

PSC330 International Relations Problems

Course Syllabus Fall 2009

Classroom: 108 Baldy Hall
Class schedule: TR 11-12:20 p.m.
Office hours: TR 9:30-10:30am, 12:30-1:30 pm

Professor: Dr. Vesna Danilovic
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University at Buffalo, SUNY
Office: 505 Park Hall

Course description

This seminar in international relations is designed to familiarize students with a 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 (project 15%; PPT in-class presentation 10%)
- 15% Four pop quizzes
- 10% Seminar participation

1. *Two in-class midterm 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%):*

Each student will have a class presentation in PowerPoint on one topic 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 17**. Each student will have approximately 6-8 minutes for his/her individual presentation. To facilitate coordination among multiple topic preferences, by **September 22** 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 23** ("Project Group Assignments" file). Only those internet sources that are listed for each topic may be used for preparing the presentation. 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/notes**. 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-);
77-77.9% (C+); 73-76.9% (C); 70-72.9% (C-);
67-69.9% (D+); 63-66.9% (D); 60-62.9% (D-);
< 60% (F)

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.

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

September 1

COURSE OVERVIEW

September 3

NO CLASS: The instructor is attending the American Political Science Association Conference

September 8-15

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 17

PROJECT OVERVIEW

September 22-24

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 29-October 1

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.

October 1

COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

October 6-8

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.

October 13-15

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.)

<p style="text-align: center;">EXAM #1 Tuesday, October 20</p>
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October 22-7

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

October 29, November 3-5

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

November 10-12

HUMAN RIGHTS

- Documentary: *Globalization & Human Rights* (1998) [will be shown in class on November 12]
- 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 17-19

FOREIGN AID AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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.

(Recommended: Birdsall, Nancy, Dani Rodrik, and Arvind Subramanian. 2005. "How to Help Poor Countries." *Foreign Affairs* 2005 84 (4): 136-152.)

November 19

GLOBAL HEALTH

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

November 24

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

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

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

December 1-8

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

<p style="text-align: center;">EXAM #2 Thursday, December 10</p>
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~ Have a Good Winter Break ~