

POSC 20303
Michael Strausz

International Politics
Autumn 2010

course time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:00am-9:50am

classroom: Winton-Scott Hall 147

e-mail: michael.strausz@tcu.edu

coffee hours: Thursdays, 1:45 pm-3:45 pm at *Stay Wired* (across Berry from Fuzzy's)

office hours: Fridays, 12:00 pm-1:00 pm, or by appointment

office: Scharbauer 2007F

Course Description and Objectives: Why do states go to war with one another, and how has the nature of war changed over time, particularly since the beginning of the U.S.-led war on terror? Why do states remove barriers to trade with one another? How have the human rights and environmental movements influenced global politics? This class will address these kinds of questions both theoretically and through in-depth study of issues including the war on terror, the international market for sushi, and the global movement in support of human rights for women. This class aims to deepen your understanding of international politics, as well as to strengthen your ability to evaluate contemporary issues in international politics and to talk and write about those issues in an informed and coherent manner.

Expectations and Course Policies:

1. Prepare for each class by carefully reading the assigned materials, and bring the day's assigned reading to class with you (if you read it on a laptop computer, than bring your computer).
2. Regularly (at least once before each class – so three times per week) read a newspaper with strong international coverage, focusing on the articles about international politics (the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Times of London* are all good choices).
3. Attendance Policy: Come to class on time, and stay for the duration. If you miss a class where an in-class activity or pop quiz was administered, you will receive a grade of zero unless the absence was an Official University Absence or unless you have a note from a medical professional or Campus Life indicating that you were ill. If you leave early on a day when you submitted work (without prior approval) you will receive a grade of zero on that work.
4. Extra Credit: If there are events at TCU or in the community that are related to this course, I may decide to grant extra credit to students who both attend and write a brief paper about the event. If I decide to make this kind of extra credit assignment, the specifics will be emailed out to all students enrolled in the class (so check your TCU email!). These extra credit papers will usually count as the equivalent of one quiz, although the specific weight of the paper will be mentioned on the assignment.
5. Turning it in: Students will turn in all papers using www.turnitin.com, unless otherwise noted. I will provide more specific information about this when the first paper assignment is distributed in class.
6. TCU 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 of Services for Students with Disabilities in the Center for Academic Services located in Sadler Hall 11.

Accommodations are not retroactive and, 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; 817/257-7486; or <http://www.acs.tcu.edu/DISABILITY.htm>.

7. Academic Misconduct (See Section 3.4 from the Student Handbook): I expect that the work that you turn in will be your own. Students determined to have committed academic misconduct will face penalties including (but not limited to) a grade of zero on the related assignment. I will not hesitate to bring suspected academic misconduct to the proper authorities.

Grading: Grades in this course will be determined as follows:

Reading Quizzes (at least 8) and other in-class exercises: 25%
First Paper (Due **September 27** at the beginning of class): 15%
Second Paper (Due **October 25** at the beginning of class): 15%
Final Paper (Due **December 17, 8 am-10:30 am**): 30%
Paper about in-class debate (Due one week after debate): 15%

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.

Paper deadline extensions will not be allowed except in the cases of Official University Absences or properly documented illnesses.

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 me 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. The appeal process must be started one week after the exam/homework was returned.

Assignments are due at the *beginning of class*. I am strict about enforcing this rule. Late assignments will be penalized 10 points (out of 100) per date late. Once grades have been officially submitted for the course, late assignments will no longer be accepted.

Quizzes: We will have at least eight quizzes in this class. The quizzes will mostly cover assigned readings, but might also touch on current events related to international politics and/or materials that we have covered in class. If you do the readings, follow current events, and pay attention in class, your quiz grade should end up being quite high. Quizzes will usually take place at the beginning of class, and no extra time will be granted to students arriving late. If you

miss a class because of a properly documented illness or an Official University Absence, you have one week to either visit my office hours or make an appointment with me to make up your quiz. If you wait more than one week to see me after missing a class where a quiz was given, you will receive a grade of zero for the missed quiz. Students who miss classes for reasons other than Official University Absences or properly documented illnesses will receive a grade of zero for missed quizzes.

Papers: There will be four papers assigned in this class. One of these papers will be a reflection paper about an in-class debate. Each student will be required to participate in an in-class debate (topics and dates will be assigned later in the semester). One week after your in-class debate, you will be required to turn in a reflection paper about your experiences preparing for and participating in the debate. If you miss the debate (except in the case of an Official University Absence or an illness documented by a medical professional or Campus Life), you will not be permitted to turn in a reflection paper. If you do have do miss a debate due to a properly documented illness or University Official Absence, you are required to meet with me within one week of the missed debate so that we can work out an alternate assignment. If you miss a debate but fail to meet with me within one week of the debate, you will receive a grade of zero on the debate reflection paper. The writing assignment will be distributed at the same time that the first debate topics are distributed.

For the other three papers, you will be required to analyze issues that we have covered in class. I will expect you to give these issues some thought on your own, rather than simply reproducing what we have covered in class. More specific assignments will be distributed later in the semester.

If you would prefer, you have the option to write a research paper instead of writing these three analysis papers. You are also permitted to revise and lengthen a research paper that you have written for another class. If you are interested in writing or revising and expanding a research paper, you are required to see me during the first two weeks of class to discuss possible topics. If I don't hear from you by **September 15**, you will be required to write the three analysis papers (i.e. you are not permitted to decide that you are writing a research paper only after you have failed to get your first analysis paper in on time).

Office Hours and Coffee Hours: I encourage students to take advantage of my office hours and coffee hours in order to ask questions about the course materials or to chat about issues related to the course or political science more generally. Coffee hours are just like office hours, but they take place in a coffee shop – *Stay Wired*, across Berry from Fuzzy's. You don't have to order coffee to take advantage of my coffee 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 books are required. They are available at the TCU bookstore, but feel free to buy copies at other bookstores or online. Readings that aren't in these books will be available online, through the course's ecollege site (log in to tcuglobal.edu, go to the "Doc Sharing" section, and then view "Assigned Readings"):

David Kilcullen, *The Accidental Guerrilla: Fighting Small Wars in the Midst of a Big One*

Sasha Issenberg, *Globalization and the Making of a Modern Delicacy*

Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*

Schedule:

8/23 *Introduction*

8/25 *Why Study International Politics?*

Kilcullen, prologue (xxi-xxvii).

Also, look over this class's ecollege site (particularly the webliography).

Unit 1: War and Peace in International Politics

8/27 *War As International Politics*

Kilcullen, pp. 1-38.

8/30 *An Australian in Afghanistan*

Kilcullen, pp. 39-63.

9/1 *Collective Security and Peacekeeping*

Kilcullen, pp. 63-87.

9/3 *Bridge Building as International Politics?*

Kilcullen, pp. 87-114.

9/6 **Labor Day (class cancelled)**

9/8 *Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction*

Kilcullen, pp. 115-151.

9/10 *The War in Afghanistan*

Kilcullen, pp. 151-185.

9/13 *Civil Wars as International Politics*

Kilcullen, pp. 186-224.

9/15 *Wars in Iraq and Elsewhere*

Kilcullen, pp. 224-262.

9/17 *Wrapping up Kilcullen*
Kilcullen, pp. 263-301.
FIRST PAPER ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS

9/20 **FIRST DEBATE**
No assigned reading.

9/22 *Frontline: Obama's War*
No assigned reading.

9/24 **Class Cancelled because of the Southwest Conference for Asian Studies**

Unit 2: International Political Economy

9/27 *Introduction to International Political Economy*
Issenberg, pp. 1-30.
FIRST PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

9/29 *Why Sushi?*
Issenberg, pp. 31-46.

10/1 *"Comparative Advantage" Might Not Mean What You Think it Means*
Issenberg, pp. 47-78.

10/4 *The Making of Modern Sushi*
Issenberg, pp. 79-130.

10/6 *Oil (Not Just Fish Oil) in International Politics*
Issenberg, pp. 131-164.

10/8 *A Global Good in Texas*
Issenberg, pp. 165-194.

10/11 **Fall Break**

10/13 *International Monetary Organizations*
Issenberg, pp. 195-224.

10/15 *Economic (and Non-Economic) Cooperation in Europe*
Issenberg, pp. 225-252.

10/18 *Wrapping up Sushi*
Issenberg, pp. 253-282.
SECOND ANALYSIS PAPER ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS

10/20 *Challenges of Poverty and Development*
Listen to *This American Life*, “Island Time: 10,000 Brainiacs.” This mp3 is about 30 minutes long, and you can download it from the course’s ecollege site.

10/22 **SECOND DEBATE**
No assigned reading.

Unit 3: International Law and Organizations

10/25 *The Reckoning: The Battle for the International Criminal Court*
No assigned reading.

SECOND PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

10/27 *Do International Institutions Matter?*
Kristof and Wudunn, Introduction (pp. xi-xxii).

10/29 *Women’s Rights in International Politics*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 3-21.

11/1 *International Law in Texas and Beyond*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 23-60.

11/3 *Human Trafficking*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 61-92.

11/5 *American Exceptionalism and Human Rights*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 93-130.

11/8 *The International Politics of Health*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 131-145.

11/10 *The Tragedy of the Commons and Global Environmental Politics*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 146-203.

11/12 *Universal Jurisdiction and the Genocide Convention*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 205-232.

11/15 *Wrapping Up Kristof and Wudunn*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 233-252.

11/17 **THIRD DEBATE**
No assigned reading.

Unit 4: Theories of International Politics

11/19 *Realism*
Mearsheimer, John J. “Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War.” *The Atlantic*

Monthly 266.2 (1990). You can download the articles we will read for the final unit from the course's ecollege site.

- 11/22 *Liberalism*
Russett, Bruce M., and John R. Oneal. *Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations*. New York: Norton, 2001, pp. 15-42.
- 11/24-26 **Thanksgiving Break**
- 11/29 *Neo-Conservatism*
Kristol, William, and Robert Kagan. "Toward a Neo-Reaganite Foreign Policy." *Foreign Affairs* 75.4 (1996): 18-32.
- 12/1 *Theory Exercise*
No assigned reading.
- 12/4 *Constructivism*
Wendt, Alexander. "Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics." *International Organization* 46.2 (1992): 391-425.
- 12/6 *Feminism*
Cynthia Enloe, "Margins, Silences, and Bottom Rungs: How to Overcome the Underestimation of Power in the Study of International Relations," in Enloe, Cynthia H. *The Curious Feminist: Searching for Women in a New Age of Empire*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004.
- 12/8 *Conclusion*
No assigned reading.
FINAL PAPER ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS.
- 12/17 **FINAL PAPER DUE BETWEEN 8:00 AND 10:30 AM IN CLASSROOM**