

POL S 203
Michael Strausz

Introduction to International Relations
Spring 2008

course time and place: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11:30-12:20, MLR 301

e-mail: strauszm@u.washington.edu

office hours: Tuesdays 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Gowen 112

coffee hours: Thursdays 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, Suzzallo Espresso

course webpage: <http://courses.washington.edu/polsc203>

teaching assistants: Moon Yeong Choi, mychoi@u.washington.edu, (AA and AB)

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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.

Expectations:

1. Prepare for each lecture by carefully reading the assigned materials. 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 (*New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Times of London*, etc.). 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. Come to lecture on time, and stay for the duration; it is only 50 minutes, so you can do it!
4. Papers should be made up entirely of your original work. Copying or paraphrasing a source without acknowledging that source is plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Allowing another student to copy your work is also cheating and likewise will not be tolerated. Students determined to have committed plagiarism will be treated in accordance with the University of Washington's policy on academic honesty (<http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm>).

Disabled Student Services: If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, 543-8924 (V/TDD). If you have a letter from Disabled Student Services indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to the professor so accommodations you might need for class can be discussed.

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

Midterm Exam (**MAY 2**): 20%

Final Exam (**JUNE 11, 2:30-4:20**): 30%

Participation: 20%
6-8 page Research Paper (Due **JUNE 6**): 30%

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 **APRIL 7**. You will be required to turn in a topic on **APRIL 16** and a preliminary thesis statement, bibliography, and outline on **MAY 14**. If you submit a topic and a thesis/bibliography/outline that is on time and that your TA deems satisfactory, you will receive a 4.0 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). In other words, if you don't submit a topic and thesis/outline/bibliography on time, you will get a 0.0 for 5% of your overall course grade.

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

Late research papers will be penalized .5 per date late (4→3.5→3.0, etc.). Once grades have been officially submitted for the course, late assignments will no longer be accepted.

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 UW bookstore, but feel free to buy copies at other bookstores or online. Readings that aren't in this book will be available online, through the library's electronic reserves.

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

Schedule:

3/31 *Introduction*

Unit 1: Theories of International Relations

4/2 *Realism*

Thucydides, "Melian Dialogue"

Hans Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory"

4/4 **Class is cancelled because Dr. Strausz is attending a conference**

4/7 *Liberalism*

Woodrow Wilson, "The 14 Points"

Bruce Russett and John O'Neal, *Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations* (electronic reserve).

Research paper assignment distributed in class.

4/9 *Constructivism*

Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy Is What States Make of It"

4/11 *Marxism*

Immanuel Wallerstein, "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis."

4/14 *Feminism*

"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 (electronic reserve).

4/16 *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

4/18 *Bureaucracy and Security Policy*

Guest Lecturer: Chris Darnton, Ph.D. Candidate, Princeton University.

Allison, Graham. 1969. Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

American Political Science Review 63: 689-718 (electronic reserve).

4/21 *A Movie on War and Peace in IR*

No assigned reading.

4/23 *Causes of War*

Carl von Clausewitz, "War as an Instrument of Policy"

- 4/25 *The Cold War*
X [George Kennan], 1947, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct”
- 4/28 *GWOT: The War on Terror*
Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations”
Paul Kennedy, 2003, “The Perils of Empire,” *Washington Post* (electronic reserve).
Max Boot, 2003, “Neither New nor Nefarious: The Liberal Empire Strikes Back,” *Current History* (electronic reserve).
- 4/30 *Collective Security and UN Peacekeeping*
Luttwak, Edward N. 1999. Give War a Chance. *Foreign Affairs* 78 (4): 36-44 (electronic reserve).
Samantha Power “The Envoy: An Assignment to Fix Iraq,” *New Yorker*, 1/7/2008 (electronic reserve).
- 5/2 **Midterm Exam**
- 5/5 *Proliferation of WMDs*
Carol Cohn and Sara Ruddick, “A Feminist Ethical Perspective on Weapons of Mass Destruction”
- Unit 3: International Political Economy**
- 5/7 *What is “International Political Economy?”*
Robert Gilpin, “The Nature of Political Economy”
- 5/9 *IPE and Development*
Helen V. Milner, “Globalization, Development, and International Institutions: Normative and Positive Perspectives”
- 5/12 *Free Trade, the WTO, and Globalization*
Paul Krugman, “Ricardo’s Difficult Idea,” paper presented at the Manchester Conference on Free Trade, March 1996 (electronic reserve).
Payer, Cheryl. 2006 [1974]. “The Lawyer’s Typist: Variations on a Theme by Paul Samuelson,” *Monthly Review* 57 (11):18-21 (electronic reserve).
- 5/14 *Oil in the International Political Economy*
Thomas Friedman, “The First Law of Petropolitics”
Research paper thesis/outline/bibliography due at the beginning of class.
- 5/16 *From Coal and Steel to a Constitution: Economic (and non-Economic) Cooperation in Europe*
Andrew Moravcsik, “A Too Perfect Union? Why Europe Said ‘No’”

Unit 4: International Law, Norms and Institutions

- 5/19 *Electoral Monitoring in International Relations*
Guest Lecturer: Jason Scheideman, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Washington.
Calingaert, Daniel. 2006. Election Rigging and How to Fight It. *Journal of Democracy* 17 (3): 138-149 (electronic reserve)
- 5/21 *Do International Institutions Matter?*
John Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions"
- 5/23 *Why do States Obey International Law?*
Chayes and Chayes, "On Compliance" (electronic reserve)
- 5/26 **Lecture canceled for Memorial Day**
- 5/28 *The Question of Universal Jurisdiction*
Henry Kissinger, "The Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction"
Ken Roth, "The Case for Universal Jurisdiction"
- 5/30 *The Tragedy of the Commons and Environmental Problems*
Raffi Khatchadourian, "Neptune's Navy: Paul Watson's Wild Crusade to Save the Oceans," *New Yorker*, 11/5/2007 (electronic reserve).
- 6/2 *Activists in International Politics*
Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics"
- 6/4 *Do International Norms Matter?*
No assigned reading.
- 6/6 *Conclusion*
No assigned reading.
Research Paper due at the beginning of class.
- 6/11 **Final exam, 2:30-4:20. Please bring bluebook.**