

POL230: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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Course Materials

- John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens, eds. (2011), *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, 5th ed. (Oxford University Press)
- Daniel W Drezner (2011), *Theories of International Politics and Zombies* (Princeton University Press)

Student Learning Outcomes

The central question in the study of International Relations is how entities interact in the absence of a formal authority. Much of our everyday life is unwittingly organized by the fact that there is a working national government that uses law and, if necessary, force to create order and security. In the global arena, however, there is no superior authority. And yet, despite this condition of “anarchy,” cooperation is still possible. Anarchy does not imply chaos.

But, what does “anarchy” bring with it? Historically it has meant that, in the absence of a legal authority with sufficient force to resolve disputes, violence (or war) is the ordinary solution. Is that still true or is the world changing? We will be looking at issues of war and peace and asking how war can be minimized in the absence of a world government.

Students will better understand:

- How cooperation is possible without a world government
- The role of power and when power is insufficient
- Whether and how “global justice” really modifies the uses of power
- How the international system of today evolved
- Different theories for explaining international relations
- The use of force and the changing rules on the use of force
- The new role of international organizations and international law
- The entrance and role of new global actors (other than nation-states)
- Solutions to global collective action problems

Finally, we want to ask moral questions about what is Just and whether justice has any place in the anarchic world of international relations. Where would such a shared conception come from given the fact that the world is made up of so many different value systems? Ideally, we will develop tools to consider how international relations operate and how they *should* operate.

Course Grading

The following is the breakdown of how the final grade will be determined:

20%	Exam #1
20%	Exam #2
20%	Final Exam
10%	Assignments
10%	Quizzes
10%	Policy Paper
10%	Attendance and Participation

Assignments

There will be regular assignments in this class. They are designed to help the student keep up with the reading and get key ideas out of it. Each week I will put several collateral readings on e-class to go along with the assigned readings in the syllabus. Each Monday each student will turn in a one page (typed and single-spaced) reflection paper *on the collateral readings on e-class, not the textbook readings*. The reflection must be turned in during class on Monday. No late reflections will be accepted. You get one freebie over the semester, meaning you can skip turning in a reflection with no penalty – but use your freebie wisely.

The reflection should include your reactions to the things that you learned about in these readings. Ask yourself if there was anything you had a strong reaction to (“I was fascinated with...”, “This really ticked me off...”), if there were things you disagreed with, and/or if there were things that you’d be interested in finding more information about. One of the goals of these reflections is to be able to look back over the course of the semester and see if you can better identify what it is in the world that YOU really care about. So, think about the reflections as being a way to get a better idea of who you are and who you want to become.

Quizzes

Periodically there will be quizzes given during class. These will not necessarily be announced ahead of time and will often be of the “pop” variety. A quiz can cover assigned readings for that class and the previous class, plus any material from the lecture from the previous class. The best way to do well on quizzes is to come to class, be on time to class (because many quizzes will be given in the first few minutes of class), review the previous lecture notes before class, keep up with the reading, and review key terms and key points from each chapter (the textbook highlights these for your convenience). **No make-up quizzes.**

Policy Paper

This paper will be a 4-5 page policy paper examining one particular global issue and outlining the policy the US government or the UN Security Council should adopt.

February 14: turn in a one-page explanation of the issue/question you will be looking at and three promising sources.

April 11: bring draft of paper to class to be exchanged with other students

April 25: final paper due

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is very important in a core course since this is a discussion class. Attendance is 6% of the total grade and will be calculated in the following manner:

# of classes missed	Attendance grade
0-1	6
2-3	5
4	4
5	3
6	2
7	1
8	0
9	dropped from course

Participation is a subjective measure of the how involved in class discussions a student is. Quantity does not impress me as much as quality – the student who just talks to be heard better have something that adds to the discussion. However, everyone should participate and 4% of the total grade will be a subjective judgment of how well you added to class discussions.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

Baylis, Smith, Owens

PART I: THE GLOBAL SYSTEM

- 1/14 Introduction
1/15 Global Politics ch. 1
1/17 International Society ch. 2

PART II: THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 1/20 MLK Jr. Day (No Class)
1/22 International History, 1900-45 ch. 3 (pp. 50-54) & e-class
1/24 International History, 1945-90 ch. 3 (pp. 54-65) & e-class

1/27 The End of the Cold War ch. 4 (pp. 67-75) & e-class
1/29 From Cold War to War on Terror ch. 4 (pp. 75-80) & e-class

PART III: THEORIES OF WORLD POLITICS

- 1/31 Realism ch. 5; Drezner 33-46

2/3 Liberalism ch. 6; Drezner 47-60
2/5 Neo-Realism and Neo-Liberalism ch. 7; Drezner 61-66
2/7 Marxist Theories ch. 8; Drezner 77-86

2/10 World-Systems Theory e-class
2/12 Constructivism ch. 9; Drezner 67-76
2/14 Alternative Approaches ch. 10; Drezner 87-98

2/17 International Ethics ch. 12; Drezner 99-113
2/19 Exam #1

PART IV: STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

- 2/21 The Changing Character of War ch. 13

2/24 International Security ch. 14
2/26 International Political Economy ch. 15
2/28 International Law ch. 17

3/3 International Regimes ch. 18
3/5 The United Nations ch. 19
3/7 Diplomacy & Foreign Relations e-class

3/10 Spring Break (No class)	
3/12 Spring Break (No class)	
3/14 Spring Break (No class)	
3/17 Transnational Actors and IOs	ch. 20

PART V: INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

3/19 The Environment	ch. 21
3/21 Terrorism	ch. 22
3/24 Counter-Terrorism	e-class
3/26 Nuclear Proliferation	ch. 23
3/28 Nationalism	ch. 24
3/30 Culture in World Politics	ch. 25
4/2 Exam #2	
4/4 Intervention and Sovereignty	ch. 31
4/7 Regional Orders	ch. 26
4/9 Global Trade and Finance	ch. 27
4/11 Poverty, Hunger, & Human Security	ch. 29 and ch. 28 (pp. 458-63, 470-77)
4/14 Sustainable Development	ch. 28 (pp. 463-70)
4/16 Gender Issues	ch. 16
4/17 Easter Break (No Class)	
4/21 Easter Break (No Class)	
4/23 Human Rights	ch. 30
4/25 Transnational Crime	TBA

PART VI: WHAT'S NEXT?

4/28 Global Transformation?	ch. 32
4/30 The Post-Cold War Order	ch. 33
5/2 Summing Up	

Final Exam: Friday, May 9, 1:30-4:00