

**Political Science 110.05J**  
**Introduction to International Relations**  
**Fall, 2012**  
**Syllabus**

**You need to read this syllabus carefully, and consider its contents. There is no excuse for being unaware of requirements or due dates for this course.**

Political Science 110  
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This course offers students the opportunity to become acquainted with the fundamental concepts of international relations and of the “international system.” Central considerations include the causes of war; the maintenance of peace and the avoidance of war; the relationship between the regime of a country and the foreign policy it follows; the determinants of foreign policy; the meaning and significance of “globalization.” Some of the topics that we will discuss are:

- Is there such a thing as international *politics*?
- What is the Balance of Power?
- Is foreign policy determined more by an international system or by the type of regime formulating it?
- What are the roles of morality and justice, respectively, in foreign policy?

**These topics are illustrative but not exhaustive.**

Moreover, there are three considerations, which might be considered “goals,” that influence this course. They are:

- For students to become familiar enough with issues of international relations to be able to make intelligent decisions as citizens, i.e., voting.
- For students to be prepared to take upper-level courses in International Relations, if they choose such a major.
- For students to understand why issues of international relations are directly related to their lives, and why they have no choice in this regard.

This course requires you to do a great deal of reading, and in that sense it will be a very difficult course. **You will not be able to make a good grade in this course without doing all the reading and doing all the work, and you should take this warning seriously.** In other words, you should not take this course if you want to make a good grade but are not prepared to do **all the work**. I am not trying to scare you; I am simply telling you the truth.

You will be expected to read the international news articles in The New York Times daily. I will distribute a large number of handouts and though we might not discuss all of them, you will be expected to be familiar with their content and you could be quizzed on them. There is a set of readings on reserve which are required reading.

All required readings must be completed by the first day they are due in the “Schedule of Classes.” **This is the most important requirement of the course.**

**The Honor Code is always in force! I presume you have read it and understand it. I will not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form.**

Plus-Minus grading will be used for this course.

My office is 303 Seney Hall. My phone number is 4-8334. My e-mail address is [bshapir@emory.edu](mailto:bshapir@emory.edu) and this is the preferred form of communication. You should also monitor the class conference on learnlink; it is important that you keep up with the class conference, both for information about the course and for ongoing discussions of international politics. My “office hours” are by appointment and you can always make an appointment with me at a mutually agreeable time. **Class begins at 5:30pm and concludes at 7:10pm.**

All the assignments are designed to facilitate discussion based on the readings for the course. You will be offered the opportunity to take at least ten (no more than fifteen) quizzes over the semester, and eight will count for 40% of your grade. There will be one mid-term exam, half short answer and half in class essay, which will count for 30% of your grade, and a final exam that will count for 30% of your grade. In place of the final exam, which will be a short answer exam, you may write a 10-12 page paper (3000-3600 words) considering the role of self-interest in determining foreign policy. **This paper is due on Nov. 22 and there will be no extensions.** If you cannot hand in the paper on time, you must take the final exam to complete the course.

### **Schedule of Classes**

August 30:	Introduction, Handouts
September 4:	GP, pp. 2-58, 73. "The Melian Dialogue"
September 6:	GP, pp. 62-90 and pp. 282-312 Plato and Aristotle Hobbes and Locke
September 11:	GP, pp 92-112
September 13:	"Eternal Peace"
September 18:	No class
September 20:	GP, pp. 116-155
September 25:	No class
September 27:	GP, pp. 158-191 from <u>The World is Flat</u>

October 2:	GP, pp. 194-218
October 4:	from <u>The Case for Goliath</u>
October 9:	No class
October 11:	GP, pp. 222-312
October 16:	No class
October 18:	Mid-term exam
October 23:	Agresto paper
October 25:	Prof. Agresto will lead class
October 30:	GP, pp. 316-337
November 1:	GP, pp. 340-366
November 6:	GP, pp. 368-393
November 8:	GP, pp. 340-366
November 13:	GP, pp. 396-421
November 15:	Discussion of Globalization
November 20:	Discussion of Terrorism <b>Paper due</b> (for those who chose this option)
November 27:	Review, Discussion, Handouts
November 29:	

December 4:

December 6:

December 11:

This syllabus is in force, as are these dates, with one possible exception. It is possible (actually, quite likely) that we will have one more guest lecturer this semester, and that a reading by him will be assigned. We will make adjustments in the course and in the dates as they are warranted.

**Notice that the readings are “front loaded,” i.e., we are finished with 90% of the readings by Nov. 20, except for reading The New York Times and some handouts I will distribute.** There are a number of reasons for this. First, in order to have useful discussions, you must have read and learned the material first. Second, I wanted you to have ample time to review and study for your final exam in the context of what we have learned. Finally, I wanted to avoid major *required* assignments due around the Thanksgiving Break. My experience is that students are not in the best situation to do their best work when this happens. However, this means that you will be working very hard until Nov. 20, and falling behind and then catching up will be impossible. Also, be aware that quizzes may come at any time, including after Nov. 20. In addition, I do presume that you have a basic knowledge of world geography, i.e., what countries are on what continents, where they are in relation to the United States, and what their major economic resources are, if they possess them. Also what the main bodies of water in the world are, including but not limited to oceans, seas, rivers, etc. I will elaborate on these considerations in class. If this is a weakness for you, you need to purchase an almanac, atlas, or some other book like that and remedy it.

*Not all the handouts I will distribute are listed in the syllabus, but you will be responsible for reading them and being able to integrate the information from them into your work in the course. In order to*

*maximize the benefit of having taken this course and to do well from the point of view of your grade you will have to develop a generally intellectually curious demeanor in regard to the material. A course in international relations does not equip you with a specific skill but with an intellectual framework through which our world can be made intelligible. Your success in the course depends, more than anything else, on your positive attitude toward the information and the understandings you will have. This has been the key advice you need to do well in the course.*

Those that have taken classes from me in the past know that I have no official “attendance policy,” and that is mostly true in regard to this course. However, we will have guests scheduled to speak to you and missing those classes **for reasons other than illness or family emergency (which will have to be properly documented)** will result in five points being taken off your final grade for each one you miss.

There will be no classes on September 18, 26 and October 9 because I will be celebrating Rosh HaShana, Yom Kippur, and Simchat Torah, respectively. Oct. 16 is mid-semester break. Nov. 22 is Thanksgiving. It is also possible that due to circumstances beyond my control I may have to miss a class. If and when this unlikely event transpires, you should be aware that the class will be made up. Moreover, since it is extremely difficult to accommodate every single person’s schedule, such classes will be made up at 7:00am, Monday-Friday, or sometime on a Sunday. If this constitutes too much hardship for you, you need to take some other class.