Course Description

The course explores political power and human connections on a global scale. The course covers concepts and ideas on the interaction of governments, organizations, and peoples across regions, cultures, and communities. We will examine important concepts and theories that help us understand the logic behind the apparent interaction between nation-states and non-state actors on the international arena. The course helps students develop a broader and critical worldview of national, international, and increasingly, global issues of society and world politics.

Learning Outcomes

It is expected that at the end of the course, students will have

1. The ability to think critically.

2. The ability to examine and analyze the theoretical puzzles of international relations.

3. The ability to comprehend national and international issues relevant to the relationship of society and politics.

Course Requirements and Grading

There will be the following assignments:

• **Attendance and class participation (15%)**: Attendance is required, and you must do all the reading for a particular class meeting before that class. You are expected to participate in all class activities including class discussions. Students should be prepared to discuss assigned readings during class. Debates, questions and commentary on assigned readings are strongly encouraged. Student’s participation grade highly depends on the student active participation, and the quality of the discussion as demonstrated by the student during class discussion.

• **Exams**: This course will have two exams, a Midterm Exam (30%) and a Final Exam (40%). Both exams will be closed book exams and they will include multiple choice questions, identification questions and short essays. The midterm will be in class on Monday, March 9th, and the final is scheduled on the last day of the class; Friday, May 8th. Final will cover all the materials that we will cover after the midterm. (Ignore any scheduled final exam dates on MyUB)

• **Class Presentation (15%)** – There will be one group project in this course. All the specifics about the project will be outlined on an assignment sheet and discussed during class time. Class presentations of the group project will be held on the last five days of
the class before the final. The specific rules of the class presentation will be given at a later date. However, the general format is as follows:
Teams will generally consist of three-four students each. Each group will be given approximately 15-20 minutes to present, followed by open Q&A session. Each student will be graded individually on the basis of his or her preparation and a two-page paper that must be turned in on the day of presentation. The paper should summarize what you planned to say in the presentation.

Readings

All readings are required. I have chosen the following books for the course, both of which are available at the bookstore:


Schedule of Topics and Readings

1. Introduction and Basic Concepts
   Monday (1/26): No Reading.
   Wednesday & Friday (1/28-30): Kegley & Raymond Ch. 1

2. Theories of World Politics
   Monday- Friday (2/2- 6): Kegley & Raymond Ch. 2

3. Actors in World Politics
   Monday- Friday (2/9-13): Kegley & Raymond Ch. 3
   Monday- Friday (2/16-20): Kegley & Raymond Ch. 4
   Monday- Friday (2/23-27): Kegley & Raymond Ch. 6

4. Global Economic Divide
   Monday- Friday (3/2-6): Kegley & Raymond Ch. 5

5. States, Power and Security
   Monday (3/9): Mid-Term
   Wednesday-Friday (3/11-13): Kegley & Raymond Ch. 7
   Monday- Friday (3/16-20): Spring Break No class
   Monday –Friday (3/23-27): Kegley & Raymond Ch. 8

6. Pursuing Peace
   Monday- Friday (3/30-4/3): Kegley & Raymond Ch. 9
   Monday - Friday (4/6-10): Kegley & Raymond Ch. 10
7. Globalization  
   Monday (4/13): Steger Ch. 1 & 2  
   Wednesday (4/15): Watch a video and write 1 page summary  
   Friday (4/17): Class cancel: Conference

   Monday-Friday (4/20-24): Kegley & Raymond Ch. 13

9. Class Presentation  
   Monday (4/27): Theories of World Politics  
   Wednesday (4/29): The economic dimension of World Politics  
   Friday (5/1): The political dimension of World Politics  
   Monday (5/4): The cultural dimension of World Politics  
   Wednesday (5/6): Non-Sate Actors and World Politics  
   Friday May (5/8): Final Exam

Academic Integrity:
Students are responsible for learning and applying the university’s academic integrity policies. I will not permit or tolerate any form of plagiarism or cheating throughout this course. Failing to comply with the university’s rules and regulation on academic integrity can result in course failure and discipline by the department and University. For more information, please visit the UB Academic integrity website: http://academicintegrity.buffalo.edu/index.php

Disability Policy: Any student with a diagnosed physical, learning or psychological disability which impedes your carrying out required course work, or which requires accommodations such as readers or extended time on examinations and/or assignments, should register with the Office of Accessibility Services and advise me during the first two weeks of the course so we can review possible arrangements for reasonable accommodations. Persons dealing with stress-related problems (e.g., break-ups, family difficulties) should visit the Counseling Center, 120 Richmond Quad, or the Office of Accessibility Services, 25 Capen.