

**Political Science 103.001**  
**Introduction to World Politics**

Spring 2009, Maybank 207	Professor Helen Delfeld
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**Overview of the course**

From the wars in which the US is currently engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan to the shoes on our feet to the way we think about people who live in other parts of the world, international politics impacts and structures our lives. To make sense of the dizzying complexity of international politics takes some time and some hard work. We will be examining international relations on three levels: empirically observable “facts”; theories that explain specific phenomena; and overall paradigms. We will learn to more critically analyze information that affects our lives by examining theories against paradigms, facts in the light of theories, and so on.

The international system is radically changing, within the span of our lives – and these changes are not over yet. The state is no longer solely imagined as sovereign, partly due to changing ideas of citizenship and national identity. With new computer-driven information and forms of expression, people define themselves in new ways. Responses to authority shift with these new identities, and authority itself changes in response. New issues arise – human rights, environmental concerns and trade, among others – redefining politics outside the common conception of governance or war. The better we are able to theoretically grasp these shifts, the better we will be able to work with them, rather than be controlled by them.

This is why it is so exciting to study international politics today. It is not simply that change is all around us. We can influence that change. In fact, we do influence the world, whether we think we are doing so or not. We (and others!) are better off being in charge of the impact we have, or at least aware of it. The increasing importance of these issues gives those who understand this a significant practical edge, as well – learning a language, understanding power dynamics, and thinking more critically about the world will not only be a personal achievement, but be of great use in your future careers.

**Goals of This Course**

There are three goals of this course. The first is to train us to understand and to eventually participate in the major debates of the day. Reading and understanding the daily news is essential, both for our societies, and for ourselves. By the end of the semester, you will be able to analyze patterns in what you read, comment intelligently on the origins of these issues, and begin to critically think about both the pragmatic and moral solutions to current problems.

The second is to provide a basis for further scholarly exploration in international relations, and in the larger study of political science. We will look at different social scientific approaches to pursuing knowledge, and we will critique them, looking at how we can assess the quality of what we think we know. We will look at

the different recurring themes in political science, and spend some time thinking about what we remove from consideration by channeling our thought into these patterns.

The third goal is to improve critical reading, thinking, and writing. The cultural decentering possible in the study of international politics is particularly well-suited to helping us improve these skills. We will learn to question our assumptions, and look for evidence to query our opinions.

**Required Readings.** All readings are posted on ERes, password WP. **I strongly recommend you print them all out as soon as they are available and keep them in a binder.**

The readings are primarily from these two books, if you prefer a hard copy.

(GPCW in the syllabus) Richard W. Mansbach and Edward Rhodes, *Global Politics in a Changing World: A Reader*, THIRD EDITION (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 2006).

NB: Students need the THIRD EDITION of the Mansbach/Rhodes text (the one with a 2006 publication date). About 75% of the material in the third edition is new and does not appear in the second edition, so the second edition is unlikely to be very useful.

(GWP in the syllabus) John Baylis and Steve Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics*, THIRD EDITION (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005)

NB: Students need the THIRD EDITION of the Baylis/Smith text (the one with a 2005 publication date). About 75% of the material in the third edition is new and does not appear in the second edition, so the second edition is unlikely to be very useful.

**An additional requirement** for the course is to read a major daily newspaper -- *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, or *Wall Street Journal*, for example. The foreign correspondents for these papers provide coverage that offers a wealth of insights into the issues we will be discussing in class, as well as illustrations of the concepts we are developing and new questions to be answered and mysteries to be resolved. The New York Times is free online (although you have to pay for back issues), one of the greatest bargains in the world.

American newspapers

*The Washington Post* [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

*The New York Times* [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

*The Wall Street Journal* [www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com)

British newspapers

*BBC World News* <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

*The Financial Times* [www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com)

*The Guardian* <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

News from other parts of the world (in English)

*Al-Jazeera* <http://english.aljazeera.net/>

*Der Spiegel* <http://www.spiegel.de/international/>

*Le Monde Diplomatique* <http://mondediplo.com/>

Though it is a bit expensive, *Economist*, a weekly news magazine published in Britain, provides

extraordinarily well-written and well-researched accounts of international affairs. If you have a serious, ongoing interest in international politics, you may wish to begin to read regularly some of the more serious journals that provide current analysis of critical international issues. The two best known journals of this sort are *Foreign Affairs* and *Foreign Policy*.

## Grading

Grading will be as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> news journal = 5%
- 2<sup>nd</sup> set of news journals = 10%
- 3<sup>rd</sup> set of news journals = 10%
- Taking Sides debate = 15%
- Short paper on Model UN experience = 10%
- 7 random reading quizzes = 10% (drop the lowest two)
  - either on the assigned reading or that week's news (so keep up on reading!)
- Midterm exam = 15%
- Take home final = 15%
- Participation = 10%

I do not make study guides for the midterm, although I strongly encourage you to do so. Study groups certainly help, as well, and study groups may certainly construct study guides together. Material in the reading but not covered in class frequently appears on exams, as does material covered in class but not in the readings.

### News Journal

A big part of this class is to learn to be able to more systematically process world events. To practice this skill set, we'll do three iterations of an identical assignment. You will write a news journal tying articles found in the New York Times to the articles we are reading in class. The first time you turn in a journal, you'll turn in an analysis of a single article. The second time, you'll turn in analysis of three articles, incorporating the experience gained from the first one. The third will be analysis of five articles.

You will select articles that appear in the Times after the due date of the last journal entries (or the beginning of the class, if the first assignment) – in other words, divide the class into rough thirds, and draw articles from the appropriate third. Whichever article you choose, you must also look at that issue from at least two other world news sources – i.e., not the other US news sources, which can often draw from the *NYT*.

Each entry is 300 to 350 words long, and has four parts. The first part faithfully describes the article, and is the shortest part – no more than a quarter of the entry (usually less!). Secondly, you should compare and contrast the news coverage on that issue to news coverage provided elsewhere in the world on the same story. In the third section, identify the concept or theory from class that is relevant, and the fourth applies that theory to the news item in question.

A more concise presentation is much more desirable than a wordy one. One page is not really long enough for these assignments, so please do not waste words – that indicates you are not really doing the work. Wasted words also tend to irritate the teacher. Focus!

### Debates

Being able to analytically deal with arguments takes practice as well. The class will divide into eight teams, and pairs of teams will debate. There's a twist, of course, or this would be boring! You will not know which side your team will take, until class starts that day.

Another twist – really excellent questions from the audience will earn an extra credit point.

### UN Paper

Participation in the Model UN is mandatory for this class. Following the weekend of the event, you will write up an analysis of the event – much of this work can and should be done as preparation for the event itself. This will be a 450-500 word paper following the model of the news journals, with three subsections. First, describe your country and your issue. The second section will describe the theories that best apply and help to explain the perspective of that country on that issue. The third will analyze the application of that theory/those theories.

### Quizzes

There will be random quizzes which will be graded on a scale of five points. The quizzes will either be beginning-of-class reading quizzes, news quizzes covering the biggest news stories of the week, or end-of-class comprehension quizzes, and of course it won't be announced ahead of time which is occurring on a given day. Your overall average will determine your grade in this category. Be prepared! We will generally not have new readings on Fridays, but be prepared for a quiz those days as well.

Note that your quiz score for the day will not count if you attend class only to take the quiz, nor will you be allowed to make up a beginning-of-class quiz if you are late.

### Participation

I assign very targeted reading -- this means there is not that much of it, but it is critical to read the assignments in order to participate in class. You are expected to show up to class having done the reading and prepared to talk about it.

I take your participation grade very seriously. This is a discussion-based class, and there is no way to earn an A without participating. But different people are prepared to participate in different ways, and I do not discriminate. If you come to office hours to discuss class issues, that is participation. If you contribute meaningfully in class, that is participation. If you work hard in your group projects, that is participation.

Attendance is mandatory, of course, and will be an important part of your grade. I will make all important announcements as soon as class starts, and I will not repeat these for latecomers: be aware that you need to get this information from your colleagues. We will typically start the daily reading quiz immediately after announcements, and we cannot make those up later, for obvious reasons.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

As a student at the College of Charleston, you are bound by an Honor Code. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. The point of the class is to improve your critical thinking and writing skills, which is defeated by stealing others' work. You must cite quotations. When you paraphrase another's work, you must cite that as well. I should know the source of *every single thing* in your papers that is not either common knowledge or originally generated analysis. If you have any questions, refer to the College policy on plagiarism. If any questions remain, talk to me. If doing the right thing is not incentive enough, be afraid of getting caught. It is easy to catch plagiarism, and I take it very seriously.

## Conscience Cash

Since we all have multiple responsibilities, some of which conflict with the calendar of our class, I have instituted a Conscience Cash system to enable some flexibility in the scheduling of class due dates. Each person will begin with a “dollar” which can be used in the following ways:

1. You may trade the dollar to allow you to turn in a paper one class day late.
2. You may trade the dollar for a chance to rewrite one of the first two journal assignments. (The last may not be rewritten.)
3. You may trade the dollar to take a test at another time.
4. You may trade the dollar to allow you to drop a quiz grade (most appropriate, likely, when you miss a quiz due to being late, or absent) – this is in addition to the two that everyone is allowed to drop. Obviously, you would choose this option at the end of the semester if you didn’t need it for another purpose, to improve your overall class grade.

There is no other accommodation available for missed work, except in the rare case of **prolonged, documented** health issues or other similar emergency. You should use your dollar only when absolutely necessary, so you don’t encounter an unexpected emergency, and pay with your grade.

## Accommodations

**Please Note: If you are a SNAP student eligible for accommodations, you must provide me with a copy of the notification letter you have been given by the SNAP office well before the need for any accommodation arises. If you are a student athlete who will miss class time due to away events, you must follow the procedures set out by the College in order to expect due consideration. In both cases, I will not guarantee granting your requests if I have not been given sufficient notice.**

**Readings are to be done BEFORE the class day indicated.  
Schedule of Class Meetings:**

Monday, January 12  
Introduction.

Wednesday, January 14  
GWP, pp 1-14: Introduction  
GWP, pp 19-40: Chapter 1

### **I. Historical Context**

Friday, January 16  
GWP Chapter 3, 63-92: 1900-45

### **Monday, January 19**

**Martin Luther King Day – No Class**

I suggest volunteering some time this day – believe it or not, it can be really fun.

### **Wednesday, January 21** **No Class Today**

Friday, January 23  
GWP Chapter 4, 93-110: 1945-1990

Monday, January 26  
GWP Chapter 6, 131-152: 1990- now...

## **II. Basic Concepts**

Wednesday, January 28  
Levels of analysis (class lecture and discussion; no reading)

Friday, January 30  
GWP Chapter 7, 161-184: Realism

Monday, February 2  
GWP Chapter 8, 185-204: Liberalism

Wednesday, February 4  
GWP Chapter 9, 251-270: Constructivism

Friday, February 6  
Fill In and Catch Up

Monday, February 9  
Debate #1: Taking Sides #19 “Are Cultural and Ethnic Wars the Defining Dimensions of Twenty-First Century Conflict?”

## **III. What is democracy, anyway?**

Wednesday, February 11  
“Electoral Systems: A Primer for Decision Makers”  
**\*\* First News Journal Due on Sections I and II**

Friday, February 13  
GPCW, 106-131, 164-167: “History is Still Going Our Way”; “The Return of the Authoritarian Great Powers”; America’s Crusade”; “America’s Crisis of Legitimacy”; “The 10<sup>th</sup> Circle”  
“The Democratic Rollback” Larry Diamond

**Monday, February 16**  
**No Class Today**

Wednesday, February 18

## **IV. What is power, anyway? What is politics!?**

Friday, February 20  
GWP Chapter 30, 669-688 “Gender Issues”

Monday, February 23  
“Declaration Held Hostage by African States”  
“Parking Violation”

Wednesday, February 25

GPCW, 132-139; 440-2; 445-459: “Why God is Winning”; “Islamists Suffer as Freedom Slips Down the Mideast Agenda”; “Cartoon Uproar Exposes Muslim Divide”; “Mutual Incomprehension, Mutual Outrage”

**Friday, February 27**

**Midterm Exam**

**Monday, March 1 to Friday, March 5**

**Spring Break!**

## **V. Globalization**

Monday, March 9

GPCW, 480-506: “The Globalization Index”; “English as the Language of Global Education”; “Soccer vs. McWorld”; “How Globalization Went Bad”; “Loves Microsoft, Hates America”

Wednesday, March 11

Debate #2: Taking Sides #11 “Is Globalization a Positive Development for the World Community?”  
Cynthia Enloe Speaking Tonight – extra credit available for a write-up on this event.

Friday, March 13

Sovereignty and other Notions

GWP Chapter 25, 555-578: “Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics”

Monday, March 16

GWP Chapter 19, 425-450: “Transnational Actors and International Organizations in Global Politics”  
**\*\* Second News Journal Due on Sections III and IV**

Wednesday, March 18

GWP Chapter 28, 621-644: “Causes and Consequences of the Communications and Internet Revolution”

GPCW, 18-19: “Bloggers May Be the Real Opposition”

Friday, March 20

Economic Globalization

GWP Chapter 14, 325-348: “International Political Economy in an Age of Globalization”

Monday, March 23

GWP Chapter 27, 599-620: “Global Trade and Finance”

The Washington Consensus to be discussed in class

Wednesday, March 25

Fill In and Catch Up

Monday, March 30

Debate #3: Taking Sides #14 “Do International Financial Institutions and Multinational Corporations Exploit the Developing World?”

## **VI. Media**

Friday, March 27

“Global communication and foreign policy”

Wednesday, April 1

“The CNN Effect”

“The Al-Jazeera Effect”

Friday, April 3

“China Allows Journalists Rare Freedom”

“China Earthquake Brings out Citizen Journalists”

“China Orders Journalists to End Negative Coverage”

Listen to: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=90664135>

Monday, April 6

Fill In and Catch Up

**Wednesday, April 8**

**Model UN prep – no large class meeting; groups meet instead**

**Friday, April 10**

**Model UN prep – no large class meeting; groups meet instead**

**MEET AT 4 IN THE STERN CENTER BALLROOM**

**Saturday, April 11**

**MEET AT 9 IN THE STERN CENTER BALLROOM**

Monday, April 13

Class discussion on Model UN

## **VII. Colonialism and Post-colonialism**

Wednesday, April 15

Potentially see *The Mission*

**\*\* Short Analysis on Model UN due**

Friday, April 17

Colonialism readings TBA

Monday, April 20

Debate #4: Taking Sides #4 “Do Environmentalists Overstate Their Case?”

Wednesday, April 22

Anti-Colonisation Movements readings TBA

Friday, April 24

Postcolonialism readings TBA

**\*\* Third News Journal Due on Sections IV, V, VI, and VII**

Monday, April 27

Neo-colonialism readings TBA

**Final Take-Home Exam is due Friday, May 1**

