INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Government 130
Fall 2005
Sec. 1: Tues./Thurs. 12-1:15 p.m.
Alpine 212
Sec. 2: Thurs. 5:30-8:20 p.m.
Amador 252

N. Lapp
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Hours: Tu/Th 1:20-2:20 & Wed. 4:20-5:20
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Course Description:
The Cold War's end, globalization, and the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks have led to reconsideration of conventional views and uncertainty about the future direction of international politics. In this lecture and discussion course, we will examine recent and historical events to provide a context for understanding current international politics. Although current events will be incorporated into the course, this is not the focus. Instead, we will cover key concepts and theoretical approaches to make sense of the field of international relations. With this knowledge, students will have the tools to analyze current and future events as they arise.

Goals:
Students in this course will learn about and evaluate contending theoretical approaches to the study of international relations. They will apply these theories to explain international politics. Students will analyze differing explanations of the causes of war and peace using past wars such as World War I, World War II, and the Cold War. Students will also develop an appreciation for and understanding of other contemporary issues such as international institutions, globalization, and global problems. Students will improve their library research skills, including the use of on-line resources.

Texts:
The following texts are required and are available for purchase at the bookstore.


John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War, 9th ed. (Wadsworth, 2005)

Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder, Essential Readings in World Politics 2nd ed. (New York: W. W. Norton, 2004)


Six articles are on reserve at the library reserve room; students will need to go to the reserve room in person. You will also need to access other required articles and handouts online through LOCUS. Enroll in LOCUS the first week using your saclink id and password. A link to LOCUS appears on the library webpage. If you do not have computer access at home, you will need to arrange a time to use one of the many computer labs on campus.
Course Requirements:

Writing Assignments on the Readings: Students will need to prepare answers to questions on the readings for nearly every class. These assignments must be typed, must make explicit reference to the required readings by using the authors’ last names, and should be no longer than one page. The assignments will be discussed in class. Twelve assignments will be randomly and without notice collected at the end of selected classes; 10 will be counted for the final writing assignment grade. Students must attend the selected class to turn the assignments in, and they must be turned in during class. No late writing assignments will be accepted. The assignments will be graded credit/no credit. Assignments that do not meet the criteria will receive no credit, with no opportunity to rewrite. The total writing assignment grade will be based on the percentage of assignments completed.

Exams: There will be one midterm and a cumulative final exam. The dates for the exams are given below in the class schedule. There will be both take-home and in-class components to the midterm and the final. The in-class portion will consist of short-answer questions on the lectures and readings. Review guides will be distributed one to two weeks before the exams. Make-ups for the final exam will only be given under exceptional circumstances. There will be no make-up for the midterm; those with a valid excuse for missing the midterm will take a “double” final exam.

Research Paper: The research paper is designed so that students can apply the major theories to a relatively current issue in international relations. Students will do the paper in stages and will turn in assignments throughout the semester. More information will be provided in a separate handout.

Important note: Questions of plagiarism and cheating are disagreeable yet serious issues that occasionally arise. Be very careful. Do your own work. Plagiarism is the “act of stealing and using as one’s own the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another,” according to The Scribner-Bantam English Dictionary. The ideas and words of others as well as facts which are not common knowledge must be properly attributed to the source. Plagiarism could result in your expulsion from the college; for this class, you will receive an “F” (0 points) on any work that is plagiarized or on which any cheating has occurred. This will also be reported to Student Affairs. A paper handout will cover the basics of proper citation for your paper, but you are responsible for knowing the rules. Additional information is provided in the Hacker book. See me in advance if you have any questions regarding the use of materials in order to avoid any question of plagiarism or about cheating. Keep all notes and any drafts of your work until you receive your final grade in the course.

Another important note: Incompletes will be given only under extraordinary situations and only for students who are otherwise in good standing in the class (receiving at least a C).

Grades:
Writing Assignments on Readings: 10%
Research Project: 35% total (25% for the final paper, 10% for preliminary assignments)
Midterm: 25%
Final: 30%
Course Schedule

The required readings listed below should be read before or during the week under which they are listed. The numbers listed after the selections from the Mingst and Snyder book refer to the page on which the readings begin; students should read each selection in its entirety.

Week 1: August 30 and Sept. 1
Introduction to the Course
What do we examine when we study international politics? How do we approach the study of international politics?

Readings for Thursday:
- Waltz handout.

Section 1 (TR) only: read Nye chapter 1 also

Question for Thursday: According to Waltz, what is anarchy? What does he argue are the results of an anarchic international system?

Week 2: September 6 and 8
Approaches to the Study of International Politics
What are the main approaches to understanding and explaining international politics?

Readings:
- Nye, chapters 1 and 2
- Mingst and Snyder:
  - Walt (begins on page 4)
  - Thucydides (18)
  - Kant (20)
  - Morgenthau, “A Realist Theory; Political Power” (49)
  - Mearsheimer, “Anarchy & the Struggle for Power” (54)
  - Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics” (73)

Week 3: September 13 and 15
Approaches to the Study of International Politics
What are alternative approaches to understanding and explaining international politics?

Readings:
- Mingst and Snyder:
  - Gaddis (11)
  - Hermann and Hagan (begins on page 182)
  - Tickner (94)
  - Finnemore (102)
  - Enloe (202)
  - Frank (86)
  - Wallerstein (130)


Week 4: September 20 and 22
Causes of War and Peace: Nineteenth Century to World War I
How well do the main theories explain why the nineteenth century was relatively peaceful?

Readings:
- Nye, review chapter 2; read chapter 3 (pages 58-68 only)
- Mingst and Snyder:
  - Morgenthau, “The Balance of Power” (124)
  - Clausewitz (297)
  - Jervis, “Cooperation under the Security Dilemma” (309)

Week 5: September 27 and 29
Causes of War and Peace: World War I and II
How well do the theories explain why World War I occurred? Can they explain both the peace of the nineteenth century and WWI? How well do the theories explain World War II? What lessons can be drawn from WWII?

Readings:
- Stoessinger, chapters 1 and 2
- Nye, chapters 3 (pp. 68-84) and 4
- Mingst and Snyder:
  - Wilson (26)
  - Jervis, “Hypotheses on Misperception” (189)

Week 6: October 4 and 6
Causes of War and Peace: the Cold War
How well do the theories explain why the Cold War occurred? Why did war not break out directly between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.? What wars did occur? How well do the theories explain why, when, and how the Cold War ended?

Readings:
- Nye, chapter 5
- Mingst and Snyder:
  - Kennan (28), Gaddis (33)
- Stoessinger, chapter 10
- “On reserve at the library: Mueller, “The Obsolescence of Major War”

Week 7: October 11 and 13
Review and Midterm
What conclusions can we come to regarding the causes of war and peace?

Readings:
- Stoessinger, epilogue

In-Class Midterm, Thursday, October 14

Week 8: October 18 and 20
Proliferation, Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), and Terrorism
What is the current nuclear threat? How has this threat changed? What is terrorism? How does terrorism differ from crime? What are the difficulties of addressing these threats?

Readings:
- Mingst and Snyder:
  - Schelling (301)
  - Rotberg (157)
  - Sagan and Waltz (322)
  - Mueller, “The Essential Irrelevance…” (341)
  - Cronin (367)
  - Pape (382)
Week 9: October 25 and 27  
**Other Conflicts: Proxy Wars, Ethnic Conflict, Clash of Civilizations?**  
*Do the theories explain regional conflicts or ethnic conflicts? Will future conflict be a clash of civilizations?*

Readings:  
- Stoessinger, chapters 3 (Korea), 4 (Vietnam), 5 (Yugoslavia), 6 (India and Pakistan), 7 (Israeli-Arab)  
- Mingst and Snyder:  
  - Huntington (163)  
  - Said (170)  
  - Fuller (173)  
  - Sen (477)  
  - Posen (357)

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**Week 10: November 1 and 3**  
**Beyond the Cold War: Reflections on War and Peace in the Twenty-first Century**  
*How well do the theories explain the post-Cold War era? Why have wars such as the Persian Gulf Wars occurred?*

Readings:  
- Stoessinger, chapters 8 and 9  
- Nye, chapter 7 (208-213)  
- Mingst and Snyder:  
  - Jervis, “The Compulsive Empire” (138)

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**Week 11: November 8 and 10**  
**International Institutions**  
*What are international organizations? According to the theories, why and how do they exist and how do they affect international politics?*

Readings:  
- Nye, chapter 6  
- Mingst and Snyder:  
  - Bull (120)  
  - Mearsheimer, “The False Promise” (283)  
  - Glennon (208)  
  - Luck et al (219)  
  - Ikenberry (262-282)  
  - Krasner (143)  
  - Slaughter (149)  
  - Keck and Sikkink (222)

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**Week 12: November 15 and 17**  
**International Law**  
*What is international law? What are the problems with enforcement? Why? How do international law and international organizations "fit" in the current international system?*

Readings:  
- On reserve at the library: Christopher C. Joyner, “The Reality and Relevance of International Law in the Twenty-first Century,” :241-254;  
- Mingst and Snyder:  
  - Kissinger (253)  
  - Roth (258)  
  - Doyle, “International Intervention” (347)
Week 13: November 22 (Thanksgiving Holiday, Thursday, November 24)
International Law and Intervention
When do countries intervene for humanitarian reasons?
Readings: ·Mingst and Snyder:
               Power (233)

Week 14: November 29 and December 1
Globalization and Interdependence
What is globalization? How is the world more "globalized" today? How does globalization challenge traditional conceptions of international politics? Have the major actors changed? How does globalization affect the economy? How do the theories explain this?
Readings:   ·Nye, chapters 7 and 8
            · Mingst and Snyder:
                        Held et al. (462)
                        Friedman (471)
                        Gilpin (403)
                        Krasner (410)
                        Scott (421)
                        Einhorn (430)
                        Stiglitz (437)

Week 15: December 6 and 8
Final Thoughts and Review
Have international politics changed over the last two centuries? What are the prospects for war and peace, conflict and cooperation, in the next century? What are the major challenges?
Readings: ·Nye, chapter 9 (A New World Order?)

Finals Week: December 12-18
In-Class Final Exam (Take-home also due at this time):
Section 1 (day): Tuesday, December 13, 2005: 12:45-2:45
Section 2 (night): Thursday, December 15, 2005: 5:15-7:15