

POLS 170B: INTRODUCTION to INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
Fall 2011

Monday – Wednesday- Friday 9:20- 10:20

Location: LC 205

Instructor: Deepa Prakash

Email: deepaparakash@depauw.edu

Office Hours: Monday 1:00-3:00, Thursday 11:00- 12:00 and by appointment

Office: 106 Asbury Hall

Phone: 765-658-4623

“Why do states go to war with some countries and cooperate with others?” “Is globalization good, bad or somewhere in between?” “What causes terrorism and what can we do about it?” “Are we going through a double dip recession? What is that anyway?” “Why do some states not want to cooperate on climate change?” “Is China a friend or foe to the United States?” “What does the UN actually do?” “Can I ‘make a difference in the world’? How?”

If you’ve ever pondered any of these questions, you’re in good company. These questions drive scholarship in the field of international relations and preoccupy some of the key figures in the field. In this class, we will understand the ways that states, scholars and policymakers have sought to make sense of patterns of international relations. There are multiple ways to approach these questions, and by the end of this class you will have the beginnings of your own answers to some of them.

We will first delve into the major IR theories or “lenses” through which people view international politics. We will understand how- depending on the lens you adopt- you can arrive at different explanations of patterns of international relations, privilege some issues over others, and provide different policy prescriptions.

Then, equipped with these lenses, we will encounter some key issues that drive international politics. These are broadly divided into three enduring questions: what explains patterns of conflict and cooperation in the international system? How do we explain order in the international system? And what do we do about ‘global’ problems that require collective solutions?

Course Objectives:

By the time we leave this class, you will:

1. Be familiar with the major theories of International Relations and be able to apply them to various issues.
2. Be familiar with key issues and problems within international politics and understand why they matter.
3. Hopefully develop an interest in one or more issues within international politics.
4. Be able to think and argue critically about issues in IR.

There are no prerequisites for the class, but the better informed you are on current events and history, the more you will learn, enjoy and contribute. To this end, please:

1. Do your reading. Read critically, take notes, note down questions you have.
2. Participate in class- ask questions, contribute ideas, listen actively.
3. Read a few major newspapers/news sources regularly. You can access these online or listen to news podcasts. Some good sources are:

Major World Newspapers: The New York Times, Washington Post, The Guardian, Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times

Magazines: The Economist <http://www.economist.com/>

Websites: <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/> BBC

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/>, Al Jazeera <http://english.aljazeera.net/>

Blogs: Stephen Walt on ForeignPolicy.com <http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/> ,

Daniel Drezner <http://drezner.foreignpolicy.com/>,

<http://duckofminerva.blogspot.com/> , NPR Planet Money

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/>

Podcasts: BBC world news, NPR planet money <http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/>

Course Materials:

There are two *required* texts for this class:

The first is the main textbook, referred to as G & P in the syllabus:

1. Joshua Goldstein and Jon Pevehouse *International Relations Tenth Edition*, Longman, 2011.

There is also a podcast by the textbook authors with an overview for each chapter. Go online to http://wps.pearsonlongman.com/long_goldstein_ir_10_cw/ and click on “IR Talk Podcasts” and click on the current chapter to listen or download for future listening.

Side by side, we’ll be exploring the world of the undead with:

2. Daniel Drezner (2010) *Theories of International Politics and Zombies* Princeton Univ. Press.

I will supplement these texts with articles and other materials which will be uploaded on moodle. These are marked with (E) for electronic. For any given week, reading all the assigned material is essential.

A few classes assign podcasts from This American Life (TAL). In each case I have provided (and will update if needed) the episode page on the TAL website’s archive- you can stream the episode from there, read the transcript or download from itunes. Listening to the podcasts should be treated like a reading assignment.

Course Requirements

Your grade is made up of the following components:

Quizzes 10% (50 points)

There will be 5-6 random pop quizzes or map tests during the course of the class. If you are keeping up with the reading and paying attention in class, you'll do fine. I will drop your lowest quiz grade at the end. There will be **no make up quizzes** except in extenuating circumstances.

Participation 15% (150 points, 10 points a week)

This class will only work if all of us contribute to it. If we contribute thoughtfully it will be a roaring success. Thus participation counts for a large portion of your grade. Participation doesn't just refer to showing up and sitting passively in class. By participation, I refer to active, well-prepared and respectful participation. So please come to class a) having done the assigned reading b) contribute in a thoughtful manner – ie. with reference to examples, current news events or the readings c) ask and answer questions and d) importantly, engage with the perspectives being offered in class. IR discussions can get pretty heated but it's part of our education to learn from different perspectives and engage them thoughtfully.

- Try to come to class with at least one question or comment per day. I may call on you to stimulate discussion.
- If you're shy, there are ways to participate effectively. Eg. Email me with comments or questions. Talk to me after class. Suggest an interesting story or article that fits with the class. Remember that it helps to write down your thoughts so you have something to refer to in class.

In short, there are many ways to participate and contribute to class. You will get a lot more out of the class if you choose some of these ways.

Short Paper 15% (150 points)

You will write one short paper on an assigned article during the semester. You will be asked to interpret the article based on the theories we have learned in class. I will distribute detailed guidelines closer to the time. Each paper should be 4-5 pages, typed, numbered, double-spaced and stapled- please no loose leafs of paper! The assigned article and guidelines will be announced and distributed in class.

Class Journal 15% (150 points, 15 points per week)

This course encourages connecting class material and theories to real world events. Indeed, International Relations thrives on such a synthesis between theory and real world

events. Accordingly, you will keep an IR journal (electronic or hard copy). Starting week 4, every week you will be required to pick one story in the news that relates to what we're reading and discussing in class that week. You will be expected to briefly provide the details of the news story (where it's from, who wrote it, dates, title etc.), connect it to class materials, note why it is interesting and what you think of it in about 200-300 words. I will collect the journal every two weeks to see that you're keeping up with your posts.

I will call on every student at least once in the semester to explain what story you picked that week. When picked, you will briefly explain why you picked the story, how it fits with the theory or issue we're discussing and what your thoughts on the story are.

You won't be graded on the *quality* of the journal but you will be required to complete all the components. So if you collect and write about a story every week and make your brief presentation in class you will get the full 15%.

Exams 45%

There will be three tests along the way – (two mini-mid-terms worth 15% of your grade) and a final, also worth 15%. Exams will be closed book. The first mid-term will test your knowledge on weeks 2-6, the second will test your knowledge for weeks 7-10 and the final exam will test on material from weeks 11- 14. They will consist of a mix of multiple choice questions, word identifications and short answers.

NOTE: THE EXAM DATES ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE AND NON-CHANGEABLE. PLEASE MAKE TRAVEL PLANS ACCORDINGLY.

Extra Credit: TBD

There will be a few opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester. I will announce these well in advance.

So in summary, the breakdown of your grade is as follows:

- Quizzes: 10%
- Journal 15%
- Short Review Papers 15%
- Attendance and Participation: 15%
- 2 Mid-Term Exams:
- Final Exam:

The Grading system and scale is as follows:

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Points	940+	900-939	870-899	830-869	800-829	770-799	730-769	700-729	620-699	620 and below

A = 94 -100 %
A- = 90- 93.9 %
B+ = 87- 89.9 %
B = 83- 86.9%,

B- = 80- 82.9 %
C+ = 77- 79.9 %
C = 73- 76.9 %
C- = 70- 72.9

D = 62- 69.9 %
F= below 62 %

CLASS POLICIES: (Please read more carefully than an itunes software agreement!)

Attendance Policy:

Too many unexcused absences will affect your course grade. If you have 3-5 unexcused absences – your grade will be lowered a half letter (so a B will become a B-); 6-8 absences - grade will be lowered a full letters (so a B will become a C); 8 or more absences - subject to my discretion, you may get an F.

Late Policy:

Please come to class on time. If you are consistently late, it will effect your participation grade. If you have some constraints (ie. Class on the other side of the campus) let me know before time.

Late turning work in: Your work is due when it's due. Except for extenuating circumstances there will be no extensions – I'll be the judge of those circumstances. For every day past the deadline, I will deduct half a letter grade from your paper. Beyond 3 days, I will not accept the assignment. Come and talk to me with any issues early on.

Academic Integrity Policy:

DePauw University and I both take academic integrity very seriously and I will uphold DePauw University's Academic Honesty Policy. Cheating, plagiarism, submission of the work of others, etc. violates DePauw policy on academic integrity and will result in penalties ranging from an F for the assignment or F for the class to academic probation or even suspension from the university, depending on the circumstances.

The policy and discussion of each student's obligations and rights are in the Student Handbook. The complete Academic Integrity Policy can be found at:
<http://www.depauw.edu/univ/handbooks/dpuhandbooks.asp?ID=101&parentid=100>

Ignorance of the rules is not a valid excuse so make sure you're familiar with University policy. There is absolutely no reason to consider cheating or passing someone else's work off as your own. If you have any doubt whatsoever that you may be incorrectly using someone's work- please feel free to check with me and ask. Remember, an honest C- is much better than a risky B, so don't do it.

To avoid the problem of plagiarism be sure to *attribute* all information, data, arguments,

and language – even if paraphrased – borrowed from sources to the original author and to *document* the source fully.

- **Attribution** = “According to XYZ...”
- **Documentation** = source citation in foot- or end-note form or using parenthetical citation: (XYZ, 92). Parenthetical citation requires a “Works Cited/References” list at the end of the paper.

ADA/Disability Accommodations:

If you have a learning disability or other special needs, please let the Coordinator of Student Disabilities Services, Pamela Roberts, 765-658-6267, Harrison Hall 302 know as soon as possible. I rely on the Disability Services Coordinator for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing an accommodation strategy so please make an appointment to see me after you have received your letter. I will not be able to make accommodations without the advice of Disability Services.

Technology Policy: Very few things are as distracting as a ringing/buzzing cell phone. Please turn yours off or on silent – not just vibrate. This also means **no TEXTING**. Do us all a favor and keep your phone in your bag, please!

I discourage the use of laptops in the class- if you absolutely need one for the sole purpose of taking notes, talk to me beforehand. If you do bring in your laptop, I will request you to sit in the front so that I can check that you’re not on facebook/ google+/ whatever social networking site is new this week.

Communication with Me: My office hours exist for you to come by for a chat, to discuss the material, follow up on questions and seek advice or help. So, please don’t hesitate to drop by my office- I’d much rather talk with you than stare at my computer screen! If your schedule does not accommodate the scheduled office hours, please make an appointment. Of course, make sure emails are comprehensible and are addressed appropriately and not too ‘creatively’.

Note: Your official DePauw email is the one we will use to minimize confusion.

Phew! Ok, now let’s see what this class is all about, shall we?

COURSE SCHEDULE

(This schedule may be modified, within reason, as the semester progresses)

Important Dates

Paper: Assigned September 16th, Due September 30th
First Mini-Mid-Term, (In Class) October 7
Second Mini-Mid-Term (In class) Nov. 18th
Final Exam Dec 13th 8:30 am- 11:30

WEEK 1: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS: THE WHO, WHEN AND WHAT

Wed Aug 24, 2011

What is IR?
Introductions, Reading the Syllabus

Friday Aug 26, 2011

G & P, Chapter 1 p. 2- 38.

- *Skim pages 26-38, Pay attention to figures and maps.*
- *Bring your textbook to class today*
- *Come to class with 3 most important terms or concepts in your opinion.*

WEEK 2: WHY LEARN THEORY

Mon Aug 29, 2011

Jack Snyder “*One World, Rival Theories*” Foreign Policy p. 1-11 (E)

Drezner “Introduction”, “Defining a Zombie” and “The Zombie Literature” p. 1-22, 31-32,

Wed Aug 31, 2011: REALISM

G&P Realist Theories p. 43- 55

Drezner “The Real Politik of the Living Dead” p. 33- 45

Friday Sept 2

John Mearsheimer *Structural Realism* in Dunne, Kurki and Smith International Relations Theories Oxford University Press p. 71-86 (E)

John Mearsheimer Conversations with History

Read <http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/people2/Mearsheimer/mearsheimer-con0.html>

or

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKFamUu6dGw>. start at the 11:58 minute mark.

(skip the stuff about his parents etc. unless you're interested)

Recommended:

Mearsheimer discussion <http://www.radioopensource.org/john-mearsheimer-why-does-this-smart-country-act-so-stupid/>

WEEK 3: REALIST THEORIES and Prisoner's Dilemma

Monday Sept 5, No classes Labor Day

Wed Sept 7

G&P p. 56-67 (Alliances) and p. 71- 77 (Statecraft, Prisoner's Dilemma)

Fri Sept 9

In class Exercise PD Simulation (The Situation will be distributed before time)

WEEK 4: IT'S BEEN REAL: LIBERALISM AND CONSTRUCTIVISM

Mon Sept 12

G & P Liberal Theories p. 85- 90

Drezner "Regulating the Undead in a Liberal World Order" p. 47- 60

Wed Sept 14

G & P International Regimes, Collective Security, Democratic Peace p. 90- 96

Robert Keohane Conversations with History

Read: <http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/people4/Keohane/keohane-con0.html>

(again, skip the part about parents etc. unless interested)

or

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5foxGFXN1-s> Skip to the 13:30 min mark

Pay attention to the Trade example

Friday Sept 16

G&P Constructivism and Post-Modernism p. (bottom 96- 103)

Listen: This American Life "Kid Politics" Stories2

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/424/kid-politics>

Drezner "The Social Construction of Zombies" p. 67- 76

Critical Paper (Due Friday, September 30th):

Read President Obama's Nobel Prize Speech, delivered 2009. Does President Obama's speech reflect a Realist, Liberal or Constructivist (or some combination of these approaches) world-view? Why? Make an argument for how the speech fits these theoretical paradigms, with reference to the theories we have been reading about. Make sure to refer both to the readings and to evidence from the speech to make your argument.

The Speech is available at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-acceptance-nobel-peace-prize> and will also be handed out in class.

(The assignment is due on Friday Sept. 30 in class. It should be typed, 4-5 pages, double-spaced and stapled. More instructions will be given closer to the time.)

WEEK 5: MORE SOCIAL THEORIES

Monday Sept 19: Applying the Theories: The Rise of China

Brezinski and Mearsheimer Clash of the Titans *Foreign Policy* (E)

Mearhseimer Structural Realism *Reread* p. 83-85 (E)

Piers Brendon *China also Rises* The National Interest October, 2010 (E)

Wed Sept 21: Feminism and Marxism

G&P Marxism 103-106 (top), Gender theories p. 110- 122

Cynthia Enloe *Beaches, Bananas and Bases* (Excerpt) – Introduction (E)

Fri Sept 23: Domestic Theories

G&P The Foreign Policy Models p. 127- 139

Drezner *Domestic Politics and Bureaucratic Politics*

Journal Entries Week 4-5 Due

WEEK 6: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Monday Sept 26 Traditional Security/War

G & P International Conflict p. 157- 187

Wednesday Sept 28 Military Force and WMD's

G & P Military Force Inter-state War and WMD's p. 195- 197, 201 bottom- 204, 209- 222

Carol Cohn *Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals* (E)

Friday Sept 30: Terrorism

G & P p. 204 (bottom)- 209 (top)

Come to class with your own, original definition of Terrorism

Recommended: John Mueller "Six Rather Unusual Propositions about Terrorism"
Terrorism and Political Violence 2005 (E)

PAPERS DUE

WEEK 7: NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY

Monday, October 3: Human Security

Lloyd Axworthy (2001) Human Security and Global Governance: Putting people first
Global Governance 19-22 (E)

Read: Carpenter, Charli <http://duckofminerva.blogspot.com/2010/01/top-10-emerging-human-security-issues.html>

Recommended: Christopher Boucek *Crisis in Yemen* The National Interest, July 2011
<http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/yemen-crisis-5566> (E)

Wed Oct 5: Cultural Conflict

Samuel Huntington "The Clash of Civilizations" Foreign Affairs (E)

Edward Said "The clash of Ignorance" The Nation
<http://www.thenation.com/article/clash-ignorance> (E)

Journal Entries Week 6-7 Due

Fri Oct 7: 1st MID TERM

WEEK 8: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Mon Oct 10: Trade

G & P International Trade 283- 294

Wed Oct 12: Trade Institutions

G &P Trade Regimes WTO p. 294 bottom-309

Explore: <http://www.wto.org/>

Come to class with notes on what the WTO is, what is its mission, what issues does it cover.

Fri Oct 14: Economic Globalization

Thomas Friedman The World is Flat (excerpt) (E)

Muhammed Yunus Nobel Peace Prize Speech, 2006 (E)

Fall Break October 18th- October 23rd

WEEK 9: FINANCE

Monday Oct 24 Finance and Currency

G &P Finance and Business p. 321- 330

Listen: This American Life ‘Where does money come from’ Stories 1,2 and 3
<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/423/the-invention-of-money>

Wed Oct 26 Financial Institutions

G & P Financial Institutions/ IMF and World Bank p. 331- 349

Recommended: Mr. Bernanke goes to War The National Interest Dec 2010
<http://nationalinterest.org/article/mr-bernanke-goes-war-4573> (E)

Fri Oct 28 Financial Crises

Lewis, M. Wall Street on the Tundra *Vanity Fair* April 2009

Listen (entire episode): This American Life *The Giant Pool of Money*
<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/355/the-giant-pool-of-money>

Come to class with some thoughts on the question: Who or what are the two pieces blaming for the 2008 crisis?

Journal Entries Week 8-9 Due

WEEK 10: ISSUES: NORTH/SOUTH GAP

Mon Oct 31

G & P The State of the South p. 425- 440

Wed Nov. 2:

G & P Theories of Accumulation p. 440 – 455

Fri Nov. 4

G & P Development p. 461- 481, G & P Foreign Assistance and Aid p. 484- 494

WEEK 11: INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Mon Nov. 7: International Organizations/ the UN

G & P International Organizations p. 233- 245, 249-254 (skip peacekeeping)

Think Again: The UN Security Council September 23, 2009 Foreign Policy (E)

Explore: Watch PBS Documentary or explore the website...

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/ghosts/>

Wed Nov. 9 International Law

G & P International Law p. 254- 264

Posner, E. “Think Again: International Law” *Foreign Policy* (E)

Fri Nov. 11 Human Rights

G & P Human Rights p. bottom 264- 276

Tharoor, S. “Are Human Rights Universal?” *World Policy Journal* 16 (4) 1999/2000 (E)

Explore: the R2P Website <http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/>

Journal Entries Week 10-11 Due

WEEK 12: ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE CHANGE

Mon Nov. 14

2ND MID-TERM

Wed Nov. 16 Controlling our Carbon Footprint

Take the Ecological footprint survey at <http://www.myfootprint.org/> (note: you do not have to put in your email address)- come to class with your results

G & P Ch. 11 Environment and Population p. 387- 403 (upto ‘Natural Resources)

Revkin “Four fronts on Global Warming”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/03/science/earth/03clim.html>

Recommended: Larmer “The Big Melt”

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/print/2010/04/tibetan-plateau/larmer-text>

Recommended Resource: New York Times Topics Global Warming

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/science/topics/globalwarming/index.html>

Fri Nov. 18

G & P p. 403- 409 (upto Population)

This American Life Kid Politics **Story 3** <http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/424/kid-politics>

Recommended: Miller <http://www.physicventures.com/news/saving-energy-it-starts-home>

Recommended Listen: NPR Fresh Air “Weather Warnings for a Climate Changed Planet” <http://www.npr.org/2011/07/25/138601271/weather-warnings-for-a-climate-changed-planet>

WEEK 13: INTEGRATION

Mon. Nov. 21 Integration/The European Union

G&P Integration European Union p. 355- 370

Recommended: Steven Erlanger “A Continent Sinking” Foreign Policy July 20, 2011 (E)

Journal Entries Week 12-13 Due

Wed, Friday- No classes, Thanksgiving Recess

WEEK 14: ISSUES: NGO’S, CULTURAL GLOBALIZATION

Mon Nov. 28 NGO's, Transnational Actors

Mathews, J (1997). "Power Shift." *Foreign Affairs*, pp 50-54 & 63-65. On Blackboard. (*skim, note main points*)

Slaughter, Anne-Marie (1997). "The Real New World Order". In pp 195-203,

Wed Nov. 30 Global Culture

G & P Global Culture p. 379- 391

HW: Watch Discovery Channel's The Other Side of Outsourcing
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8quDb3FIUuo> or an episode of the (epically bad) *Outsourced*- available on Hulu or the NBC showpage

Fri Dec 2 Social Media as an Agent of Change?

Ghannam, In the Middle East, this is not a facebook revolution
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/18/AR2011021802935.html>

Journal Entries Week 14 Due

WEEK 15: TAKING STOCK

Mon Dec. 5: **T.B.D.**

Wed Dec. 7: Exam Review, Evaluations

Fri Dec. 9 Concluding Thoughts

Stephen Walt "Top ten books every student of IR should read"
http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/04/09/my_top_ten_books_every_student_of_international_relations_should_read

FINAL EXAM: Dec 13 8:30- 11:30 am