

Political Science 371: Introduction to International Politics

Spring Semester 2008, Section 3773

Instructor: Som Chounlamountry

California State University, Long Beach

Class Times: Mondays & Wednesday 11-12:15PM in SPA-209

Office Hours: Fridays 1:30-4:00 (& by appointment) in SPA-335

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I. University Catalog Course Description

Political Science 371. Introduction to International Politics (3)

Prerequisites: Completion of the GE Foundation; POSC 100.

Relations among nation-states. Why countries sometimes cooperate and sometimes go to war. Roles of intergovernmental organizations like the UN, the WTO, and NATO, and non-governmental actors like Amnesty International and Al-Qaeda; international trade and finance; war, peace, terrorism and diplomacy.

II. Course Overview

This course examines relations among nation-states, and explores why countries sometimes cooperate and sometimes go to war. The international system of states, intergovernmental organizations like the UN, WTO, and NATO, and non-governmental actors like Amnesty International and al-Qaeda, are studied for their impact on interstate processes. Topics include war and peace, terrorism, international trade and finance, and diplomacy.

This survey course introduces students to the international system: (1) Who the major actors are (nation-states, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, multinational corporations), (2) What organizational principles and structural factors (institutions) influence the actions and behaviors of the actors (war-peace), and, (3) the evolution of the international system from bi-polar configurations of power during the Cold War to the present globalization trends.

Content Standards

Upon completion of POSC 371, students will know about the expanding number of actors (nations, international organizations and multinational enterprises) and factors (including communications, technology proliferation, and economic integration) shaping the structure and evolution of the international system.

Application Standards

Students will be able to (1) analyze from print and electronic media sources how the growing diversity of nation-states and their domestic political processes are making the functioning of the international system increasing complex, (2) evaluate the structural processes between highly industrial and developing countries that are influencing trade flows and financial stability, and, (3) identify the emerging new forms of international political interaction between actors (e.g., ad hoc protests against the WTO, and the IMF).

IV. Assessment

Assessment & Date Due	Points	%	Your Grade
First Region Assessments (from 3/17 to 3/26)	50 points	10%	
Midterm Exam (March 5 th in class)	100 points	20%	
Second Region Assessments (from 4/21 to 4/30)	50 points	10%	
Research Paper (May 7 th in class)	100 points	20%	
Final Exam (Monday, May 19 th from 10:15 am to 12:15 pm)	150 points	30%	
Attendance and Pop Quizzes	50 points	10%	

Grade	Point Totals	Assessment Criteria
A	450-500 points	Indicates mastery of the relevant course standards
B	400-449 points	Indicates above average proficiency of the relevant course standards
C	350-399 points	Indicates satisfactory proficiency of the relevant course standards
D	300-349 points	Indicates partial proficiency of the relevant course standards
F	0-299 points	Indicates little or no proficiency of the relevant course standards

Region Assessment: Students will form groups of 5 or 6. Each Group will create a 5-page single-spaced assessment in the style of the Economic Intelligence Unit Country Report which identifies international relations related topics in that region. Each group will make two 10 minute presentations of their Assessments which will be followed by a 10 minutes Q&A on dates to be specified in class. Groups: NAm, CAC, SAm, AFR, NAFME, EUR, RFSR

Research Paper: Each student will write a 7 to 10 page research paper based on scholarly sources on a current topic of international politics to be assigned by the instructor. All papers must be double-spaced, and paginated, 12 fonts (Times New Roman), have standard margin, and use APA citations.

Exams: The midterm and final examinations will consist of objective questions and short essays covering reading and lecture materials. The essay portions of the exams will be open book and notes, but will have strict time limits.

Attendance and Class Participation: Students are to attend each class having read the required selections, with questions and discussion points already in mind for each class session. The Pop Quizzes will cover materials and topics only discussed in class sessions and current news items.

Late Assignments, Early Exams and Exam Make-ups: Late assignments will result in a lower score, unless otherwise noted one grade level per school day for that assignment. Early exams are not allowed except under conditions of a make-up exam. Make-up assignments will be available only in cases of demonstrated medical emergencies, religious holidays, or university business. Typically a make-up exam will be taken at the end of the semester and may have a different format than the original.

Plagiarism and Cheating Policy: As university students, you are a member of an academic community that strives to maintain the highest standards of academic quality. Students engaging in cheating or plagiarizing, will receive zero (0) points for that assignment or exam. Further disciplinary action may be taken, including failing the class and/or reporting to the university.

Policy on Withdrawals: You are responsible for withdrawing from courses in which you enrolled. University policy on withdrawals applies. Please refer to current California State University, Long Beach Catalog of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies for more detailed guidelines.

Policy on reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities: Students with disabilities who need reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations in this course should promptly direct their request to the course instructor. If a student with a disability feels that modifications, special assistance, or accommodations offered are inappropriate or insufficient, s/he should seek the assistance of the Director of Disabled Student Services on campus.

IV. Beachboard and Email Etiquette

Beachboard: Students are required to access the Beachboard site for this course and the e-mail account registered to it. Due to budget restrictions, we are compelled to distribute almost all course documents electronically.

Email Etiquette: Your real name will be identified as “Sender.”

Use the Subject Line: All email in this course must be addressed as if it were a business letter, including on the subject line the student’s Full Name, Class Number and Topic of the correspondence. The content must be formatted as a business letter, including a Real Name Signature and Phone Number. Emails not fulfilling these requirements will be considered spam or spyware and may not be opened by the instructor. Again, be sure that your real name appears as the sender, not the email address. Barring technical difficulties, I will usually respond within 24 hours, except for the weekends. Please follow up with another email if there is no response.

VI. Required Texts/Materials

Joshua Goldstein and Jon Pevehouse, *International Relations, 8th Edition*, New York: Longman, 2008.

Week & Meetings	Reading & Deadline	Topics
Week 1 (1/28 & 1/30) Week 2 (2/4 & 2/6) Week 3 (2/11 & 2/13)	Chapter 1: The Globalization of International Relations Chapter 2: Power Politics Chapter 3: Alternatives to Power Politics Email Som schounla@csulb.edu Full Name, Class & Section #, Brief Bio, Major, Phone & Joke	Welcome, Syllabus & Course Overview, Form Groups Study of IR Actors and Influences Global Geography International Systems Realism, Power, Alliances Alternatives to Power Politics Genocide & Forum 2/11-13
Week 4 (2/18 & 2/20) Week 5 (2/25 & 2/27) Week 6 (3/3 & 3/5)	Chapter 4: Foreign Policy Chapter 5: International Conflict Chapter 6: Military Force and Terrorism Midterm Exam on March 5th	FP Formulation: Decision Making, Domestic Politics International Conflict, Wars, Ideas and Interest Conventional Warfare, WMD, Terrorism
Week 7 (3/10 & 3/12) Week 8 (3/17 & 3/19) Week 9 (3/24 & 3/26)	Chapter 7: International Organization, Law, and Human Rights First Region Assessment Presentations from 3/17 to 3/26	Roles of IO, United Nations International Law, Sovereignty, Human Rights
Week 10: BREAK	No Classes	
Week 11: (4/7 & 4/9) Week 12: (4/14 & 4/16) Week 13: (4/21 & 4/23) Week 14: (4/28 & 4/30)	Chapter 8: International Trade Chapter 9: Money and Business Chapter 10: International Integration *Group Prep Day on 4/16 Second Region Assessment Presentations from 4/21 to 4/30	Theories of trade, Trade Regimes, Globalization Money, Currency System, Multinational Business Supranationalism, Integration, European Union
Week 15: (5/5 & 5/7) Week 16: (5/12 & 5/14)	Chapter 11: Environment and Population Chapter 12: The North-South Gap Chapter 13: International Development Research Paper Due 5/7	Environment, Natural Resources, Population State of the South, Accumulation Theories, Imperialism Industrialization, North-South Capital Flows, Foreign Assistance
	Final Exam: Monday, May 19th from 10:15 am to 12:15 pm	