Theme of the Course and Objectives

The 1990s witnessed radical transformations in world politics. The end of the Cold War, greater emphasis on intrastate conflict, the rise of international terrorism, and the emergence of global commerce have become the topics of interest to scholars and policymakers around the world. States are increasingly cooperating with each other to combat some of these problems and address new opportunities for peaceful interactions. At the same time, the ever-expanding interdependence has not completely eliminated the use of force in state relations, as once expected, nor has it eradicated poverty or human rights abuses.

How do states manage global problems? What role does power play in resolving and/or initiating conflicts? How and when do states work together to reduce arms proliferation and improve trade relations? What is the role of identity and norms in shaping foreign behavior of states? And how do states grapple with challenges posed by globalization, poverty, terrorism, and political transitions?

This course serves as an introduction to critical problems that states encounter in today’s world, and ways in which actors manage the international system. To understand the dynamics of global politics, we will examine several theoretical approaches to state behavior and investigate critical issues governing state relations. First, our focus will turn to states as key actors in the international system. We will examine how anarchy, power, domestic politics, individuals, and identity shape interactions of states. Second, we will learn about causes of interstate and intrastate conflict and investigate ways in which violence can be resolved. Finally, we will look at problems and opportunities encountered by states in the post-Cold War environment including globalization, poverty, democratic transitions, and terrorism. At the end of the course, students will be able to critically examine state behavior and develop good understanding of pressing international problems.

Required Readings

2) Additional readings will be posted on E-reserve (* indicates that article/book chapter can be found on E-reserve; password: R) or you can access them from the
library's online resources (**) indicates available in online resources). On rare occasions, you will access the reading from Angel; A next to the reading indicates Angel. They include:


http://history.club.fatih.edu.tr/103%20Huntington%20Clash%20of%20Civilizations%20full%20text.htm


Students are also encouraged to purchase a semester subscription to a major newspaper such as The New York Times, the Washington Post, Christian Science Monitor, etc. and follow the news regularly.

**Course Requirements**

Students will be responsible for reading the assigned material before each class and discussing some of the readings during the lecture. We will have two exams consisting of multiple-choice, definition, short-answer, and essay questions. You will write one paper (approximately six pages in length) in which you will critically examine an issue in world politics in need of resolution. To deepen your understanding of political geography, you will take short geography quizzes. Finally, you are responsible for attendance and participation in our simulation activity.

**Midterm: States, Foreign Policy, Interstate Conflict**  
20%

**Final Exam: Intrastate Conflict, Emerging Issues**  
20%

**Paper: Policy Problem Analysis**  
20%

**Geography Quizzes 5, each worth 3%**  
15%

**In-Class Simulation Activity**  
15%

**Participation**  
10%

**Exams:** Multiple-choice, definition, short answer, and essay

**Paper:** This assignment is an opportunity for you to reflect on the material we learned and apply it in a practical way. In the paper, you, as a state leader, will be faced with a problem and will be asked to determine the best course of action/response to the problem. You will be asked to justify why you chose the action you did and which factors guided your decision. In addition, you will be asked to explain why some factors were considered more important in your decision than others. Finally, you will be asked to explain the anticipated consequences of your decision. Precise directions and paper topic will be distributed approximately two weeks before the due date. No outside research is required only a good grasp of the material, creative ideas, and good argumentation. The papers should be around six pages in length.

**Geography Quizzes:** To understand international relations, it is imperative to know the geographic location of states in the world. Five quizzes will test your knowledge of geography. You will be asked to indicate on blank maps the location of 10 of those states in various parts of the world (the Middle East, Africa, Latin and South America, Europe, and Asia). Study maps can be found in your book.

**Attendance and Participation:** You are asked to come to class and actively participate during our discussions. Please read the assigned material before each class so that we can have a lively exchange of ideas.

**Simulation Activity:** The goal of this activity is to “experience” the complexity of policymaking and understand the role of various actors in the decision process. Students will be divided into teams and will be responsible for developing strategies to address
security and trade among countries in North and South America. A short, written report by groups will be due at the end of the activity. Details about the simulation will be explained a week before the scheduled activity.

Grade Assignment:

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Class Rules:

1) Exams and quizzes must be taken on the assigned dates. The paper must be turned in on the scheduled date. No make ups will be allowed unless an emergency occurs and is properly documented (for example, a doctor’s note is provided). Attendance and participation during our simulation activity is REQUIRED.

2) Please act respectfully towards the instructor and other students. Talking and sleeping in class distracts everyone from learning.

3) Students dissatisfied with their grade shall not discuss their exam/paper grades with the professor immediately after the exams/papers are returned. If you wish to speak with me regarding your grade, you must wait 48 hours and then make an appointment to see me during office hours. Pressuring the professor to increase grades constitutes a form of unacceptable behavior. The professor reserves a right to notify the dean if a student violates the rule of professional behavior.

4) Students must be aware of university rules concerning cheating and plagiarism. Please see university website if you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism.

5) Failure to turn in the paper or take any of the exams/quizzes will constitute grounds for a failing grade for the course. Participation in the simulation activity is also part of the course requirement and failure to attend on those days will result in a failing grade for the course.

6) The paper should be turned in at the beginning of class. Late papers will be penalized in the following manner: ten points will be deducted per day for any paper that is not turned in at the beginning of class. Please do not email your papers or drop them in the office (unless previously consulted with me) but bring them to class. Thank you.

6) Students with disabilities who are enrolled in this course and who will be requesting documented disability-related accommodations should make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services, (646) 685-0118, during the
first week of class. Once you have been approved for accommodations, contact me to ensure the successful implementation of those accommodations.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Wed. January 20

I. Introduction: Course outline, the importance of studying international relations

Week 2

Mon. January 25

II. The Modern International System and Its Actors

a) States: the Peace of Westphalia, the rise of a state
b) The concept of sovereignty, nations, and states
c) Case study: Kurdistan and the challenge of “becoming” a state

Connor, 31-37A

Wed. January 27 Professor is out sick (syllabus modified on January 30)

Week 3

Mon. February 1

III. Foreign Policy: Realism

a) Levels of analysis
b) Anarchy and security dilemma
c) Power
d) What to do about power? Balancing and Alliances

G & P, 35-56; Morgenthau, 183-193*

Wed. February 3

IV. Foreign Policy: Case Study—Understanding Iran-U.S. relations through the eyes of realism

a) How can realism explain U.S. policy towards Iran?
b) How can realism explain Iran’s nuclear policy?
c) How does realism envision the resolution of the crisis?

“How does mainstream realism envision the resolution of the crisis?”


GEOGRAPHY QUIZ 1: EUROPE (Feb. 3)

Week 4

Mon. February 8

V. Foreign Policy: Liberalism—The Possibility of Cooperation

a) The problem with cooperation: prisoner’s dilemma
b) The possibility of cooperation: interdependence, transparency, reciprocity, international organizations
c) Cooperation in the security realm: the case of nuclear non-proliferation treaty


Wed. February 10

Snow Day

Week 5

Mon. February 15

VI. Foreign Policy: Liberalism: International Organizations

a) Beacons of cooperation?
b) Purpose and utility
c) Case study: the UN and its effectiveness—Video clip, United Nations Reform

G & P, 216-245
VII. Foreign Policy: Insights from Constructivism
   a) The role of ideas in policymaking
   b) State interactions and the formation of ideas
   c) Cast study: the development of poverty-related policies

G & P, 91-92; Finnemore, 11-24 & 89-127*

Week 6

Mon. February 22

VIII. Foreign Policy: Domestic Factors—Regime Type
   a) The importance of governing systems on foreign policy decisions: democratic peace
   b) Video clip, President Bush on Democracy and Peace
   c) Institutional and cultural arguments: explaining democratic behavior
   d) The dark side of democracies


Wed. February 24

IX. Foreign Policy: Domestic Factors—Public Opinion, Media, Interest Groups
   a) The relationship between public opinion, media, and foreign policy
   b) Interest groups and their effectiveness in shaping foreign policy
   c) Compassion Fatigue: The limit of public attentiveness and implications for policymaking

G & P, 84-89; Sobel, Ch.5*; Moeller, 280-307*

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #3: AFRICA (February 24)

Week 7

Mon. March 1
X. Foreign Policy: Bureaucracies and Individuals

a) Bureaucratic and organizational processes and their impact on policy
b) Intelligence failures
c) The role of individuals in politics: emotions, psychology and cognitive limitations
d) Case Study: JFK and Cuban Missile Crisis—Movie clip, The Thirteen Days


Wed. March 3

Midterm

Week 8

Mon. March 8 & Wed. March 10

XI. International Conflict: Causes and Issues

a) Levels of Analysis (review of the approaches in relation to conflict)
b) Security Dilemma and Arms Races
c) Power Transition
d) Misperception and Psychology
e) Democratic Peace and Diversionary Tactics
f) Issues: Territory, Resources, Identity

G & P, 112-116, 134-141; Kugler, 13-28*; Levy, 657-70*; Hensel, 115-142 (skim), online, see google books; Huntington, online: http://history.club.fatih.edu.tr/103%20Huntington%20Clash%20of%20Civilizations%20full%20text.htm

Week 9

Mon. March 15

XII. International Conflict: Resolution and Prevention

a) Preventive diplomacy and mediation
b) Obstacles to conflict resolution: understanding strategic incentives of states
c) Why is it difficult to resolve the conflict with North Korea, and what could be done to improve the situation?

Zartman and Touval, 445-461*
Wed. March 17

XIII. Terrorism
   a) Globalization, identity, and jihad
   b) Understanding the war on terror

G & P, 150-152; Barber, all (available online: http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/199203/barber);
   Fallows, 81-90**, Filkins, 48-67*

Week 10

Mon. March 22 & Wed. March 24

XIV. Civil Wars/Ethnic Conflict: Causes
   a) Primordialism
   b) Constructivism
   c) Instrumentalism
   d) Economic Factors: Resource Scarcity and Resource Curse

Grosby,164-171A; Mamdani, 87-102*; Brass 204-259*; Faris 67-69, available at:

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #4: LATIN & SOUTH AMERICA (Mon. March 22)
   PAPER DUE (Wed. March 24)

Week 11

Mon. April 12

XV. Solutions to Ethnic Conflict: Peacekeeping: UN Briefing Trip

Wed. April 14

XVI. Movie: On Our Watch
   a) Genocide in Darfur and Rwanda
   b) The problem with intervention
Power, 84-108 (available online: http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200109/power-genocide)

Week 12

Mon. April 19

XVII. Solutions to Ethnic Conflict II: Negotiations and Long-Term Solutions

a) The challenge of negotiations in civil wars
b) Solutions: partition, federalism, democracy, and peacebuilding
c) Case study: Cambodia and the push for democracy

Habyarimana at all., all, online http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/64457/james-habyarimana-macartan-humphreys-daniel-posner-jeremy-weinst/is-ethnic-conflict-inevitable
   Paris 79-89*; Traub, all**

Wed. April 21

XVIII. Political Transitions

a) Authoritarianism vs. Democracy
b) Cause of transition: international and domestic factors
c) The problem with democratization: why are countries struggling with transition and what happens after?
d) Case study: Zimbabwe—future democracy or resistant pariah? Frontline video clip, Zimbabwe: Shadows and Lies

G & P, 305-306; Bratton, 1-11, online,
Bekoe, online,
http://www.usip.org/resources/issues-zimbabwe

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #5 THE MIDDLE EAST (April 21)

Week 13

Mon. April 26

XIX. Globalization

a) The age of free trade and interdependence
b) The benefits of globalization
c) The costs of globalization
d) Case Study: Global smugglers in the age of globalization—the dangers and solutions


Wed. April 28

XX. Poverty

a) Causes of poverty and solutions
b) Why should we care
c) Foreign aid: the perils and benefits
d) Video clip, Global Poverty

Sachs, 51-70, 309-28*; Bourne, 38-59**; Chayes 80-88**

Week 14

May 3 & May 5

XXI. Classroom Activity: Simulation: Security and Economy in the Americas

a) policy formulation: putting it all together

FINAL EXAM GOOD LUCK! (Wed. May 12th @ 1 PM)