

Political Science 110
Introduction to International Relations
Fall, 2007
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.

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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. 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 substantial amount 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.

You will be expected to read the international news articles in The New York Times daily, and from time to time I will distribute handouts from the editorial page. Two books are available for purchase in the bookstore (Mugged by Reality and World Politics). There is a set of readings on reserve (both at the reserve desk and on electronic reserve) which are required reading. I will also supply you with handouts on a fairly frequent basis, and these should be treated as required reading on which you may be tested.

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 (see p. 86 of the Catalog).

My office is 303 Seney Hall. My phone number is 4-8334. My e-mail address is bshapir@emory.edu or William Shapiro on learnlink, and this is the preferred form of communication, either directly or through 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 9:35am and concludes at 10:25am.

All the assignments are designed to facilitate discussion based on the readings for the course. You will be offered the opportunity to take eight quizzes over the semester, and six will count for 30% of your grade. A book review on Mugged by Reality will count for 20% of your grade. Two exams will be administered over the course of the semester, in addition to a final exam. You may choose the average of two of these exams to account for the remaining 50% 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) on Iraq, which is due in class no later than December 3. **There will be no extensions.** If you cannot hand in the paper on time, you need to take the final exam.

Schedule of Classes

August 29:	Introduction Explanation of <u>Mugged by Reality</u> assignment.
August 31:	Plato and Aristotle readings “Melian Debate”
September 5:	Fukuyama, “By Way of an Introduction” “The Worldwide Liberal Revolution”
Sept. 7, 10:	WP, pp. 1-48, pp. 477-511.
Sept. 12:	Kant reading Hobbes and Locke readings Weber reading Morgenthau reading WP, pp. 49-101

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Sept. 14:	No class
Sept. 17:	Discussion
Sept. 19, 21:	WP, 102-192
Sept. 24:	Discussion
Sept. 26, 28:	WP, pp. 193-307
Oct. 1:	Discussion Review of <u>Mugged by Reality</u> due.
Oct. 3:	WP, pp. 341-409
Oct. 5:	No class
Oct. 8:	No class
Oct. 10:	Examination
Oct. 12:	Discussion of <u>Mugged by Reality</u>
Oct. 15:	Prof. Agresto leads class
Oct. 17, 19:	Discussion
Oct. 22, 24, 26:	WP, pp. 410-476
Oct. 29, 31:	WP, pp. 477-519 (repeat reading)

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Nov. 2, 5, 7:	“Lexus” reading
Nov. 9, 12:	“World is Flat” reading
Nov. 14, 16:	<u>The Case for Goliath</u> reading
Nov. 19:	Examination
Nov. 26, 28, 30:	Review/Discussion
Dec. 3, 5, 7, 10:	Review/Discussion
Dec. 3:	Paper due (for those who chose this option)

Notice that the readings are “front loaded,” i.e., we are finished with 99% of the readings by Nov. 16, except for reading The New York Times and some handouts I may 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 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. 16, and falling behind and then catching up will be impossible. Also, be aware that quizzes may come at any time, including after Nov. 16. In addition, I do presume that you have a basic sense 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. I will elaborate on these

considerations in class. If this is a weakness for you, you need to purchase an Almanac or some other book like that and remedy it.

There will be no class on Sept. 3 (Labor Day); Sept. 14 (Rosh HaShana); Oct. 5 (Simchat Torah); and Oct. 8 (mid-semester break). 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 7:30am, Monday-Friday, or sometime on a Sunday. If this constitutes too much hardship for you, you need to take some other class.