

International Politics  
Political Science 3361  
Texas Tech University  
Summer 2008

## Contact Information

Dr. Susan Allen  
Department of Political Science  
Office: 11 Holden Hall  
Office Hours: W 10-11:30AM & by appt.  
Email: susan.allen@ttu.edu

## Course Description

In this course, we will explore the sources of conflict and cooperation between states in the international system. Utilizing both empirical evidence and theoretical perspectives, this course is a survey of the elements of international relations and contemporary international affairs. Topics we will cover include the nation-state system, causes and types of conflict, diplomacy, foreign policy, and international political economy. While this course primarily deals with international relations, there will often be an emphasis on the connection between intra- and inter-national politics, exploring questions such as how do the preferences of the American people influence US policy abroad?

## Course Goals

At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Contrast the realist and liberal perspectives of international relations. *(To be evaluated on the Midterm & the Final Examinations)*
2. Evaluate the role of domestic politics influences on foreign policy in various political systems. *(To be evaluated on the Midterm & the Final Examinations)*
3. Explain and apply rationalist perspectives of international relations. *(To be evaluated on the Midterm & the Final Examinations)*
4. Identify current challenges to the international order and the role of non-state actors. *(To be evaluated on the Midterm & the Final Examinations)*
5. Delineate explanations for war at each level of analysis – international, national, and individual. *(To be evaluated on the Midterm & the Final Examinations)*
6. Trace the development of the modern international trading order. *(To be evaluated on the Final Examination)*
7. Distinguish between various actors and sides in the globalization debate. *(To be evaluated on the Final Examination)*
8. Describe the interrelationship between international economics and international politics. *(To be evaluated on the Final Examination)*

## Expectations

- Come to class. I know that seems like an obvious one, but it's important nonetheless. You will have a tough time passing this course without attending it. Class attendance is not mandatory, but as Woody Allen pointed out 80% of success comes from showing up, and so it will likely be in this class.
- Do the readings beforehand; you will find that they provide important background for the lectures. Without that background, you may have a difficult time keeping up during class sessions. Most practically, questions for the exams will come from both the lecture and the readings. Not all relevant material will be duplicated in both sources.
- Keeping up with the world around you is not only important for discussion in this class, it is also important to becoming a good citizen. While not required for this course, I highly recommend keeping up with national political events during the course of the semester. Good resources online include The New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)), the Washington Post ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)), CNN ([www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)) or the International Herald Tribune ([www.iht.com](http://www.iht.com)). Examples for discussion in class or exam questions are likely to be drawn from current events.
- In addition, please show respect to your classmates and to me by turning off all cell phones and pagers before entering classroom. Failure to do so may result in a request to leave the class for the duration of the session. Sleeping or unnecessary chatting may also lead to a request to leave the lecture.

## Readings

The readings for this course will be drawn from several sources. One book is required for this course and are available at the Tech Bookstore:

- Goldstein, Joshua and Jon Pevehouse. 2008. *International Relations, Brief Edition*.

Other materials will be distributed in class or will be available online on WebCT.

## Course Requirements

Grades will be determined by each student's performance on two exams, one written assignment, and class participation.<sup>1</sup> Grades will be weighted as follows:

- 30% – Midterm Exam
- 35% – Final Exam
- 20% – Weekly Reading Quizzes
- 10% – Participation
- 5% – Simulation Activity

**Exams:** This exam will cover material from the assigned readings, lectures, and class discussion. The final exam will be a cumulative exam, but greater weight will be placed on the material covered in the second half of the course.

**Makeup Exams:** Requests to take examinations at times other than those listed above must be made in advance and will be granted at the discretion of the instructor. If a student fails to take an exam, the decision to allow a makeup and the penalty associated with that makeup, if granted, is again at the discretion of the instructor.

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<sup>1</sup>Please note: There will be no opportunity for additional extra credit assignments (so don't ask).

**Academic Integrity:** Students will be expected to adhere to the university honor code for all assignments. Work handed in by any student should be solely the work of that student – end of story. If you draw on the ideas of others, please cite them. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment at the very least.

**ADA:** Any student with a learning disability or physical handicap that might affect class performance should notify me as soon as possible. TTU can make a variety of arrangements that help insure equal opportunity. It is your right and we are glad to work with you on this. For necessary accommodations to be made, please let me know prior to the first exam.

## Course Outline

### Part I: Theoretical Building Blocks and Central Concepts

**May 28: Course Basics**

**May 29: States and Other Actors**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 1.

**May 30: Realism and Power**

- G&P, Chapter 2.

**June 2: Liberalism and Decision Theory**

- G&P, 67-89.

**June 3: Alternative Perspectives**

- G&P, 90-111.

### Part II: Sources of Conflict and Cooperation

**June 4: War and Conflict**

- G&P 112-142.

**June 5: Causes of War – The History of World War I**

- Nye Reading.

**June 6: Class Cancelled**

**June 10: War-Fighting and the Security Dilemma**

- G&P, 142- 167.

**June 11: Nuclear Weapons and Deterrence**

- Nye Reading.

**June 12: Cooperation and Collective Action**

- G&P ??

**June 13: International Organizations**

- G&P, 216-236.

**June 16: International Law & Intervention**

- Finnemore, Martha. “Developing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention.”
- Betts, Richard. “The Delusion of Impartial Intervention.”
- G&P, 249-267.

**June 17: Midterm Exam**

**Part III: International Political Economy**

**June 18: Why Do States Trade?**

- G&P 168-178.

**June 19: Domestic Politics and International Trade Organizations**

- G&P 178-195, 236-248

**June 20: International Trade Simulation**

- Reading TBA

**June 23: Money and the Currency System**

- G&P, 195-215.

**June 24: Globalization**

- Rodrik, Dani. 2001. “Trading in Illusions.”
- Sachs, Jeffrey. “Unlocking the Mysteries of Globalization.”

**Part IV: Challenges to the International Order**

**June 25: International Development**

- G&P, Chapter 7.

**June 26: Terrorism**

- Crenshaw, Martha. “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.”

**\*\*\* Final Exam – June 28th \*\*\***