

POIS 237: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Spring 2016

Instructor: Florian Justwan, Ph.D.

Class: Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 10:30 am - 11:20 am (ALB 201)

Office Hours: Monday 2:00-5:00 & By Appointment (Administration 323)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The main goal of this course is to introduce students to the scientific study of the interactions between states. After a short introduction which lays the groundwork for the rest of the semester, the first part of the course is devoted to the “grand theories” of international relations. We will discuss the basic assumptions and historical roots of realism, liberalism and constructivism and apply these theories to historical and contemporary examples. In the second part of the class, we will take a closer look at issues related to international conflict and cooperation and in the last part of the course, we will focus on questions surrounding the topics of human security and international development. At the end of the term, students should be familiar with the academic study of international politics and able to apply the theories and approaches to both historical cases and current events.

COURSE MATERIALS

You will need to buy two books for this class:

- Goldstein, Joshua S. and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2013-2014. International Relations Update, 10th Edition. New York: Pearson.
- Feldman, Noah. 2013. Cool War: The Future of Global Competition. New York: Random House.

Most of our weekly readings will come from these two books. All other readings will be provided to you online. It is absolutely essential that you carefully read all of the required material prior to each class session. I expect that you take your responsibilities seriously. Failing to do so will both significantly impact your grade and the quality of our in-class debate.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

15%	Attendance & Participation
15%	Six unannounced Reading Quizzes
25%	Midterm Exam (February 29)
20%	Primary Source Paper (Due Date: April 8)
25%	Final Exam

Attendance

Each unexcused absence will lower your final participation grade (calculated on a scale from 0 – 100) by 5 percent. I will take attendance every day. Therefore, it is essential that you show up on time. If you do come in late, it is your responsibility to approach me *directly after class* (as long as I am still in the classroom) and make sure that I checked your name on the class roll.

Participation (15 percent)

Your participation grade will be based on the quality and quantity of your oral contributions during class. As stated above, I expect you to read and think about the assigned material prior to our meetings. In class, you should be able to discuss the main arguments and demonstrate that you are able to connect the readings with the larger context. Please note that your participation grade is only affected by *active* participation. If you don't talk, your final participation grade will be a 60 (minus 5 x *number of unexcused absences*). If you have any concerns about your participation grade, contact me as soon as possible.

Reading Quizzes (15 percent)

There will be 6 unannounced readings quizzes over the course of the term. The quizzes will be composed of multiple choice and/or short answers that cover the assigned readings for each day. Reading quizzes will NOT be made-up if you are absent. However, only five of those six quizzes will be used to calculate your grade. In other words, I will drop your lowest score at the end of the semester.

Primary Source Paper (20 percent)

More information for this assignment will be provided in class. In short, you will choose one primary document (some sort of text, video, or visual) and then analyze the document from a theoretical perspective we discuss in class.

Exams

There are 2 exams in this class – 1 midterm (25 percent) and 1 final exam (25 percent). Exam material will be drawn from the following: lecture notes, assigned required readings, class discussion, movies shown in class, and any other supplementary materials. **All exams are cumulative.** One piece of advice: Do the required readings, attend class, and participate and you will be very well prepared for both exams.

GRADE SCALE

Note: final grades will NOT be rounded

- A = 90.00-100.00
- B = 80.00-89.99
- C = 70.00-79.99
- D = 60.00-69.99
- F = 00.00-59.99

COURSE POLICIES

Absences & Make-Up Exams

As stated above, attendance is absolutely essential if you want to succeed in this class. You are permitted TWO unexcused absences. Every other absence will lower your participation grade by 5 percent, unless you have a valid excuse (medical, academic, etc.) AND proper documentation. Make-up exams are ONLY offered for documented absences. If you know in advance that you have a conflict preventing you from taking one of the exams at the scheduled date, please contact me as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty

All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe, and ignorance of the academic honesty policy is not an acceptable defense. Each student must meet the standards laid down in the University of Idaho's "Student Code of Conduct" (<http://www.uidaho.edu/DOS/judicialaffairs/studentcodeofconduct>). I will report all instances of academic dishonesty.

Disabilities

Students who need note-takers or are supposed to take their tests at Disability Services should let me know as soon as possible so we can make accommodations for you.

Classroom Etiquette

The use of cell phones, iPods, iPads, or any other electronic device will not be permitted during class meetings. I will permit you a laptop ONLY to take notes and review online readings. Please note that I reserve the right to reverse this policy at any time

Grade Appeals

If you believe your exams or assignments have been graded unfairly, you can appeal your grade in written form. You have to hand in your appeal on the day after the assignment or exam was returned. Comparisons to other students' graded assignments will not be accepted for a complaint. Hand in the original copy of the graded assignment/exam together with the written appeal. I will reevaluate your grade in light of the argument that you made. However, the new grade may be the same, higher, or lower than the original grade and it will be final.

COURSE SCHEDULE (This is only a tentative schedule for this course. Content may change)

PART I: Setting the Stage		
Week 1		Introduction I: Setting the Stage
	Jan. 11 (M)	Winter Break
	Jan. 13 (W)	This Syllabus.
	Jan. 15 (F)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 1 (pages 1 – 25).
Week 2		Introduction II: Defining Key Terms
	Jan. 18 (M)	No Class. MLK Day
	Jan. 20 (W)	P. Baker (2014). "As World Boils, Fingers Point Obama's Way." New York Times Online (August 15, 2014). Available Online: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/16/world/middleeast/as-world-boils-fingers-point-obamas-way.html?_r=0
	Jan. 22 (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Hobbes (1651). "Chapter 13: Of the Natural Condition of Mankind as Concerning Their Felicity and Misery." Leviathan. • R. Schiffman (2014). "Are the Oceans Failed States?" Foreign Policy (July 8, 2014). Available: http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/07/08/are-the-oceans-failed-states/
PART II: Grand Theories of International Relations		
Week 3		Realism
	Jan. 25 (M)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 2 (pages 42 – 63).
	Jan. 27 (W)	Thucydides. "The Melian Dialogue." History of the Peloponnesian War. 5.84-116.
	Jan. 29 (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 2 (pages 63 – 82). • Feldman. "Introduction." xi-xiv. • Feldman. "Chapter Two: Doomed to Conflict." 16-34.
Week 4		Liberalism
	Feb. 1 (M)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 3 (pages 84 – 96).
	Feb. 3 (W)	Guest Speaker (Ambassador Holmboe).
	Feb 5 (F)	Feldman. "Chapter One: Bound Together." 3-15.

Week 5		Constructivism
	Feb. 8 (M)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 3 (pages 96 – 124).
	Feb. 10 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feldman. "Chapter Three: A One-Sided War of Ideas." 35-47. • Feldman. "Conclusion to Part One: The Contradiction of Cool War." 48-51.
	Feb. 12 (F)	No readings.
Week 6		Rationality I
	Feb 15. (M)	No class. President's Day
	Feb. 17 (W)	G. Allison (1969). "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." In: American Political Science Review 63 (3), pp. 689-698 only .
	Feb. 19 (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 4 (pages 126 – 150). • Feldman. "Chapter Four: A Glimpse Into the New China." 55-70.
Week 7		Rationality II
	Feb. 22 (M)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feldman. "Chapter Five: China's Permeable Elite." 71-85. • Feldman. "Chapter Six: Legitimacy Without Democracy." 86-96. • Feldman. "Conclusion to Part II: Governance and Conflict." 97-98.
	Feb. 24 (W)	No readings (incentive for optional movie night).
	Feb. 26 (F)	EXAM REVIEW
PART III: Conflict and Cooperation		
Week 8		International Conflict I
	Feb. 29 (M)	<i>MIDTERM EXAM</i>
	March 2 (W)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 5 (pages 152 – 190).
	March 4 (F)	R. Kaplan (2011). "The South China Sea Is the Future of Conflict." Foreign Policy (August 15, 2011). Available: http://foreignpolicy.com/2011/08/15/the-south-china-sea-is-the-future-of-conflict/
Week 9		International Conflict II
	March 7 (M)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 6 (pages 192 – 230).

	March 9 (W)	Feldman. "Chapter Seven: The Race for Allies." 101-116.
	March 11 (F)	Paper Workshop: Bring 3 hard copies of your Primary Source Paper to Class.
Week 10		Spring Break
	March 14 (M)	No class.
	March 16 (W)	No class.
	March 18 (F)	No class.
Week 11		Deterrence
	March 21 (M)	Media Day (Dr. Strangelove)
	March 23 (W)	Media Day (Dr. Strangelove)
	March 25 (F)	No class. Instructor at Conference.
Week 12		International Cooperation I: International Integration and Trade
	March 28 (M)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 10 (pages 354 – 385).
	March 30 (W)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 8 (pages 282 – 318).
	April 1 (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feldman. "Chapter Eight: Managing War, Building Peace." 117-130. • Feldman. "Chapter Nine: Corporate Cool War." 131-146.
Week 13		International Cooperation II: International Organization and Law
	April 4 (M)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 7 (pages 232 – 264).
	April 6 (W)	No readings.
	April 8 (F)	Due Date for Final Paper (5pm via email: fjustwan@uidaho.edu)
PART IV: Human Security and Development		
Week 14		Human Rights
	April 11 (M)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 7 (pages 264 – 281).
	April 13 (W)	Feldman. "Chapter Ten: The Future of Human Rights." 147-161.

	April 15 (F)	S. Power (2001). "Bystanders to Genocide." In: The Atlantic 288 (2), pp. 84-108.
Week 15		Environment and Population
	April 18 (M)	J. Diamond (2005). "Collapse: how societies choose to fail or succeed." Penguin, New York. Chapter 2 (Twilight at Easter).
	April 20 (W)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 11 (pages 386 – 422).
	April 22 (F)	No readings.
Week 16		Development
	April 25 (M)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 12 (pages 424 – 458).
	April 27 (W)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 13 (pages 460 – 496).
	April 29 (F)	No readings.
Week 17		Final Discussion
	May 2 (M)	Feldman. "Conclusion: How Will It End?" 162-166.
	May 4 (W)	Final Discussion
	May 6 (F)	Review for Final Exam
Week 18		Final Exam Week
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