

POSC 20303
Michael Strausz

International Politics
Autumn 2012

course time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10:00am-10:50am

classroom: Beasley Hall 5

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office hours: Thursdays, 10:00am-11:00am; Fridays, 12:00pm-1:50pm, or by appointment

office: Scharbauer 2007F

Course Description and Objectives: Why do wars begin and end, and how has the nature of war changed over time? Why do states erect and 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. *Assigned readings:* Prepare for each class by carefully reading the assigned materials, and bring the day's assigned reading to class with you.
2. *Current events:* 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 it was due to properly documented illnesses or properly documented personal/family emergencies. 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. *Technology Policy:* Students wishing to use computers, smartphones, recording devices, or other electronic devices in class are required to come to my office hours to discuss acceptable classroom use of technology and to sign a contract indicating that you will use those devices responsibly. Students using technology without permission or in violation of their contract will be asked to leave class on that day, and will receive a grade of zero for any quizzes or in-class activities that were scheduled for that day.
5. *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!).
6. *Deadlines:* Deadlines for assignments are strictly enforced. A paper submitted after the deadline will lose 10 points (out of 100) if it is submitted within 24 hours after the deadline, 20 points (out of 100) if it is submitted between 24 and 48 hours after the deadline, 30 points (out of 100) if it is submitted between 48 and 72 hours after the

deadline, etc. So, for example, if a paper deadline is 10am on Monday and you submit your paper at 11am, you will automatically lose 10 points. Once grades have been officially submitted for the course, late assignments will no longer be accepted.

7. *Student Disability Services*: 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 of Student Disabilities Services 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.
8. *Academic Misconduct*: 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. For more information on TCU's academic misconduct policy, see Section 3.4 from the Student Handbook.

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 24** at 10:00am): 15%
Second Paper (Due **October 26** at 10:00am): 15%
Final Paper (Due **December 10** at 10:30 am): 30%
Paper about in-class debate (Deadlines to be announced): 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, properly documented illnesses, or properly documented personal/family emergencies.

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.

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, properly documented personal/family emergency, 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, properly documented illnesses, or properly documented family/personal emergencies 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). Approximately 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 (specific deadlines will be distributed with the debate assignments). If you miss the debate (except in the case of Official University Absences, properly documented illnesses, or properly documented family/personal emergencies), you will not be permitted to turn in a reflection paper. If you do have to miss a debate because of an Official University Absence, a properly documented illness, or a properly documented family/personal emergency, 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.

Office Hours: I encourage students to take advantage of my office hours in order to ask questions about the course materials or to chat about issues related to the course or political science more generally. 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. You are not required to schedule an appointment to come to my regularly scheduled office hours; feel free to just drop by.

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 LearningStudio 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:

- 20-Aug *Introduction*
No assigned reading
- 22-Aug *Why study international politics?*
Kilcullen, xxi-xxvii
Also, look over this class's ecollege site (particularly the webliography)

Unit 1: War and Peace in International Politics

- 24-Aug *War as international politics*
Kilcullen, pp. 1-38
- 27-Aug *An Australian in Afghanistan*
Kilcullen, pp. 39-63
- 29-Aug *Collective security and peacekeeping*
Kilcullen, pp. 63-87
- 31-Aug *Bridge building as international politics?*
Kilcullen, pp. 87-114
- 3-Sep Labor Day
- 5-Sep *Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction*
Kilcullen, pp. 115-151
- 7-Sep *The war in Afghanistan*
Kilcullen, pp. 151-185
- 10-Sep *Failed states and conflict*
Kilcullen, pp. 186-224
- 12-Sep *Wars in Iraq and elsewhere*
Kilcullen, pp. 224-262
- 14-Sep *Wrapping up Kilcullen*
Kilcullen, pp. 263-301
- 17-Sep Class cancelled for Rosh Hashanah
- 19-Sep FIRST DEBATE
No assigned reading
- 21-Sep *Guest Lecturer, Live Via Satellite: Josh Massey*
No assigned reading

Unit 2: International Political Economy

- 24-Sep *International political economy*
Issenberg, pp. 1-30
First paper due at 10:00am
- 26-Sep Class Cancelled for Yom Kippur
- 28-Sep *What does sushi teach us about international politics?*
Issenberg, pp. 31-46
- 1-Oct *“Comparative Advantage” might not mean what you think it means*
Issenberg, pp. 47-78
- 3-Oct *The making of modern sushi*
Issenberg, pp. 79-130
- 5-Oct Class cancelled for the Southwest Conference on Asian Studies at SMU
- 8-Oct Fall Break
- 10-Oct *Oil in international politics*
Issenberg, pp. 131-164
- 12-Oct *An international good comes to Texas*
Issenberg, pp. 165-194
- 15-Oct *The International Monetary Fund*
Issenberg, pp. 195-224
- 17-Oct *The European Union*
Issenberg, pp. 225-252
- 19-Oct *Wrapping up sushi*
Issenberg, pp. 253-282
- 22-Oct *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 LearningStudio site.
- 24-Oct SECOND DEBATE
No assigned reading

Unit 3: International Law and Organizations

- 26-Oct *Do international institutions matter?*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. xi-xxii
Second paper due at 10:00am

- 29-Oct *Women's rights in international politics*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 3-21
- 31-Oct *The individual in international politics*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 23-60
- 2-Nov *International law in Texas and beyond*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 61-92
- 5-Nov *Human trafficking*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 93-130
- 7-Nov *American human rights exceptionalism*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 131-145
- 9-Nov *The tragedy of the commons*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 146-203
- 12-Nov *Genocide and international relations*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 205-232
- 14-Nov *Wrapping up Kristof and Wudunn*
Kristof and Wudunn, pp. 233-252
- 16-Nov THIRD DEBATE
No Assigned Reading

Unit 4: Theories of International Politics

- 19-Nov *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 LearningStudio site.
- 21& 23 Thanksgiving Break
Nov
- 26-Nov *Liberalism*
Russett, Bruce M., and John R. Oneal. *Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations*. New York: Norton, 2001, pp. 15-42.
- 28-Nov *Neo-conservatism*
Kristol, William, and Robert Kagan. "Toward a Neo-Reaganite Foreign Policy." *Foreign Affairs* 75.4 (1996): 18-32.

- 30-Nov *Constructivism*
Wendt, Alexander. "Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics." *International Organization* 46.2 (1992): 391-425.
- 3-Dec *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.
- 5-Dec *Conclusion*
No assigned reading
- 10-Dec **Final paper due at 10:30am**