

COURSE SYLLABUS
PSCI 102
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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Vanderbilt

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Homepage for course: <http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/site/jPoGs0/psci102f03>

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the study of international politics. It is designed to provide you with ideas about how to think about and understand events, trends, and patterns in interactions among states and other actors within the global political system. It is also intended to help you develop, and to express your own opinions regarding the most important political issues in the contemporary global political system.

We will begin with a brief overview of the field and the history of world politics. This will be followed by an examination of the predominant approach to the field based on states and military power, and a consideration of alternative approaches focusing on the impact of such factors as public opinion, individual leaders, organizational processes in foreign policy making bureaucracies, and the internal political structure of states. After analyzing the U.S. war in Vietnam, we will then discuss international politics in the Middle East, international political economy, and recent political strife and military conflict in the former state of Yugoslavia. The course will conclude with discussions of relationships between richer and poorer countries, the causes of war, international law and organizations, and crises and issues such as those having to do with global environmental problems. We will also devote weekly debate/discussion sessions to a series of topics in the field of international politics included on the reading list below.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students should complete the assigned readings on time, attend class, and take the examinations at the scheduled times. I do not give make-up exams or incompletes except under the most unusual circumstances. Students who must miss an exam should notify me by phone or email before the exam. There will be two examinations during the term, and a final examination during finals week. The two mid-term exams will occur on **Wednesday, September 24**, and **Wednesday, October 29**. The Final Exam will be offered at its "Primary" time on **Saturday, December 13, 2003, from 3 to 5 PM**. Please make all end-of-the semester travel plans accordingly.

Grades for the course will be based on the two mid-term exams (15% each), the final, (30%), two 5-page papers (15% each), and participation in the discussion sections (10%). The papers and other responsibilities associated with the discussion sections are discussed in a separate handout. (They will focus on the "issues of the week" listed below, and discussed in the book Taking Sides.)

If you need course accommodations due to a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible.

REQUIRED READING MATERIALS

You should buy the following reading materials:
Joshua S. Goldstein, International Relations, (Update Edition), 5th ed. Longman, New York, 2003.
John Stoessinger, Why Nations Go To War, 8th ed., Bedford/St. Martin's Press, New York, 2001.
John T. Rourke, Taking Sides: World Politics, 11th ed., Dushkin/McGraw Hill, Guilford, Conn., 2003

There may also be periodic assignments of articles in the *New York Times*, or other media outlets. These articles will be emailed to the class through the course listserv address (psci102_ray@list.vanderbilt.edu), and/or posted on the course web page.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS SESSIONS, WITH REQUIRED READINGS

Introduction (Organizing Session) (Wednesday, August 27th).

Thursday, August 28th, Friday August 29th.
Organizational meetings

Discussion Sections: Section 3: F- 10:10-11 AM – (Wilson 129)
Meeting Times and Section 4: R- 8:35-9:25 AM - (Calhoun 104))
Places Section 5: F- 12:10-1:00 PM- (Wilson 113)
Section 6: F- 2:10-3:00 PM – (Stevenson Center 5206)

I. THE BEGINNING

Monday, September 1st

Goldstein, Ch. 1, "Understanding International Relations," pp. 24-51.
Stoessinger, Ch. 1, "The Iron Dice: World War I, pp. 1-23.

Suggested Website: <http://www.worldwar1.com/> (Pictures, biographies and maps at "World War I: Trenches on the Web.")

II. MODERN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Wednesday, September 3rd

Stoessinger, Ch. 2, "Barbarossa, Hitler's Attack on Russia," pp. 25-51.

Discussion Sections: Thursday, September 4th, Friday, September 5th

Issue of the Week: "Was the War with Iraq Unjustified?"

(No formal "debate" in discussion sections this week.. General discussion only.)

"Editor's Introduction," pp. 108-109 in Taking Sides.

John Mueller, "Yes: Should We Invade Iraq?: A Reason Online Debate," pp. 110-114 in Taking Sides.

Brink Lindsey, "No: Should We Invade Iraq?: A Reason Online Debate," pp. 115-120 in Taking Sides.

"Editor's Postscript," pp. 121 in Taking Sides.

Monday, September 8th

Goldstein, Ch. 1, "Understanding International Relations," pp. 1-23.

Suggested Website: www.ushmm.org (Web site of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum)

III. POWER AND CONFLICT

Wednesday, September 10th

Goldstein, Ch.2, "Power Politics," pp. 71-89

Discussion Sections: Thursday, September 11th, Friday, September 12th

Issue of the Week: "Will the Bush Doctrine Promote a More Secure World?"

"Editor's Introduction," pp. 36-37 in Taking Sides.

George W. Bush, "The National Security Strategy of the United States of America," pp. 38-44 in Taking Sides.

John Steinbruner, "Confusing Means and Ends: The Doctrine of Coercive Pre-emption," pp. 45-51 in Taking Sides.
"Editor's Postscript," pp. 52-53 in Taking Sides.

Suggested Website <http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

Provides access to *THE WORLD FACTBOOK*, published annually by the Central Intelligence Agency. Contains data on economic, political, and military resources of every country in the world.

IV. ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

Monday, September 15th

Goldstein, Ch. 3, "Alternative Approaches to Power Politics," pp. 115-137.

Wednesday, September 17th

Goldstein, Ch. 4, "Foreign Policy," pp. 155-181.

Discussions Sections: Thursday, September 18th, Friday, September 19th

Issue of the Week: "Would World Affairs Be More Peaceful if Women Dominated Politics?"

"Editor's Introduction," pp. 232-233 in Taking Sides.

Francis Fukuyama, "Women and the Evolution of World Politics," pp. 234-243 in Taking Sides.

Mary Caprioli, "The Myth of Women's Pacifism," pp. 244-250 in Taking Sides.

"Editor's Postscript," p. 251 in Taking Sides.

Suggested Websites: <http://www.fec.gov/> Website of the Federal Election Commission. Provides data, for example, on contributions to candidates for president of the United States. It also provides an explanation of how the Electoral College works.

<http://www.afsa.org/> Website for the American Foreign Service Association. Provides "Diplomats Online," a service via which teachers and students can email questions to regional specialists from the association, as well as access to the Foreign Service Journal, and lots of other sources of information.

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/survey2002.htm> Website for Freedom House, which provides annual data on civil and political liberties (as well as reports on political happenings) for virtually every country of the world.

Monday, September 22nd

Review for the First Midterm Examination

WEDNESDAY, September 24th. FIRST MIDTERM EXAMINATION

NO DISCUSSION SECTIONS THIS WEEK

Read, Stoessinger, Ch. 4, "A Greek Tragedy in Five Acts: Vietnam," pp. 81-109.

V. INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Monday, September 29th

Stoessinger, Ch. 6, "The Fifty Year's War in the Holy Land," pp. 139-185

Wednesday, October 1st

Stoessinger, Ch. 7, "The War Lover: Saddam Hussein's Two Wars in the Persian Gulf," pp. 187-216.

Discussion Sections: Thursday, October 2nd, Friday, October 3rd

Issue of the Week: “Would it Be an Error to Establish a Palestinian State?”

“Editor’s Introduction”: pp. 96-97 in Taking Sides.

P.J. Berlyn, “Twelve Bad Arguments for a State of Palestine,” pp. 98-103 in Taking Sides.

Rosemary E. Shinko, “Why a Palestinian State?” pp. 104-106 in Taking Sides

“Editor’s Postscript,” p. 107 in Taking Sides.

VI. GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Monday, October 6th

Goldstein, Ch. 8, “Trade,” pp. 303-341

Wednesday, October 8th

Goldstein, Ch. 9, “Money and Business,” pp. 343-377.

Discussion Sections: Thursday, October 9th, Friday, October 10th

Issue of the Week: “Is Globalization Likely to Create a Better World?”

Editor’s Introduction: pp. 2-3 in Taking Sides.

Thomas Friedman, “States of Discord,” pp. 4-7 in Taking Sides.

Robert Kaplan, “States of Discord,” pp. 8-11 in Taking Sides.

“Editor’s Postscript,” pp. 12-13 in Taking Sides.

Suggested Websites: www.wto.org/ Site for the famous (or infamous) World Trade Organization. Provides information about the organizations, as well as news and documents about trade issues and disputes.

VII. RICH COUNTRIES AND POOR COUNTRIES

Monday, October 13th

Goldstein, Ch. 12, “The North-South Gap,” pp. 455-493.

Wednesday, October 15th

Goldstein, Ch. 13, “International Development,” pp. 495-535.

Discussion Sections, Thursday, October 16th, , Friday, October 17th

Issue of the Week: “Do International Financial Organizations Require Radical Reform?”

“Editor’s Introduction,” pp. 274-275 in Taking Sides

Joseph Stiglitz, “Progressive Interview,” pp. 276-282 in Taking Sides.

Kenneth Rogoff, “An Open Letter to Joseph Stiglitz,” pp. 283-286 in Taking Sides

“Editor’s Postscript,” pp. 287 in Taking Sides.

Suggested Website: <http://www.undp.org/hdro/> Provides electronic version of the Human Development Report, with a discussion of development issues, and an annual Human Development Index score for every country in the world.

OCTOBER 20-21. OCTOBER BREAK.

VIII. WAR OVER YUGOSLAVIA

Wednesday, October 22nd

Stoessinger, Ch. 8, "From Sarajevo to Kosovo: The War Over the Remains of Yugoslavia," pp. 216-250.

Discussions Sections, Thursday, October 23rd, Friday, October 24th

Issue of the Week: "Are Military Means the Best Way to Defeat Terrorism?"

"Editor's Introduction," pp. 200-201 in Taking Sides.

Benjamin Netanyahu, "Statement Before the Committee on Government Reform," pp. 202-208 in Taking Sides.

Bill Christison, "Why the 'War on Terror' Won't Work," pp. 209-214 in Taking Sides.

"Editor's Postscript," p. 215 in Takings Sides.

Monday, October 27

Review for the Second Midterm Examination

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH, 2003. SECOND MIDTERM EXAMINATION

NO DISCUSSIONS SECTIONS THIS WEEK

Read Goldstein, Ch. 5, "International Conflict," pp. 183-197.

IX. CAUSES OF WAR

Monday, November 3rd

Goldstein, Ch. 5, "International Conflict," pp. 198-219

Wednesday, November 5th

Stoessinger, Ch. 9, "Why Nations Go To War," pp. 251-265.

Discussion Sections, Thursday, November 6th, Friday, November 7th

Issue of the Week: "Do China's Armaments and Intentions Pose a Long-Term Threat?"

"Editor's Introduction," pp. 72-73 in Taking Sides.

Richard D. Fisher, Jr, "Statement Before the Committee on Armed Services, pp. 74-84 in Taking Sides.

Ivan Eland, "Is Chinese Military Modernization a Threat to the United States?" pp. 85-94 in Taking Sides.

"Editor's Postscript," p. 95 in Taking Sides.

Suggested Websites: www.isn.ethz.ch/ One of the most comprehensive set of links to Web sites concerned with arms control, security, and international relations provided by the International Relations and Security Network page sponsored by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology.

www.brook.edu/FP/PROJECTS/NUCW/COST/WEAPONS.HTM Supplies information on the cost of the US nuclear program, and "estimates that \$5.5 trillion in 1996 dollars has been spent by Washington on building, delivering and defending against The Bomb—and the meter is still ticking at the rate of \$35 billion a year."

X. INTERNATIONAL ACTORS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Monday, November 10th

Goldstein, Ch. 7, "International Organization and Law," pp. 261-283.

Wednesday, November 12th

Goldstein, Ch. 10, "Integration," pp. 379-394.

Discussion Sections: Thursday, November 13th, Friday, November 14th

Issue of the Week: “Should the United Nations Be Given Stronger Peacekeeping Capabilities?”

“Editor’s Introduction,” pp. 254-255 in Taking Sides.

Lionel Rosenblatt and Larry Thompson, “Door of Opportunity: Creating a Permanent Peacekeeping Force,” pp. 256-263 in Taking Sides.

John Hillen, “Statement Before the Subcommittee on International Operations,” pp. 264-271 in Taking Sides.

“Editor’s Postscript,” pp. 272-273 in Taking Sides.

Suggested Websites: www.un.org/ Everything you’ve always wanted to know about the United Nations, but were always afraid to ask. Plus you could, if you want, download and/or print a detailed map of every country in the world.

XI. ALLIANCES AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Monday, November 17th

Goldstein, “Alliances,” in Ch. 2, “Power Politics,” pp. 102-113.

Wednesday, November 19th

Goldstein, “International Law,” in Ch. 7, “International Organization and Law,” pp. 283-302.

Discussion Sections: Thursday, November 20th, Friday, November 21st

Issue of the Week: “Should the United States Ratify the International Criminal Court Treaty?”

“Editor’s Introduction,” pp. 288-289 in Taking Sides.

Lawyer’s Committee for Human Rights, “Statement Before the Committee on International Relations,” pp. 290-294 in Taking Sides.

John R. Bolton, “Statement Before the Committee on International Relations,” pp. 295-301 in Taking Sides.

“Editor’s Postscript,” pp. 302-303 in Taking Sides.

Suggested Websites: <http://www.un.org/icc/> A website about the International Criminal Court.

www.nato.int/ Home page of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. News, information and data about the organization. Plus you can download copies of the NATO Logo and/or Flag!

NOVEMBER 22-NOVEMBER 30. THANKSGIVING VACATION!!!

XII. THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Monday, December 1st

Goldstein, Ch. 11, “Environment and Population,” pp. 413-429

Wednesday, December 3rd

Goldstein, Ch. 9, “Environment and Population,” pp. 430-453.

Discussion Sections: Thursday, December 4th, Friday, December 5th

Issue of the Week: “Do Environmentalists Overstate Their Case?”

“Editor’s Introduction,” pp. 306-307 in Taking Sides.

Bjørn Lomborg, “The Skeptical Environmentalist,” pp. 308-313 in Taking Sides.

Fred Krupp, “The Skeptical Environmentalist,” pp. 314-317 in Taking Sides.

“Editors Postscript,” p. 318-319 in Taking Sides.

Suggested Website: www.worldwatch.org/ Home page for Lester Brown's World Watch Institute.

XIII THE END

Monday, December 8th

Goldstein, Postscript, pp. 537-539.

Special Assignment in the *New York Times*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH. LAST DAY OF CLASS. CATCHING UP, FINISHING UP, AND REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAMINATION

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