interdependence, pp. 245-67 only (Nye & Welch)
- Stanley Hoffman, “The Uses and Limits of International Law,” (Art & Jervis)

Session 13 (March 2): Constructivism, Culture and Identity

- Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It” (Art & Jervis)
- Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” (Art & Jervis)

*Recommended:*

Session 14 (March 7): Domestic Politics, Decision-making, and the Role of Misperceptions

- Irving Janus, *Groupthink*, Chapter 1: "Why So Many Miscalculations?" (BB)

### III. Contemporary Issues in International Relations

**Sessions 15 and 16 (March 9 and 14): Security Issues and the Role of WMD**

- Excerpt from Chapter 5: The Cold War, pp. 161-73 only (Nye & Welch)
- Thomas Schelling, “The Diplomacy of Violence,” pp. 177-84 only (Art & Jervis)
- Scott Sagan, “Nuclear Instability in South Asia” (BB)
- Kenneth Waltz, “Nuclear Stability in South Asia” (BB)
- Henry Sokolski, “Getting Ready for a Nuclear-Ready Iran” (Art & Jervis)
- Barry Posen, “A Nuclear Armed Iran…” (Art & Jervis)

**Session 17 (March 16): In-class (closed book) Midterm II**

**SPRING BREAK (March 19-March 27)—Have fun!**

**Sessions 18 and 19 (March 28 and 30): Economic Issues**

**3/28: International Political Economy (after the 2008 Financial Crisis)**
- Robert Gilpin, “The Nature of Political Economy” (Art & Jervis)
- Michael Hiscox, “Domestic Sources of Foreign Economic Policies” (Art & Jervis)
- Selected *Economist* and *New Yorker* readings on China and the global economy (in a folder named “CHINA/IPE”) (BB)

**3/30: Poverty, Inequality, and Foreign Aid**
- Bruce Scott, “The Great Divide in the Global Village” (Art & Jervis)
- Sebastian Mallaby, “NGOs: Fighting Poverty, Hurting the Poor” (Art & Jervis)
- Additional readings on current debates about foreign aid (in a folder named “FOREIGN AID”) (BB)

**Sessions 20 and 21 (April 4 and 6): Ethics and International Law—Rights and Responsibilities**

**4/4: The Environment and the Global Commons: Barriers to “Ethical Action”**
- Guest Lecturer: Nancy Gleason
- Readings TBA

**For 4/6: Humanitarian Intervention and the “Responsibility to Protect”**
- Excerpt from Chapter 6: Post-Cod War Conflict and Cooperation, pp. 194-204 (Nye & Welch)
- Excerpt from Martha Finnemore, “Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention,” in *The Culture of National Security* (BB)
- Alan Kuperman, “Humanitarian Intervention” (Art & Jervis)
- James L. Payne, “Deconstructing Nation Building” (Art & Jervis)

*Recommended for those particularly interested in military intervention:*

---

Greenhill, Spring 2011
- Richard Betts, “The Delusion of Impartial Intervention,” *Foreign Affairs* (1994) (TL); and
- Kelly M. Greenhill, “On Intervention to Deter Deadly Conflict: A Prospective Analysis,” *Breakthroughs*, vol. 10, no. 1 (spring 2001), pp. 36-44 (BB)

Sessions 22 and 23 (April 11 and 13): Power, Globalization and its Discontents

*For 4/11: Globalization*
- Chapter 7: Globalization and Interdependence, pp. 239-45 only (Nye & Welch)
- Dani Rodrik, “Trading in Illusions” (Art & Jervis)
- Geoffrey Garrett, “Globalization’s Missing Middle” (Art & Jervis)
- John Micklethwait and Adrian Woolridge, “Why the Globalization Backlash is Stupid” (Art & Jervis)
- Moises Naim, “Minilateralism” (Art & Jervis)

*For 4/13: Transnational and Non-State Actors*
- Excerpt from Chapter 8: The Information Revolution and Transnational Actors, pp. 280-95 only (Nye & Welch)
- Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, “Transnational Activist Networks” (Art & Jervis)
- Phil Williams, Transnational Organized Crime and the State” (Art & Jervis)

- NOTE: We will also discuss the simulation (see below) in class on 4/13, so please be sure to have purchased your copy and read it BEFORE we meet

Session 24 (April 18): Patriot’s Day HOLIDAY (No class)

IV. Simulation

Sessions 25-27 (April 20, 25 and 27): In-class exercise (no sections held the week of 4/25)

- ISD Case “Nations: A Simulation Game in International Politics”
  (Details to follow; group assignments will be posted on BB by the end of the first week in April)

V. The Future of International Politics

Session 28 (May 2): Coming Developments in International Politics?

- Chapter 9: What Can We Expect in the Future?, pp. 317-26 only (Nye & Welch)
- John Ikenberry, “Rising Powers and Global Institutions” (Art & Jervis)
- Excerpts from FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS section (pieces by NIC; Kagan; and Jackson and Howe), pp. 56471; 577-95 (Art & Jervis)

*Recommended:*
- Robert Art, “The Fungibility of Force” (Art & Jervis)
Short Paper Due (Must be submitted to the digital drop box on BB BEFORE the start of class; papers “turned in” during or after class will be considered late.)

Recitation Sections: Below please find a comprehensive list of recitation options. The TAs will introduce themselves during our first class meeting and tell you a bit about their respective backgrounds and interests. Please remember that recitations are required, and that a failure to enroll in one by the end of Week Three will get you dropped from this course! Please direct all recitation-related questions to your TA and all add/drop questions to the head TA, Ethan Corbin.

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>RA</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12-12:50p</td>
<td>Terrace Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>RB</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12-12:50p</td>
<td>Terrace Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>RC</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1:30-2:20p</td>
<td>Eaton 203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>RD</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1:30-2:20p</td>
<td>Eaton 204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>RE</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>2:30-3:20p</td>
<td>Eaton 204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>RF</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3:00-3:50p</td>
<td>Eaton 333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>RG</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3:30-4:20p</td>
<td>Eaton 202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>RH</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12-12:50p</td>
<td>Miner 112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>RI</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10:30-11:20a</td>
<td>Eaton 206</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PS 61 TAs and contact information:

Ashley Belyea: belyea.ashley@gmail.com
Ethan Corbin: ethan.corbin@tufts.edu
Keith Proctor: keith.proctor@gmail.com
Ivan Rasmussen: ivan.rasmussen@tufts.edu
Richard (Ches) Thurber: Richard.Thurber@tufts.edu
David Wallsh: David.Wallsh@tufts.edu