

POLS 3310-001
Introduction to International Relations

M. W. F 1 – 1: 50 PM
BUS 210

University of Texas at Tyler
Fall 2009

Prof. Kang, Choong-Nam

Office: BUS 231

Phone: 566-7410

Email: Choong-Nam_Kang@uttyler.edu (email is always better than phone)

Office Hour: M. W. F. 12-1 PM. and by appointment

Course Description & Object

As an introductory course in the study of International Relations, this course introduces students to basic and fundamental concepts and theories for a systemic understanding of phenomena in the international arena. We will mainly discuss *why* things (or events) happen in a general (theoretical) framework rather than summarize what things have happened (this course is a political science course, NOT a world history course).

The primary goals of this course are: 1) to help students acquire a theoretical understanding of international relations; 2) to provide students with intellectual preparation to take upper-division courses in International Relations; 3) to provide students with a chance to become familiar with scientific methods of inquiry widely used in the study of international relations. Therefore, at the end of the semester, students will gain a theoretical tool to comprehend international politics and will understand why the study of IR is a science.

To accomplish these goals, this course consists mainly of three parts. We start with an explicit discussion on theory and science: what is a theory and why we need it? Then, we move to specific theories explaining various international phenomena. Lastly, we deal with specific applications of the theories.

Textbook

Russett, Bruce, Harvey Starr, and David Kinsella. 2010. *World Politics: The Menu for Choice* (9th edition), Thomson Wadsworth.

* Additional readings can be assigned and will be distributed, if needed.

Stay Current. I also encourage you to follow current events or issues up to date directly related to course topics through major news media sources such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* or an equivalent source.

Course Requirements & Grading Policy

Three Exams (75%)

There will be three in-class exams. Each exam will include multiple choice questions, identification of concepts or terms, and short answer questions.

Exams will be taken mainly from my lectures, class material, required readings, and class discussion. There will be review sessions before each exam.

The exact portion of each exam for your final grade and the schedule of each exam are:

Exam 1 (20%): September 25 (Friday)

Exam 2 (20%): October 30 (Friday)

Exam 3 (Final Exam – 35%): December 16 (Wednesday)

Writing Assignments (15%)

There will be 2 or 3 writing assignments including film reviews, short analytical papers, and a short policy stance paper for a policy debate.

The detail guide of an assignment and the specific portion of each assignment will be announced when it is given to you.

Attendance & Participation (10%)

Your attendance and quality of participation in class will constitute 10% of the course grade.

Students are expected to be properly prepared to constructively participate in class discussion in every class. This means that you will have completed the assigned readings before each class, that you will attend class regularly, and that you will be on time for class and will not leave the classroom before I say so.

I will check attendance either at the beginning of classes or the end of classes.

Each unexcused absence beyond three unexcused absences will result in a 10% point deduction from your attendance and participation grade. If you *miss more than 7 classes* (unexcused absence), your final grade for this course will be *lower than the passing grade* (“C”) for this course.

If you miss a class, *it is your responsibility to get the lecture notes* from classmates. I will *not provide my lecture notes in any circumstance*.

Students are expected to pay good attention during the class. Asking good questions, bringing up insightful thoughts, or following up on lecture points will count towards your participation grade. However, inattentive and/or distracting behavior will detract substantially from your participation grade. Students who are obviously not paying attention (e.g., reading newspapers, chatting with others, etc.) will receive a failing grade for the participation portion.

The final course grading will be composed as follows:

1st Exam	20%
2nd Exam	20%
Final Exam	35%
Writing Assignments	15%
Attendance & Participation	10%
Total	100%

Your final grade for this course will be

A (Excellent): 90 - 100%

B (Good): 80 - 89%

C (Satisfactory): 70 - 79%

D (Poor): 60 - 69%

F (Failure): Below 59%

Incomplete & Make-up policy

Incompletes will not be given for this course. Make-up exams will be given only to students with medical or personal emergencies. If an emergency arises, you need to contact me *before the exam*. If you do not contact me beforehand you will receive a "0" on the exam.

However, if you miss an exam due to illness and fail to contact me beforehand, you must submit a doctor's note to make alternative arrangements.

I will be strict on this policy.

Blackboard & Email

We will use Blackboard heavily for this course. I will post course materials, paper assignment guide, your grades, etc. You should log in to Blackboard (<http://ccs.uttyler.edu/blackboard>) and enroll yourself in this course ASAP.

Check *Blackboard* regularly (before each class in particular) for any new announcements.

Please *use only your UT Tyler email account* for this class.

Academic Integrity

I will strictly adhere to the university's official policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Students who cheat on exams or commit any type of plagiarism in your paper will automatically receive a failing grade for the course, regardless of their progress to that point.

I have *zero tolerance* for any kind of academic dishonesty, and I take it very seriously.

For the university policy on this matter, see <http://www.uttyler.edu/mainsite/conduct.html>.

Disability Statement

If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services offices so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. For more information, call or visit the Student Services Center located in the University Center, Room 111. The telephone number is 566-7079 (TDD 565-5579).

Social Security Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number.

Note Regarding Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor by the second class meeting of such absences.

Grade Replacement

If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to file an intent to use grade forgiveness will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. A student will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three (undergraduate student) or two (graduate student) course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler. (2008-10 Catalog, p. 26)

Topics, Assigned Readings, and Course Outline

- Additional readings can be assigned and will be distributed in the class.
- Each topic may take one week while some topics may take more than one week.
- I reserve my right to alter this course outline. Any changes in schedule and/or reading assignments will be announced in advance.

I. Orientation and Course Preview

No Assigned Reading

II. Scientific Study of International Relations

- Defining Politics & International Politics
- What is the scientific study and why do we need it?
- Level of Analysis

Readings: Russett, Starr, and Kinsella. 2006. pp. 32-48 & Ch. 1 & 2.

Bueno de Mesquita, "Evaluating Arguments about International Politics" (Blackboard)

III. Brief Introduction to Theoretical Paradigms of International Relations

- Basic Concepts, Assumptions, Arguments of Realism, Liberalism, and Conservatism

Reading: Russett, Starr, and Kinsella. 2006. pp. 27-32 & 343-346.

IV. Actors in International Politics: States and Other Actors

- Main actors in International Relations: States, IO, IGO, NGO, MNC, etc.

Reading: Russett, Starr, and Kinsella. 2006. Ch. 3.

V. Power in International Relations

- Defining & Measuring Power & Related Problems

- Concepts of Hard Power & Soft Power

Reading: Russett, Starr, and Kinsella. 2006. Ch. 5.

VI. International System

- Defining the International System

- Anarchy & Prisoner's Dilemma

- Conditions of System Stability: Balance of Power, Hegemonic Stability, Power Transition

- System Polarity

Readings: Russett, Starr, and Kinsella. 2006. Ch. 4.

Tammen et. al., 2000. *Power Transitions*, Ch. 2. (Blackboard)

VII. Foreign Policy Making

- How do states make and conduct foreign policies

- Various Influencing Factors on Foreign Policies

Reading: Russett, Starr, and Kinsella. 2006. Ch. 6 & 7.

VIII. International Militarized Conflict: Definition & Types

- Defining & Measuring International Conflict and War

- Why is a war different from other types of conflict?

Reading: Russett, Starr, and Kinsella. 2006. Ch. 8.

IX. Causes of Armed Conflict & War (Nov. 4 – 13)

- Anarchy & Security Dilemma

- Armed Force

- Nuclear Deterrence & Proliferation

- Alliances

Reading: Russett, Starr, and Kinsella. 2006. Ch. 9 & pp.352-377.

X. International Laws & Organization

- Roles & Importance of International Laws & Organizations

- United Nations, other IGOs, and NGOs

Reading: Russett, Starr, and Kinsella. 2006. Ch. 10.

XI. Liberal Peace and Zone of Peace

- Democratic Peace

Reading: Russett, Starr, and Kinsella. 2006. Ch. 11.

XII. Introduction to International Political Economy

- Approaches to International Political Economy: Mercantilism, Liberalism, Marxism

- Current International Economic System

Reading: Russett, Starr, and Kinsella. 2006. Ch. 12.

XII. Trade, Protectionism, and Interdependence

Reading: Russett, Starr, and Kinsella. 2006. Ch. 13.

XIII. Regional Economic Integration and Globalization

Reading: Russett, Starr, and Kinsella. 2006. Ch. 14.

XIV. Looking to the Future & Course Wrapup

Important Dates:

Exam 1: September 25 (Friday)

Exam 2: October 30 (Friday)

Final Exam: December 16 (Wednesday)

No Class

Labor Day: September 7 (Monday)

Thanksgiving Holidays: November 25 & 27 (Wednesday & Friday)