

PSC 330 International Relations Problems

Course Syllabus Fall 2013

Professor: Dr. Vesna Danilovic
Office: 505 Park Hall
Department of Political Science
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Classroom: 218 Norton Hall
Class schedule: TR 5-6:20 p.m.
Office hours: TR 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Teaching Assistant:

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Course description

This seminar in international relations is designed to familiarize students with the scholarly and analytical approaches to current critical issues in international relations. We will cover the main contemporary themes in the areas of international security, international political economy, normative theory, and transnational issues such as environmental problems and human rights.

Required readings

All required readings are available on UB Learns for this course. The readings must be completed before the first class for which they are assigned.

Course requirements

The final grade in this course will be based on four main components: (1) two in-class examinations, (2) one project and its presentation, (3) four in-class quizzes, and (4) class participation.

Summary of the grade components:

50% Two in-class exams (1st exam: 25%; 2nd exam: 25%)

25% Project (essay 15%; PPT in-class presentation 10%)

15% Four pop quizzes

10% Seminar participation

1. *Two in-class examinations* (50% total; 25% each)

The exams will be a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. Each exam will be worth a total of 25% of the student's final grade. Questions will be based on the student's comprehension of both the assigned reading materials and the class lectures.

2. *Project and class presentation* (25% total):

Each student will write a paper (6 double-spaced pages) and give a class presentation in PowerPoint on one from the list of project topics. Although several students will prepare their projects under the same general topic, each student will work independently on her/his project which will be graded separately from the others in the group. I will lay out

the parameters for each group topic on **September 6**. Each student will have approximately 5 minutes for his/her individual presentation (PPT slides) and the accompanying essay should be up to 6 pages long. To facilitate coordination among multiple topic preferences, by **September 11** you are required to submit to me your top three topic preferences, one of which will be assigned as the topic for your presentation. If I do not receive your topic preferences, I will assign you to one of the topics after considering all the remaining students' preferences. An assignment sheet listing presentation groups and topics for all students will be posted on UB Learns on **September 12** ("Project Group Assignments" file). After this list is posted, the groups will briefly meet in class on **September 18** to coordinate individual subtopic assignments within their topic. The deadlines for e-mailing me **electronic copies** of your PPT slides and essay are listed below. Also, on the scheduled date for your topic, you should bring your PowerPoint project in electronic form for the class presentation and give me a **printed copy** of both the PPT presentation and essay. Detailed instructions for the project requirements, format, each topic, deadlines, etc., are provided in a separate file available on UB Learns ("Project" file).

3. *Four in-class quizzes (15%):*

The quizzes will be multiple choice and the questions will be based on the class readings and lectures. The dates of the quizzes will not be announced ahead of time, so if you know in advance that you will be missing a class for a university excusable reason, let me know early.

4. *Class participation (10%)*

Class participation is based on active participation in class discussions. The students are expected to come to class having read the material and able to answer questions and/or engage in informed discussion. This can only be done if you conduct yourselves in a professional manner and are tolerant of other students' ideas, even if they directly contradict your own personal views.

The breakdown for final grades is as follows:

93-100 % (A); 90-92.9% (A-);
87-89.9% (B+); 83-86.9% (B); 80-82.9% (B-);
77-79.9% (C+); 73-76.9% (C); 70-72.9% (C-);
67-69.9% (D+); 63-66.9% (D); 60-62.9% (D-);
< 60% (F)

Summary of important dates:

September 10 - project overview

September 12 - deadline for submitting three out of six topic preferences (bring to class)

September 17 - a brief in-class meeting between group members to coordinate their individual subtopics

October 10 - First Exam

October 14 - deadline for the projects due to be presented on October 15-22

November 21 - Second Exam

November 25 - deadline for the projects to be presented on November 26, December 3-5

Project Deadline Extensions and Make-Up Exams

Deadline extensions and make-up exams will not be granted except in properly documented situations of serious illness or major family emergency. The request needs to be made in a timely manner and not later than the second day after the missed deadline or exam. Otherwise, the extension/make-up will not be granted.

Electronic Communication

I encourage students to visit me during my office hours for any questions and inquiries. If the circumstances necessitate it, you can also e-mail me on weekdays. The project assignments must also be submitted initially through e-mail. Please adhere to the following courtesy policy for this course when e-mailing me: (1) use only your UB e-mail address; (2) do address me properly in the message and sign it with your full name; (3) keep your message brief and, when submitting the project, provide the information about the project's topic and the files you are attaching; (4) do not forget to attach the project files and make sure to wait for my confirmation (see "Project" file on UBLearns for further details). To protect the privacy of each student, please note that I do not provide any grade or similar personal information through e-mail or by phone, regardless of who is requesting it.

Plagiarism Statement

Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class and will result in an automatic grade of "F" for the course. You may find more information about academic dishonesty at: <http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/course/integrity.shtml>.

Copyright Statement

Unless otherwise noted, the handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By "handouts," I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, web pages, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

Students with Disabilities Policy

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester.

SCHEDULE

August 27

COURSE OVERVIEW

August 29

NO CLASS – THE INSTRUCTOR IS AT THE CONFERENCE

September 3, 12 & 17

MAJOR PERSPECTIVES ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Walt, Stephen M. 1998. “International Relations: One World, Many Theories.” *Foreign Policy* No. 110 (Spring): 29-46.

Snyder, Jack. 2004. “One World, Rival Theories.” *Foreign Policy* 145 (November/December): 52-62.

September 5

NO CLASS – ROSH HASHANAH OBSERVED

September 10

PROJECT OVERVIEW

REMINDER:

Each student needs to submit her/his top three topic preferences in class on **September 12**. An assignment sheet listing presentation groups and topics for all students will be posted on UB Learns on **September 13** (“Project Group Assignments” file). The groups will meet in class to coordinate their individual project assignments on **September 17**. The class-time reserved for this coordination meeting is up to 20 minutes, so do make sure to come with the prepared list of assignment preferences.

September 19-24

U.S. GRAND STRATEGY TODAY

Posen, Barry R., and Andrew L. Ross. 1996/97. “Competing Visions for U.S. Grand Strategy.” *International Security* 21 (3): 5-53.

Art, Robert J. 1998/99. “Geopolitics Updated: The Strategy of Selective Engagement.” *International Security* 23 (3): 79-113.

Krauthammer, Charles. 2002/03. “The Unipolar Moment Revisited.” *National Interest* 70 (Winter): 5-17.

September 26 & October 1

TERRORISM & COUNTER-TERRORISM

Rapoport, David C. 2004. “The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism.” In Cronin, A. K. & Ludes, J. M. (eds.) *Attacking Terrorism: Elements of a Grand Strategy*. Washington, DC.: Georgetown University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 46–73).

Cronin, Audrey Kurth. 2002/03. “Behind the Curve: Globalization and International Terrorism.” *International Security* 27 (3): 30-58.

Gordon, Philip H. 2007. “Can the War on Terror Be Won? How to Fight the Right War” *Foreign Affairs* 86 (6): 53-66.

October 3

PEACE-KEEPING AND PEACE-BUILDING

Goulding, Marrack. 1993. "The Evolution of United Nations Peacekeeping." *International Affairs* 69 (3): 451-464.

Stedman, Stephen John. 1997. "Spoiler Problems in Peace Processes." *International Security* 22 (2): 5-53.

(Recommended: Prunier, Gérard, 2006. "The Politics of Death in Darfur." *Current History* 105 (May): 195-202.)

October 8

ETHICS AND FORCE

Skidelsky, Robert. 2004. "The Just War Tradition." *Prospect*, December 2004.

Myers, Robert J. 1996. "Notes on the Just War Theory: Whose Justice, Which Wars?" *Ethics & International Affairs* 10 (1): 115-130.

Crawford, Neta C. 2003. "Just War Theory and the U.S. Counterterror War." *Perspectives on Politics* 1 (1): 5-25.

<p style="text-align: center;">EXAM #1 Thursday, October 10</p>

REMINDER:

Projects scheduled for presentations on October 15-22 are due by 4 p.m. on October 14.

October 15, 17 & 22

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

October 24-31

NONVIOLENCE IN RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

Queen, Christopher S. 1998. "The Peace Wheel: Nonviolent Activism in the Buddhist Tradition." In Smith-Christopher, Daniel L. *Subverting Hatred: The Challenge of Nonviolence in Religious Traditions*. Boston Research Center, Chapter 2 (pp. 25-47).

Ravitzky, Aviezer. 1987. "Peace." In Cohen, A. C. & Mendes-Flohr P. (eds.) *Contemporary Jewish Religious Thought: Original Essays on Critical Concepts, Movements, and Beliefs*. New York: Scribner's, pp. 685-702.

Sibley, Mulford Q. 1943. "The Political Theories of Modern Religious Pacifism." *American Political Science Review* 37 (3): 439-454 (required Parts II & III on pp. 444-456; recommended Part I on pp. 439-444).

Abu-Nimer, Mohammed. 2000/01. "A Framework for Nonviolence and Peacebuilding in Islam." *Journal of Law and Religion* 15 (1/2): 217-265 (required pp. 217-232; recommended pp. 232-265).

Bose, Anima. "A Gandhian Perspective on Peace." *Journal of Peace Research* 18 (2): 159-164.

November 5-7

HUMAN RIGHTS

Beitz, Charles. 2003. "What Human Rights Mean." *Daedalus* 132 (1): 36-47.

Hafner-Burton, Emily M., and Kiyoteru Tsutsui. 2005. "Human Rights in a Globalizing World: The Paradox of Empty Promises" *American Journal of Sociology* 110 (5): 1373-1411.

November 12-19

FOREIGN AID, INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & GLOBAL HEALTH

Documentary: *A Closer Walk* [will be shown in class on November 14]

Grieco, Joseph M., and G. John Ikenberry. 2003. "Developing Nations and the World Economy." In Grieco & Ikenberry, *State Power and World Markets*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, Chapter 8 (pp. 244-287).

Schraeder, Peter J., Bruce Taylor, and Steven W. Hook. 1998. "Clarifying the Foreign Aid Puzzle: A Comparison of American, Japanese, French, and Swedish Aid Flows." *World Politics* 50 (2): 294-323.

Garrett, Laurie 2007. "The Challenge of Global Health." *Foreign Affairs* 86 (1): 14-38.

November 19

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

McKibben, Bill. 2009. "Climate Change: Think Again." *Foreign Policy* 170 (January/February): 32-38.

(Recommended: Wapner, Paul. 1995. "Politics Beyond the State: Environmental Activism and World Civic Politics." *World Politics* 47 (3): 311-340.)

<p style="text-align: center;">EXAM #2 Thursday, November 21</p>
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November 28

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - NO CLASSES

REMINDER:

Projects scheduled for presentations on November 26, December 3-5 are due by November 25 at 4 p.m.

November 26, December 3-5

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

~ Have a Good Winter Break ~