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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 4:00pm – 6:00pm  
and by appointment

**PS 0500: World Politics**  
Summer 2012  
203 Lawrence Hall  
Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00pm - 9:15pm

**Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of world politics and international relations. In so doing, it addresses the major theoretical frameworks and actors in international relations as well as the three major areas of scholarship in world politics. As such, the course is organized into four sections. In the first section, we will build the foundation of international relations: Who are the actors in global politics? What do these actors want? Why do these actors do what they do? And, how do these actors interact? In the final three sections, we will apply the information from the first section to the three primary fields of study in international relations: conflict, international organizations, and international political economy. By the end of the semester, students will have sufficient knowledge to take advanced courses in world politics and have a preliminary understanding of each of the three areas of specialization within world politics.

**Required Text**

Kinsella, David, Bruce Russett, and Harvey Starr. 2013. *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*. 10<sup>th</sup> Edition. Boston, MA: Wadsworth.

**Requirements and Evaluation**

Attendance	10%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Simulation	30%

**Grading Scale**

A+	= 98-100	C+	= 78-79
A	= 93-97	C	= 73-77
A-	= 90-92	C-	= 70-72
B+	= 88-89	D+	= 68-69
B	= 83-87	D	= 63-67
B-	= 80-82	D-	= 60-62
		F	= ≤ 59

**Assignments**

Reading

I have assigned weekly readings from your textbook that are intended to prepare you for the week's lecture. It is imperative that you read the assigned pages if you expect to do well

in this course. I reserve the right to substitute a pop-quiz on the readings in lieu of an attendance sheet at any time.

### Exams

There will be two exams in this course designed to assess your understanding of world politics. The midterm exam will be administered in class and will assess your understanding of the first module. The final exam will be a take home exam and will assess your understanding of the three areas of specialization in world politics.

### Simulation

Students will be asked to participate in a simulation designed to allow students to demonstrate a practical knowledge of the substantive issues in world politics. In this simulation, I will provide students with a prompt about a current event (event TBD). Students will work in teams and each team will be asked to play the role of a particular actor (most probably a country). Each team should prepare a short position paper, outlining the team's proposed actions. These positions will be presented to the class. After each team has presented its solution to the issues at hand, the teams will be given time to discuss the competing proposals and to come up with a unified proposal. We will discuss the simulation in greater detail as the due date approaches.

### **Policies**

#### Attendance

I expect you to attend class sessions. There are 11 class sessions excluding the introductory session. You must attend 9 sessions to get full credit for attendance (meaning that you get 2 "free" misses). Starting with an attendance record of 8 sessions, the attendance grade is the percent of classes you attended. If you do not intend to stay for the whole class, please do not sign in. As attendance counts towards your grade, doing so constitutes a violation of academic integrity. Additionally, do not have a colleague sign in for you during an absence. This also constitutes a violation of academic integrity.

#### Academic Integrity

**All** of your work must be your own. While I strongly encourage you to study in groups and discuss the contents of this course outside of class, you must be the sole author of your projects and assignments. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Simulations
- Exams
- Attendance Sheet Sign-Ins

Plagiarism and other violations of academic integrity will result in an automatic grade of zero for the assignment in question, and may result in failure of the course dependent on the severity of the offense.

#### Technology

I have no problem with you using laptops in my classroom and, in fact, encourage the use of laptops **if** it will help you for **class purposes** (e.g., for taking notes). That said, if you are liable to become distracted or a distraction to your classmates by using your computer, you

should not use your laptop. I reserve the right to prohibit the use of laptops **at any time** if I find that they are becoming a distraction.

I do, however, have zero tolerance for cell phone use during class time. Those texting, checking emails, or checking Facebook (READ: any activity that is not class related) or whose phone rings audibly in class will **not** receive credit for attendance for that class session.

### Disabilities

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both the professor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union (412-648-7890), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

### Make-Up Exams and Simulations

Make-up exams and assignments in lieu of simulations will only be given in the case of a legitimate and appropriately documented absence.

### Late Assignments

Assignments submitted within 24 hours of the stated deadline will be penalized 10 percentage points. For example, a paper that would have received an 86% if submitted on time will receive a 76%. Assignments submitted more than 24 hours after the stated deadline will receive a grade of zero.

### Class Schedule

While exams and simulations will take place as scheduled, the course outline is subject to change. You will be notified of any changes in class.

### **Course Outline**

*Tuesday 15 May 2012*

Topic(s): Welcome  
Course Introduction  
Political Science: Anatomy of a Discipline

### Part 1: The Study of World Politics

*Thursday 17 May 2012*

Topic(s): Levels of Analysis  
Theories of International Relations  
Read: Kinsella, Russett, and Starr Chapters 1 and 2

*Tuesday 22 May 2012*

Topic(s): Actors in International Relations  
The International System  
Read: Kinsella, Russett, and Starr Chapters 3 and 4

*Thursday 24 May 2012*

Topic(s): The State and International Relations  
Decision Makers and International Relations  
Exam Review

Read: Kinsella, Russett, and Starr Chapters 5 and 6

*Tuesday 29 May 2012*

**Midterm Exam**

Part 2: International Conflict

*Thursday 31 May 2012*

Topic(s): International Conflict

Read: Kinsella, Russett, and Starr Chapter 7

*Tuesday 5 June 2012*

Topic(s): International Security

Read: Kinsella, Russett, and Starr Chapter 8

Part 3: International Cooperation

*Thursday 7 June 2012*

Topic(s): International Law  
International Organizations

Read: Kinsella, Russett, and Starr Chapters 9 and 10

*Tuesday 12 June 2012*

**Simulation**

Part 4: International Political Economy

*Thursday 14 June 2012*

Topic(s): A Global Economy  
Regional Economic Integration

Read: Kinsella, Russett, and Starr Chapters 11 and 12

*Tuesday 19 June 2012*

Topic(s): Development and Underdevelopment

Read: Kinsella, Russett, and Starr Chapter 13

*Thursday 21 June 2012*

Topic(s): The Global Future: Transnational Issues

Read: Kinsella, Russett, and Starr Chapters 14 and 15

*Friday 22 June 2012*

Final Exam Due at 5pm