

POSC 20303
Michael Strausz

International Politics
Autumn 2008

course time: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 am – 12:20 pm
classroom: WSH 148
e-mail: michael.strausz@tcu.edu
office hours: Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Thursday 1:30-2:30
office: Sadler 205e
course website: <http://personal.tcu.edu/michaelstrausz/20303>

Course Description and Objectives: This class will provide an overview of the major theoretic approaches to international relations. We will use these theories to gain a better understanding of issues including the causes of war, peace, economic cooperation, and economic conflict, as well as the role of international laws, institutions, and norms in the international system. The primary goal of this class is to give students the analytic tools to evaluate contemporary issues in international politics and to talk and write about those issues in an informed and coherent manner. Moreover, this class will allow students to identify and research issues in international politics that intrigue them.

Expectations and Course Policies:

1. Prepare for each class by carefully reading the assigned materials before coming to class. If it seems that you are not doing the readings, I will give pop quizzes that will be considered as a part of your participation grade.
2. Regularly read a newspaper with good international coverage (You can get the *New York Times* for free on campus). We will have a quick review of current events every day, and if it seems that you don't know what is going on in the world, I will give pop quizzes on current events relating to international politics that will be considered as a part of your participation grade.
3. Attendance Policy: Come to class on time, and stay for the duration. I take attendance, and I will notice if you miss class.
4. Statement on Disability Services at TCU: Texas Christian University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding students with disabilities. Eligible students seeking accommodations should contact the Coordinator for Students with Disabilities in the Center for Academic Services located in Sadler Hall, 11. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Further information can be obtained from the Center for Academic Services, TCU Box 297710, Fort Worth, TX 76129, or at (817) 257-7486.
5. Academic Misconduct (See Section 3.4 from the Student Handbook) – I expect that the work that you turn in will be your own. Any act that violates the academic integrity of the institution is considered academic misconduct, and I will not hesitate to bring suspected academic misconduct to the proper authorities.

Grading: Grades in this course will be determined as follows:
Midterm Exam (**October 21**): 20%

Final (**December 16, 11:30-2:00**): 25%
Research Paper (**Due December 9 at the beginning of class**): 30%
Participation: 25%

Grades are determined on a 100 point scale as follows:

A: 93.5 and above	B: 82.5-86.4	C: 72.5-76.4	D: 62.5-66.4
A-: 89.5-93.4	B-: 79.5-82.4	C-: 69.5-72.4	D-: 59.5-62.4
B+: 86.5-89.4	C+: 76.5-79.4	D+: 66.5-69.4	F: 59.4 and below

I will use the +/- system for all students, and the TCU registrar will automatically convert the grades of students not under the +/- system to the old system.

Makeup exams and paper deadline extensions will not be allowed except in the cases of university-excused absences or illnesses, and proper documentation is required.

If you feel that you have been graded unfairly on any course assignment, please wait 24 hours after the assignment is returned and then contact the TA with a typed statement about why you believe you were graded unfairly. This statement must provide substantive reasons why you believe that you were graded unfairly. If after the TA you still believe that you were graded unfairly after the TA has reevaluated your assignment, you may bring the assignment to the instructor. The appeal process must be started one week after the exam/homework was returned.

Research Paper: The research paper will give you an opportunity to apply some of the concepts you are learning in class to a topic in international politics that interests you. A detailed assignment will be distributed in class on **August 28**. You will be required to turn in a topic on **September 16** and a preliminary thesis statement, bibliography, and outline on **October 7**. If you submit a topic and a thesis/bibliography/outline that is on time and satisfactory, you will receive an A for 1/6 of the research paper grade (5% of your overall grade). If the first draft of the topic and thesis/bibliography/outline is not satisfactory, you are welcome to submit additional drafts for credit. However, if you do not submit the first draft of the topic and thesis/bibliography/outline on time, you will not be able to receive credit (although you are still welcome to submit drafts of your topics and thesis/outline/bibliography to get feedback).

Although you are not required to submit a rough draft of the research paper, you are welcome to do so on or before **December 2**. In addition to submitting a rough draft to get feedback from me, I also encourage you to exchange drafts of research papers among yourselves. Reading your colleagues' papers and listening to their feedback on your paper are both useful exercises. Both will help improve your writing skills, your knowledge of international politics, and your performance in this class.

You are required to turn in a hard copy of the research paper, and papers are due at the beginning of class on **December 9**.

Late research papers will be penalized 10% per day late. Once grades have been officially submitted for the course, late assignments will no longer be accepted.

Participation: One of the goals of this class is to give students the skills to talk about international politics in a coherent and well-informed manner. In order for you to build that skill, I ask you to actively participate in class discussions. This means coming to class prepared to discuss assigned readings and current events. This also means being respectful when others are talking, as well as taking others' ideas seriously (even when you disagree). When it comes to class discussion, quality is more important than quantity; I am not looking for students to compete with one another to dominate the discussion.

In addition to general class discussions, each student in this class will participate in a debate on a topic related to international politics. There will be a total of three debates throughout the semester. Your performance in the debate will account for 20% of your participation grade (5% of your overall grade). More information about the debates (including the topics) will be distributed in class on **September 2**.

Office Hours: I encourage students to take advantage of my office hours in order to ask questions about course materials or to chat about issues related to the course or political science more generally. Also, if you have any comments about or problems with the course itself I encourage you to share them in my office hours.

If you would like to get in touch with me to ask a question or schedule an appointment, I encourage you to e-mail me.

Course Materials: The following book is required. It is available at the TCU bookstore, but feel free to buy copies at other bookstores or online. Readings that aren't in this book will be available for purchase at the political science department (Sadler 205; be sure to bring cash).

Essential Readings in World Politics, 3rd Edition, edited by Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder.

Schedule:

8/26 *Introduction*

Unit 1: Theories of International Relations

8/28 *Realism*

Thucydides, "Melian Dialogue," Mingst and Snyder (herein M&S), pp. 12-13.
Hans Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory," M&S, pp. 56-60.

9/2 *Liberalism*

Woodrow Wilson, "The 14 Points," M&S, pp. 26-28.
Bruce Russett and John O'Neal, *Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations*, pp. 15-42 (Reader).

9/4 *Constructivism*

Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy Is What States Make of It," M&S, pp. 93-110.

- 9/9 **Class cancelled for Fall Convocation**
- 9/11 *Radical IR Theory*
Immanuel Wallerstein, “The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis,” M&S, pp. 137-145.
“Margins, Silences, and Bottom Rungs: How to Overcome the Underestimation of Power in the Study of International Relations,” in Enloe, Cynthia H. 2004. *The Curious Feminist: Searching for Women in a New Age of Empire*. Berkeley: University of California Press (Reader).
- 9/16 *The Neo-Cons*
The Christian Science Monitor’s “Neocon 101” and the interview with Max Boot (<http://www.csmonitor.com/specials/neocon/neocon101.html>).
Research paper topic due at the beginning of class.

Unit 2: War and Peace in International Politics

- 9/18 *9/11 and International Politics*
The 9/11 Commission Report, pp. 325-360 (Reader).
- 9/23 *Collective Security and UN Peacekeeping*
Luttwak, Edward N. 1999. Give War a Chance. *Foreign Affairs* 78 (4): 36-44 (Reader).
Samantha Power “The Envoy: An Assignment to Fix Iraq,” *New Yorker*, 1/7/2008 (Reader).
- 9/25 *What has happened to major power war?*
John Mueller, “Retreat from Doomsday: The Obsolescence of Major War,” M&S, pp. 242-47.
- 9/30 **Class cancelled**
- 10/2 *Civil Wars as International Politics?*
Michael L. Ross, “Oil, Drugs, and Diamonds: The Varying Roles of Natural Resources in Civil War,” M&S, pp. 441-56.
- 10/7 *Decolonization: Causes and Consequences*
No assigned reading.
Research paper thesis/outline/bibliography due at the beginning of class.
- 10/9 **Class cancelled for Fall Break**
- 10/14 *Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction*
Scott Sagan, “How to Keep the Bomb from Iran,” M&S, pp. 360-368.

- 10/16 *Wars on Terror and Clashes of Civilizations*
 Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" M&S, pp. 203-209.
 Lawrence Wright, "The Rebellion Within: An Al Qaeda Mastermind
 Questions Terrorism," *The New Yorker*, 6/2/2008 (Reader).
- 10/21 **Midterm**
- Unit 3: International Political Economy**
- 10/23 *What is "International Political Economy?"*
 Robert Gilpin, "The Nature of Political Economy," M&S, pp. 479-86.
- 10/28 *Free Trade and the WTO*
 Paul Krugman, "Ricardo's Difficult Idea," paper presented at the Manchester
 Conference on Free Trade, March 1996 (Reader).
 Payer, Cheryl. 2006 [1974]. "The Lawyer's Typist: Variations on a Theme by
 Paul Samuelson," *Monthly Review* 57 (11):18-21 (Reader).
- 10/30 *IPE and Development*
 Helen V. Milner, "Globalization, Development, and International Institutions:
 Normative and Positive Perspectives," M&S, pp. 486-502.
- 11/4 *Oil*
 Thomas Friedman, "The First Law of Petropolitics," M&S, pp. 543-550.
- 11/6 *Economic (and non-Economic) Cooperation in Europe*
 Andrew Moravcsik, "A Too Perfect Union? Why Europe Said 'No,'" M&S,
 pp. 273-79.
- Unit 4: International Law, Norms and Institutions**
- 11/11 *Do International Institutions Matter?*
 John Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," M&S,
 pp. 319-326.
- 11/13 *International Law in Texas and Beyond*
 Chayes and Chayes, "On Compliance" (Reader).
- 11/18 *The Question of Universal Jurisdiction*
 Henry Kissinger, "The Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction," M&S, pp. 310-315.
 Ken Roth, "The Case for Universal Jurisdiction," M&S, pp. 316-319.
- 11/20 *The Tragedy of the Commons and Environmental Problems*
 Raffi Khatchadourian, "Neptune's Navy: Paul Watson's Wild Crusade to Save
 the Oceans," The New Yorker, 11/5/2007 (Reader).
- 11/25 *Activists in International Politics*
 Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, "Transnational Advocacy Networks

in International Politics”

William Finnegan, “The Countertraffickers: Rescuing the Victims of the Global Sex Trade,” The New Yorker, 5/5/2008 (Reader).

- 11/27 **Class cancelled for Thanksgiving**
- 12/2 *Diseases beyond borders*
William Easterly, “The Healers: Triumph and Tragedy,” M&S, pp. 570-584.
Last day to turn in rough drafts of research papers to Prof. Strausz
- 12/4 *Do International Norms Matter?*
No assigned reading.
- 12/9 *Conclusion*
No assigned reading.
Research Paper due at the beginning of class.
- 12/16 **Final exam, 11:30-2:00**