

GOV 108B: Introduction to International Politics
St. Lawrence University
Fall 2008

Professor Ronnie Olesker
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Office: Hepburn 208
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Office Hours: T/W/Th 10:30-11:30 or by
appointment

Section B: T/Th 2:20-3:50 Piskor 010

Objectives

Students taking international politics should acquire:

1. An introductory, broad understanding of the nature and study of the international relations discipline.
2. An overview of the core concepts and terminology of the field.
3. Familiarity with world events and the functioning of the global system and its actors.
4. Analytical skills appropriate for examining complex political problems and for presenting well reasoned arguments in oral and written form.

Required Readings

You can purchase the following required books at the University Bookstore. Both are placed on reserve at the library.

- Joshua S. Goldstein, Jon C. Pevehouse, *International Relations: Brief Fourth ed.* (New York: Pearson Longman, **2008**).
- Robert J. Art, Robert Jervis, Eds. *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues, 9th ed.* (New York, Pearson Longman, **2009**).
- Additional material assigned by the professor is available online and/or on ANGEL.
- Students will also be expected to read a major newspaper daily and be informed about current world events. The New York Times is available on campus but you are encouraged to read the leading national or international newspaper of your choice, in print or online. **This is a course about world politics and students taking this course should be informed about the world around them.**

Requirements

There are four requirements for this course:

- Class participation including attendance, response to discussion questions and participation in class exercises - 15%
- 3 written reaction to assigned critical thinking questions – 10% each for a total of 30%
- In-class midterm – 20%
- In-class final exam - 35%
- **NOTE: this course is NOT open to pass/fail registration.**
 - **Exception: non-Major seniors.**

Expectations

Class participation: your participation will be evaluated on an ongoing basis throughout the semester. Please keep the following guidelines:

Frequent unexplained absences from lectures will count against you. Erratic attendance will have a harmful impact on your grade and your success in this course. **Attendance is mandatory.** If you are seriously ill or have a family emergency, or if there is some issue that prevents you from attending class – you must contact me **prior to your absence** and notify me of the issue so that you can receive authorization for that absence and material you may have missed from class.

Do the readings BEFORE class! Courses that consist of pure lecturing are both boring for the students as well as the professor. We are here to discuss world events, the complexities of the international system and the challenges it faces. I expect you to contribute to class discussions and preparing the readings before we discuss them in class will greatly improve your ability to comprehend and absorb the lecture material.

A study group will be assigned to each student. Students will be required to break into study groups consisting of **NO MORE** than 5 participants. You must submit the names of your study group participants to me **by September 2** (our second class). If a student cannot find a study group please contact me by September 2 and I will assign you to one.

Study groups are excellent learning tools. They assist both in covering the reading material (you may split the reading material among group members and provide summaries of each reading to group members) as well as help comprehend the readings by discussing the material and discussion questions among the group members. **You must arrange to meet on a consistent basis to discuss the reading material** covered each week in class. In this way you will be able to keep up with the reading, rely on your fellow students for support and greatly enhance your success in this course. Discussing the readings with your study group will also assist you later in class discussions and exercises, contributing to your overall participation grade.

Discussion questions for each class will be available on Angel to help guide you through the readings each week. Some weeks I will ask you to **write down your responses** to those questions and submit them to me. Those responses will not be graded on an individual basis, but will be taken into consideration when calculating your participation grade.

Reasonable people may interpret the same evidence in different ways. There is no theoretical or ideological litmus test in this course. Each of you should draw your own conclusions based upon a careful analysis of historical evidence and application of theoretical models. It is acceptable and encouraged to challenge the arguments of others, including my own. **Arguments NOT based on evidence however, will not present a compelling case.** This is true for both oral and written arguments presented during this course.

Practical application of material enhances knowledge. I therefore design class exercises in which you will be expected to apply your knowledge accumulated in class and through the reading material to real world scenarios. Your success in these exercises depends on your preparation. Reading the course material and attending classes is therefore **CRUCIAL** for your success in this course.

Do not hesitate to ask questions during lectures and discussions. If there is something you do not understand, you should feel free to bring it up. If you feel uncomfortable bringing the issue up in class you may ask me after class or during office hours but remember – **there are no dumb questions, only dumb answers.** And since I will be doing the answering, you have nothing to fear.

Both oral and written responses should reflect a clear grasp of the material under discussion and should be relevant to the topic at hand. Evidence of solid, critical thinking and careful analysis will **ALWAYS** earn you extra points, and will improve your learning experience.

Critical Thinking journals: you will be asked to submit 3 written journals with assigned questions, which should foster critical thinking. The journal entries will summarize the reading assignments, evaluate arguments and **critically** analyze the findings. You are asked for your reaction to a particular question – your grade is based on your grasp of the material and your ability to **critically reflect** on the arguments presented. Each journal submission will cover one of the core readings in the principal books for this course. You will have to submit the journal on the day of class discussion on that material.

Your analysis of each reading should be no longer than 3 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, size 12, and standard margins. **YOU MAY NOT** submit your journal **AFTER** the reading has been covered in class.

Your journals must be your own **individual work**. You may not consult, compare or copy another student's work, including a fellow study group member. You may only consult your study group regarding the assigned readings but not the answer to the critical thinking questions for the journal.

Detailed guidelines on writing a strong analysis will be both distributed in class and posted on Angel.

Exams: there will be two in-class exams: a midterm and a final. These exams will test your comprehension of concepts, content and vocabulary of the material covered in class. The exams will have identification/definition of concepts section, short answers, map and essay components. The final is not comprehensive and will only cover material discussed after the midterm. More detailed information will be offered in class.

Class Policies

Attendance: you are expected to attend all class meetings, in cases of serious illness or family emergency, please check with me prior to absence and on making up missed material. *Unexcused absence from more than 2 classes will result in grade deduction.* A policy of ¼ point grade deduction for every class unattended will be enforced.

Classroom Conduct: cell phones and other electronic devices should not be used during class. Socializing with classmates during lectures is also unacceptable.

Academic Honesty: St. Lawrence University does not tolerate academic dishonesty in its students, nor do I. Cases of cheating on exams or plagiarizing papers, arguments, or any material that is not your original thought but is attempted to be passed as your own will result in a **ZERO** for the assignments and will be referred to the Dean of Students for further action.

If you are stressed-out and panicking over an assignment or exam, **COME SEE ME AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE** and don't risk your academic standing by cheating. It will not be tolerated. Please note that drawing from readings or other sources in exam essays and papers without citing the source is plagiarism, this means you are stealing someone else's work and trying to pass it as your own, this will result in a failing grade. Please use the multiple sources I provide in class, on angel, or from your own research but be sure to acknowledge the works of others.

Extensions: unless you have **documented medial or family emergency** (death in the family, or serious, acute medical condition) please do not request an extension, as it will not be given. We all must juggle multiple demands on our time and energy.

Tardiness in submitting your work on time will result in a ¼ grade reduction for every 24 hours. This means that if you submit the assignment within the first 24 hours after the deadline, I will start to grade it from a 3.75 (instead of 4.0), after 48 hours I will start grading from a 3.5. If you do not submit the assignment within three days of the deadline (and did not receive an extension) you will receive a **ZERO** for that assignment. Do not expect me to notify you of your tardiness. I am assuming you are all responsible adults that can manage your time effectively.

Unless you receive an extension, you will be expected to know when the deadlines for assignments are and to meet those deadlines in a timely manner. If you do not, your grade will greatly suffer.

Reading Material

Thu. 28 Aug. Introduction

Opening remarks, distribution of syllabus and handouts

Please read the syllabus carefully. This is required reading.

Tue. 2 Sep. The Study of International Relations

Goldstein: Chapter 1

Thu. 4 Sep/Tue. Sep. 9 International Relations Theory: Realism

Goldstein: Chapter 2

Art Jervis: Kenneth N. Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics”(neorealism); John J Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power.”

Thu. Sep. 11 Critique of Realism: Social Theories

Goldstein: pp. 91-108

Art/Jervis: Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It”; Hans Morgenthau, “Six Principles of Political Realism” (neoclassical realism); J. Ann Tickner, “Critique of Morgenthau’s Principles of Political Realism” (feminist alternative).

Tue. Sep. 16 International Relations Theory: Liberalism

Goldstein: pp. 66-75

Art/Jervis: Kenneth A Oye, “The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics”; Michael W. Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs”

Thu. Sep 18 International Relations Theory: The Security Dilemma

Goldstein: pp. 75-89; and review 57-63

Robert Jervis, “Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma.” *World Politics* 30 (Jan. 1978) pp. 167-178. (Recommended: 178-214) [On Angel]

Robert Jervis, “Realism, Neoliberalism and Cooperation: Understanding the Debate,” *International Security* (Summer 1999), pp. 42-63. [On Angel]

First journal due.

Tue. Sep. 23/Thu. Sep 25 Causes of War and The Use of Force

Goldstein: Chapter 4, only pp. 112-152; 162-165.

Art/Jervis: Robert J. Art. “The Four Functions of Force”; Thomas C. Schelling, “The Diplomacy of Violence” (strategic realism); Robert Jervis (defensive realism), “Offense, Defense and The Security Dilemma”; Robert Art, “The Fungibility of Force.”

Robert Art, “Coercive Diplomacy,” in Art and Jervis, *International Politics*, 8th ed. 2007, [On Angel]

Tue. Sep. 30/Thu Oct. 2 Collective Security Versus Great Power Engagement

Goldstein: Review 37-56

Art/Jervis: Hans J. Morgenthau, “The Future of Diplomacy”; Robert Keohane, “International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?”

John Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions,” *International Security*, (1994), pp. 5-49. [On Angel]

The. Oct. 7 International Political Economy and Globalization

Goldstein: Chapter 7, only pp. 188-195

Art/Jervis: Robert Gilpin, “The Nature of Political Economy, John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge, “Why The Globalization Backlash Is Stupid”; Kenneth Waltz, “Globalization and Governance.”

Thu. Oct. 9 Economic Divide

Goldstein: chapter 7.

Art/Jervis: Bruce R. Scott, “The Great Divide in the Global Village.”

Tue. Oct. 14 MIDTERM

Thu. Oct 16 NO CLASS – Mid-Semester Break

Tue. Oct. 21 International Institutions

Goldstein: Chapter 6, only pp. 216-248.

Art/Jervis: Stanley Hoffmann, “The Uses and Limits of International Law”; Adam Roberts, “The United Nations and International Security”; G. John Ikenberry, “Rising Powers and Global Institutions.”

Thu. Oct. 23 Arms Control, Disarmament, and Proliferation

Goldstein: pp. 152-162

Art/Jervis: Scott Sagan, “Nuclear Instability in South Asia”; Kenneth Waltz, “Nuclear Stability in South Asia”; Barry Posen, “A Nuclear Iran: A Difficult but Not Impossible Policy Problem.”

Tue. Oct. 28/Thu. Oct. 30 Ethnic/Sectarian/Religious Conflict

Goldstein: Review 118-134.

Art/Jervis: Robert Jervis, “The Era of Leading Power Peace”; Chaim Kaufman, “Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars”; Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations,”

Ted Gurr, “People Against States: Ethnopolitical Conflict and the Changing World System,” *International Studies Quarterly* Vol. 38.2 (1994), pp. 347-377. [On Angel]

Tue Nov.4 Terrorism

Goldstein: review pp. 150-152.

Bruce Hoffman, “Defining Terrorism”, *Inside Terrorism* (Columbia University Press 1998), pp. 3-4, 13-24. Available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/books/first/h/hoffman-terrorism.html>

David Tucker, “What’s New About the New Terrorism and How Dangerous Is It?” *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 13(Autumn, 2001), pp. 1–14. Available at: <http://www.nps.edu/Academics/Centers/CTIW/files/The%20New%20Terrorism.pdf>

Thu. Nov. 6 Terrorism – Cont’d

Fareed Zakaria, “The Politics of Rage: Why do They Hate Us?” Available at: http://www.fareedzakaria.com/ARTICLES/newsweek/101501_why.html

Art/Jervis: Robert A. Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism”; F. Gregory Gause III, “Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?”; Philip H. Gordon, “Can the War on Terror Be Won?”

Second Journal due.

Tue Nov. 11/Thu. Nov 13 Preemption and US Power

Art/Jervis: Stephan Walt, “Taming American Power.”

Robert Jervis, “Understanding the Bush Doctrine,” *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 18, No. 3 (Fall 2003), pp. 365-388. [On Angel]

G. John Ikenberry, “America’s Imperial Ambition,” *Foreign Affairs*, (Vol. 81, 5, Sep/Oct 2002). [On Angel]

Peter Peterson, "Public Diplomacy and the War on Terror," *Foreign Affairs*, (Vol. 81, 5, Sep/Oct 2002). [On Angel]

John Lewis Gaddis, "Grand Strategy in the Second Term," *Foreign Affairs*, (Vol. 84, 4, Jan/Feb 2005). [On Angel]

Film: Frontline: The War Behind Closed Doors. Available at:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/iraq/view/>

Tue. Nov. 18 **Human Right, Transitional Justice and International Law**

Goldstein: pp. 249-266

Art/Jervis: Rhoda E. Howard, Jack Donnelly, "Human Rights in World Politics"; Steven Ratner, "International Law: The Trials of Global Norms"; Neil Kritz, "The Dilemmas of Transitional Justice"

Thu. Nov. 20 **International Intervention and State Building**

Art/Jervis: Kofi Annan, "Reflections on Intervention"; James L. Payne, "Deconstructing Nation building."

Gareth Evans and Mohammed Sahnoun, "The Responsibility to Protect" *Foreign Affairs* (Vol. 81, No. 5, Nov/Dec 2002). [On Angel]

Jennifer M. Welsh, "The Responsibility to Protect: Securing the Individual in International Society," in *Security and Human Rights*, ed. Benjamin J. Goold and Liora Lazarus (Portland, OR: Hart Publishing, 2007). 363-384. [On Angel]

Tue. Dec. 2 **New Actors in the International System**

Goldstein: review pp. 13-14.

Art/Jervis: Margaret E. Keck, Kathryn Sikkink, "Transitional Activist Networks"; Sebastian Mallaby, "NGOs: Fighting Poverty, Hurting the Poor"; Phil Williams, "Transnational Organized Crime and the State."

David Ronfeldt, John Arquilla, Networks, Netwars and the Fight for the Future, First Monday, volume 6, number 10 (October 2001), available at: http://www.firstmonday.org/ISSUES/issue6_10/ronfeldt/

Third Journal due

Thu. Dec. 4 **The Information Age.**

Goldstein: pp. 354-263.

Michele Zanini and Sean J.A. Edwards, "The Networking of Terror in the Information Age," in Ian Lesser et al., *Countering the New Terrorism* (RAND, 1999). Available at: http://www.rand.org/pubs/monograph_reports/MR1382/MR1382.ch2.pdf

Daniel Drezner, "The Global Governance of the Internet: Bringing the State Back In," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 199, No. 3 (2004), pp. 477-498. Available at: <http://www.danieldrezner.com/research/egovernance.pdf>

Tue. Dec. 9 **Tragedy of the Common: Environment**

Goldstein: Chapter 8, only pp. 325-354.

Art/Jervis: Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons"; Colin H. Kahl, "Demography, Environment and Civil Strife".

Thu. Dec 11 **Final Review and Concluding Remarks**

Art/Jervis: Review Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," pp. 395-410.

Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History," *The National Interest*, no. 16 (Summer 1989), pp. 3-18. Only excerpts. Available on ANGEL.

Adi Schwartz, "The Russian Empire Strikes Back," *Haaretz*, August 16, 2008. Available at: <http://haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1011861.html>

FINAL IN-CLASS EXAM, Tuesday Dec. 16, 12:30-3:30 Piskor 010