

Political Science 110.05J
Introduction to International Relations
Fall, 2013
Syllabus

September 4, 2013 – Last day for changing courses.
October 18, 2013 – Last day for dropping courses without
academic penalty.

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
Introduction to International Relations
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Syllabus

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.” These considerations are non-partisan, though not amoral. Morality is not derivative from partisanship but from intelligence; the relationship between partisanship and intelligence is mostly, though not always, tenuous. 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. In addition to the textbook, there is a set of readings on reserve which is 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 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. Do not expect me to be in my office if you have not made an appointment with me. **Class begins at 5:30pm and concludes at 7:10pm.**

All the assignments are designed to facilitate discussion. 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 (material from the guest lectures will appear on a number of the quizzes). 10% of your grade will

be based group work; how you do as an individual and how your group does will enter into this grade, which is based on my evaluation. You will be assigned to a group on September 12, which is determined by countries or regions. Despite the fact that you will be in a group, you are not entitled to ignore any country or region of the world. I will explain the grade, but it is my evaluation, which is not subject to empirical understanding; you will have to trust me. You also will have an opportunity to help (or hurt) your grade by your behavior in regard to our guests, including writing a review of what they have written, respectively. Those reviews will count for 10% of your grade, but you can also be quizzed on their content. There will be one mid-term exam, an in-class essay, which will count for 15% of your grade, and a final exam that will count for 25% of your grade. **The final exam will be administered on Friday, Dec. 13, at 7:00pm.** In place of the final exam, which will be a short answer exam, you may write a five to seven page paper (1500-2100 words) considering the role of self-interest in determining foreign policy. **This paper is due on Nov. 21 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 29:	Introduction, Handouts
September 3:	GP, pp. 2-62, 81. "The Melian Dialogue"
September 5:	No class
September 10:	GP, pp. 67-99 and pp. 308-340 Plato and Aristotle Hobbes and Locke
September 12:	GP, pp 102-127
September 17:	First consideration of "Eternal Peace"
September 19:	GP, pp. 131-167

September 24:	GP, pp. 170-205 from <u>The World is Flat</u>
September 26:	No class
October 1:	GP, pp. 208-238
October 3:	from <u>The Case for Goliath</u>
October 8:	GP, pp. 242-340
October 10:	Mid-term exam
October 15:	No class
October 17:	Agresto paper review due
October 22:	Prof. Agresto will lead class
October 24:	Discussion of Prof. Agresto's visit
October 29:	GP, pp. 343-371
October 31:	GP, pp. 374-403
November 5:	GP, pp. 406-430
November 7:	Minnich paper review due
November 12:	Mr. Minnich (from STRATFOR) will lead class
November 14:	Discussion of Mr. Minnich's visit
November 19:	Second consideration of "Eternal Peace"
November 21:	Review, Discussion, Handouts Paper due (for those who chose this option)

November 26:	Group reports/discussion
December 3:	GP, pp. 434-460
December 5:	Group reports/discussion
December 10:	Discussion of Terrorism
December 13:	Final Examination

This syllabus is in force, as are these dates. 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. 26 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. 26, and falling behind and then catching up will be impossible. Also, be aware that quizzes may come at any time, including after Nov. 26. **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. You will also be responsible for what the main bodies of water in the world are, including but not limited to oceans, seas, rivers, etc. and what strategic places in the world have an impact on military and therefore political capabilities. 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,” (but it is my legal and community obligation to know who is in my class on what day, and so I will take attendance) and that is mostly true in regard to this course. *It should go without saying that you are responsible for any material covered you might miss and any quiz you miss cannot be made up.* 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. Otherwise, your attendance is your business, not mine.

There will be no classes on September 5th and 26th because I will be celebrating Jewish holidays. Oct. 15 is mid-semester break. Nov. 28 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 you need to take some other class.

A Note on Grades

85-100=A

84, 83=A-

82, 81=B+

75-80=B

74, 73=B-

72, 71=C+

65-70=C

64, 63=C-

62, 61=D+

55-60=D

54 and below=F

A Note on Groups

As mentioned above, you will be divided into groups based on countries and/or regions. Some will be in the North Korea group, others in the Syria group, some in the Middle East group, some in the Nigeria group, etc. Everyone in a group will be responsible, **at any given moment**, for the vital facts about the country or region, about the latest developments in that country, about the government, foreign policy, and leader(s) of that country. There will be no “group” for Europe, Russia, China, Japan, India, Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America, so you will all be responsible for information about these countries/regions.

Learn the geography of the world within the first two weeks of the course; your group work and all your quizzes will assume you have such knowledge. If you do not develop it, your ability to do well in this course will be extremely dubious, especially if you expect a grade of B or more.

A Note on the Volume of Work

As noted above, this course requires a large workload. If you are prepared to do all the work you should get a good grade; if you are not prepared to do all the work you will not get a good grade. The only way to do well in this course is to do all the work, on time. There are no “angles”

or strategies beyond this that will help you. Please take this into account if you decide to stay in this course.