COURSE OBJECTIVES

World politics has been in a state of extraordinary transition. Today’s world of international relations is an arena that links domestic and foreign affairs around the globe, raising a host of complex issues and questions. What are the most important global issues? Why are there wars? Why do countries have a hard time cooperating to prevent genocides or global environmental problems? How can we effectively fight against terrorism? How serious is the threat of nuclear proliferation? How can we manage the political and security challenges in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan? Why are some countries rich while others are poor? World politics today poses a real challenge to our understanding, yet we believe there are keys that will open the doors for us. We can search for a “toolbox” of analytical concepts from contending theories of world politics that can be applied to a wide variety of topics. We believe that a broad and self-conscious theoretical orientation remains the best resource for comprehending and coping with change, now and in the years ahead.

As an introduction to the dynamics of international politics, this course includes in depth analysis of the actors, structures, and issues that make up the essence of international relations. We are going to study competing theoretical perspectives, state and non-state actors, the evolution of international system, cooperation and conflict, globalization and interdependence, international institutions, human rights, environmental pressures, population problem, and other important issues in world affairs. Applying theoretical perspectives to real world issues, we will examine causes of global crises and possible solutions to the crises. We will pay special attention to the core concepts including interests, interactions, and institutions. Many problems in world politics can be analyzed using these key concepts. Specifically, we are going to examine the following questions: Who are the relevant actors and what are their interests? What is the nature of their interactions? What strategies can they be expected to pursue? When are their choices likely to bring about cooperation or conflict? How do institutions constrain and affect interactions? How might they impede or facilitate cooperation? When and how do institutions favor different actors and their interests? By addressing both theoretical and empirical questions, we should be able to gain a deep understanding of the key challenges facing the world today.
COURSE REQUIREMENT AND GRADING POLICY

Students are expected to (1) complete and study carefully all required reading; (2) address significant questions and articulate well-informed positions on key issues; (3) write an analysis paper and present it to class, and (4) follow current events and news analysis.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of their performance of one midterm exam (30%), class participation including two participation reports (20%), a 5-6 page analysis paper (10%), a presentation of the paper (10%), and a final exam (30%). You also have a great opportunity to write a 5-6 page paper about the developing world and the new global dynamic (10%). The lowest ten percent of your grade will be dropped from your grade for the course. Class participation is desired and highly encouraged. Detailed guidelines for papers and exams will be provided. No late paper or exam will be accepted without prior written permission.

As the lectures and classroom discussions are an essential part of the course, attendance is mandatory. A class sign-up sheet will be distributed at the beginning of each class. You are allowed a maximum of two unexcused absences during the semester; additional absences, unless you can clearly prove personal emergencies or illnesses, will result in a loss of 2 points for each absence.

Grading Scale:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-87</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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Any student with a diagnosed learning or psychological disability which impedes his or her from carrying out required course work, or which requires accommodations such as extended time on examinations, should advise me during the first two weeks of the course so we can review possible arrangements for reasonable accommodations.

Academic honesty is very important! When you enrolled in the College of Charleston, you signed the Honor Code. I expect you to abide to the code and it is the only way to maintain the integrity and value of your degree. You will fail this course if you cheat on an exam or plagiarize any portion of your paper. I will turn an Honor Code violation in to the Honor Board and vigorously pursue further disciplinary action. Everyone must highly value academic integrity and abide to the Honor Code.

REQUIRED TEXTS


The following resources listed below are helpful in keeping up with the pressing issues and debates in world politics. For complete access to the digital contents of the newspapers and journals, please use your account with the College of Charleston library.

**Newspapers and Magazines**

- The New York Times
- The Christian Science Monitor
- The Washington Post
- The Wall Street Journal
- The Economist
- The Financial Times
- China Daily
- Time
- Newsweek
- US News & World Report

**TV/Radio**

- Nightly News (ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN)
- Nightline (ABC)
- The PBS NewsHour
- This Week (ABC)
- Meet the Press (NBC)
- Face the Nation (CBS)
- Morning Edition (NPR)
- All Things Considered (NPR)
- The World (BBC/PRI)

**Journals**

- International Organization
- International Security
- Journal of Conflict Resolution
- International Affairs
- International Political Science Review
- World Politics
- International Studies Quarterly
- Political Science Quarterly
- Review of International Studies
- Asian Survey
COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

1. The Importance of International Relations
   Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Preface and Introduction.
   Mingst and Snyder, Preface.
   Dittmer and Yu, Chapter 1.
   (Deadline for completing the readings, August 26, 2010)

2. What Shaped Our World?
   Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 1.
   The 9/11 Commission Report, the entire report.
   Dittmer and Yu, Chapter 2.
   Rourke, Unit 1.
   (August 31, 2010)

3. Approaches to World Politics
   Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 2.
   Mingst and Snyder, Chapters 1-3.
   Dittmer and Yu, Chapters 4-5.
   Nye, the entire book.
   Rourke, Unit 2.
   (September 7, 2010)

4. Why Are There Wars?
   Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 3.
   Mingst and Snyder, Chapters 4 & 8.
   Rourke, Unit 4.
   (September 14, 2010)

5. Domestic Politics and War
   Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 4.
   Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 5.
   (September 21, 2010)

6. International Institutions and War
   Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 5.
   Mingst and Snyder, Chapters 6-7.
   Rourke, Unit 5.
   (September 28, 2010)

7. International Trade
   Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 6.
8. International Financial Relations
   Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 7.
   (October 14, 2010)

9. International Monetary Relations
   Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 8.
   (October 21, 2010)

    Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 9.
    Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 9.
    Dittmer and Yu, Chapters 6-7.
    Mortenson and Relin, the entire book.
    (October 28, 2010)

11. Transnational Networks
    Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 10.
    Dittmer and Yu, Chapters 8-9.
    (November 4, 2010)

12. Human Rights
    Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 11.
    (November 11, 2010)

13. The Global Environment
    Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 12.
    Rourke, Unit 6.
    (November 18, 2010)

14. The Future of World Politics
    Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 13.
    Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 10.
    (December 2, 2010)

**Final Examination: Tuesday, December 14, 2010.**