

POLS 1501
Introduction to International Relations – GSIS Section
Summer 2011

Class Time: Monday-Friday, 8:55-10:35,
Instructor: Dr. Robert Blanton
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Course Purpose and Objectives:

This course is intended to introduce students to some of the basic issues surrounding the study of international relations. After addressing the major theoretical approaches within the scholarly field of international relations, inquiry will focus on the major actors in the international realm, including states, international organizations, and non-state actors such as multinational corporations and non-governmental organizations. Next, we will assess some of the major issues in international relations, such as the global economy and demographics. Finally, we will focus on what has arguably been the central issue of concern within the field of international relations: conflict and global security.

In addition to introducing students to the study of international relations, another goal of this course is to improve upon the students' ability to articulate and express arguments in both written and verbal form. To this end, this course will incorporate active class discussions, in both informal and formal formats, that deal with pertinent topics in world politics. Moreover, students will have a broad variety of written exercises. The ultimate goals of this course, then, are to improve student knowledge of international relations as well as critical thinking skills.

Required Text:

Bova, Russell. 2009. *Readings on How the World Works*. (New York: Longman).
Shimko, Keith. 2010. *International Relations: Perspectives and Controversies*, 3rd edition (Boston: Wadsworth; Cengage Learning).

Other readings are available on the link provided in the citation, or are stored at
https://umdrive.memphis.edu/rblanton/public/POLS1501_GSIS_11

Course Requirements:

Quizzes (20%). Summer courses proceed at a rapid pace, and catching up can quickly become quite difficult, if not impossible. As such, keeping up with required readings on a daily basis is imperative. To encourage this, brief quizzes, which cover the assigned readings for the day, will be given. Make-up quizzes will NOT be given, nor will quizzes be given to those who arrive to class late. However, the lowest 20% of quiz grades will be dropped.

Class Participation (10%). The learning process is very much a "two-way street," and a steady regimen of lectures can prove tedious in a summer course. Thus a sizeable component of your grade will depend on active participation in class discussions and activities. In addition to informal discussions based around the course readings, your class participation component will also rest on your discussion of current events and your performance in formal debates.

Daily Participation. Keeping up with the required readings is a necessity for both enjoyment of class meetings and successful completion of this course. To this end, the class participation component will assess the level of knowledge that students demonstrate regarding course material as well as the level of preparation that students demonstrate on a daily basis. Specifically, students should be familiar with the main concepts covered in the textbooks. As for the remaining readings (articles in the readers and the reserve materials), students should be able to provide the following information:

- What is the author's argument/thesis?
- What evidence does the author use to support his or her argument?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the author's argument?
- How does the argument compare with related concepts and readings?

Debates. You will also articulate and present arguments regarding major issues within international relations. We will use various formats, and each student will be given multiple opportunities to be evaluated.

Examinations (2 @ 20% each). Two exams will be administered. The final exam will not be cumulative.

Written Exercises (30% total). A variety of written exercises will be required. Specific assignments will be given during the course of the session.

Attendance Policy:

As this course is a part of GSIS, class attendance is mandatory, and students will sign in prior to class.

Academic Dishonesty:

As outlined in the University of Memphis Student Handbook (p. 10), “cheating” and “plagiarism” will result in severe disciplinary action on the part of the instructor. Either offense will be grounds for receiving an “F” on the assignment or examination and possibly an “F” for the course, depending on the severity of the offense.

Students with Disabilities:

The University encourages the full participation of students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are invited to meet individually with the instructor to discuss special accommodations that may be needed.

Grading System

I will use a plus/minus grading scale in this class. Grades will be awarded as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Numerical Range</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>
A	93-100	4.00
A-	90-92	3.84
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	60-66	1.00
F	0-59	0.00

Assignments and Readings:(may be subject to change):

Date: June 6

Topic: Course Introduction and Theories of World Politics Part I: Realism

Readings:

- Shimko, ch. 2 (“Contending Perspectives on International Politics,”) introduction and section on Realism.
- Morgenthau, Hans. 1978. "Six Principles of Political Realism," excerpt from *Power Among Nations*.
- Mearsheimer, John "The Tragedy of Great Power Politics" (Bova)
- *Optional*: Shimko, ch. 1

Date: June 7

Topic: Alternatives to Realism: Liberalism, Constructivism, and Feminism.

Readings:

- Shimko, ch. 2, remainder.
- Russett, Bruce and John Oneal, "International Systems: Vicious Circles and Virtuous Circles" (Bova) (drop?)
- Wendt, Alexander, "Constructing International Politics" (Bova)
- Tickner, J. Ann. "Searching for the Princess?" (Bova)
- The Onion, Dec 2007. “Man Finally Put in Charge of Struggling Feminist Movement,”
http://www.theonion.com/content/news/man_finally_put_in_charge_of

Date: June 8

Topic: Debating Theories of International Relations

Readings:

- Hulsman, John and A. Wess Mitchell. 2008 "Pax Corleone" *The National Interest*.
- Drezner, Daniel. 2010. "Night of the Living Winks: Towards an International Relations Theory of Zombies" *Foreign Policy*
- Schroeder, Paul "Historical Reality vs. Neo-Realist Theory" (Bova)
- Hunt, Swanee. "Let Women Rule" (Bova)

Date: June 9

Topic: Issues in 21st Century World Politics

Readings:

- Kagan, Robert. "History's Back: Ambitious Autocracies, Hesitant Democracies" (Bova)
- Huntington, Samuel. "The Clash of Civilizations: The West Against the Rest?" (Bova)
- Betts, Richard. 2010. "Conflict or Cooperation?" *Foreign Affairs*
- Barack Obama. 2009. Speech at West Point.

Date: June 10

Topic: Conflict and Policy -- System-Level Approaches

Readings:

- Shimko, ch. 3 ("Power Politics")
- Wallerstein, Immanuel. 2002. "The Eagle Has Crash Landed," *Foreign Policy*.

Date: June 13

Topic: State-Level Approaches

Readings:

- Bremer, Stuart. 1992. "Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Effecting the Likelihood of Interstate War, 1816-1965," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36: 309-341.
- Shimko, ch. 4 ("War and Democracy")
- The Onion. 2008. "U.S. Advises Allies Not to Border Russia." Available at http://www.theonion.com/content/news_briefs/u_s_advises_allies_not_to

Date: June 14

Topic: Substate and Individual Level Approaches

Readings:

- Yetiv, Steve "The Iraq War of 2003" (Bova)
- Mueller, John "The Iraq Syndrome" (Bova)
- Record, Jeffrey, "The Use and Abuse of History: Munich, Vietnam and Iraq" (Bova)
- Kahneman, Daniel and Jonathan Renshon. 2007. "Why Hawks Win," *Foreign Policy* (Jan-Feb).

Date: June 15

Topic: Bridging the Levels: Genocide

Readings:

- Shimko, ch. 5 ("War and 'Human Nature'")
- Kurth, James "Humanitarian Intervention after Iraq: Legal Ideals versus Military Realities" (Bova)

Date: June 16

Topic: Does "War" Have a Future?

Readings:

- Mueller, John. 2003. "Policing the Remnants of War," *Journal of Peace Research* 40, no. 5.
- Singer, Peter. 2007. "Sure, He's Got Guns for Hire. But They're Just Not Worth It." *Washington Post*.
- Singer, Peter. 2006. "Young Soldiers Used in Conflicts Around the World" *Washingtonpost.com*.
- Singer, Peter. 2010. "We, Robot" *Slate Magazine*.
- Hoffman, David. 2011. "The New Virology" *Foreign Policy*.

Date: June 17

Topic: Intro to Model UN

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Date: June 20

Topic: Democracy and Islam -- the "Arab Spring"

Readings:

- Caruthers, Thomas. 2011. "Think Again: Arab Democracy" *Foreign Policy*
- Gelman, James. "Developmentalism, Revolution, and Freedom in the Arab East"

Date: June 21

Topic: UN and Humanitarian Intervention

Readings:

- Shimko, ch. 10 ("The UN and Humanitarian Intervention")
- Glennon, Michael "Why the Security Council Failed" (Bova)
- The Onion. 2002. "Bush Seeks U.N. Support For 'U.S. Does Whatever It Wants' Plan,"
<http://www.theonion.com/articles/bush-seeks-un-support-for-us-does-whatever-it-want.47/>

Date: June 22

Topic: Global Trade

Readings:

- Shimko, ch. 6 ("Free Trade")
- Fallows, James "How the World Works" (Bova)

Date: June 23

Topic: Global Finance

Topic: Institutions of Global Finance

Readings:

- Shimko, ch. 7 ("The IMF, Global Inequality, and Development")
- Johnson, Simon. 2009. "The Quiet Coup." *The Atlantic*.
- *Optional* -- Comisky, Mike and Pawan Madhogarhia. 2009. "Unraveling the Financial Crisis of 2008." *PS* 270-275.
- *Optional* -- Taibbi, Matt. 2009. "The Big Takeover: How Wall Street Insiders are Using the Bailout to Stage a Revolution" *Rolling Stone*.

Date: June 24

Topic: Environmental and Demographic Issues

Readings:

- Shimko, ch. 13 ("The Global Commons")
- Goldstone, Jack. 2009. "The New Population Bomb" *Foreign Affairs*.
- Potts, Malcolm and Martha Campbell. 2011. "The Myth of 9 Billion" *Foreign Policy*.

Date: June 27

Topic: The Global South

Readings:

- The Onion. 2011. "Gap Between Rich and Poor Named Eighth Wonder of the World"
<http://www.theonion.com/articles/gap-between-rich-and-poor-named-8th-wonder-of-the.18914/>
- Sachs, Jeffrey. 2005. "Can Extreme Poverty Be Eliminated?" *Scientific American* (September).
- Easterly, William. 2007 "The Ideology of Development," *Foreign Policy*.
- Banerjee, Abhijit & Esther Duflo. 2011. "More Than 1 Billion People Are Hungry in the World: But what if the experts are wrong?" *Foreign Policy*.

Date: June 28

Topic: The "Threatdown," Day 1 -- Terrorism

Readings:

- Krueger, Alan. 2007. "5 Myths About Terrorism" *Washington Post* (Sept 11)
- Pape, Robert. 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," *American Political Science Review*
- Abadie, Alberto. 2006. "Poverty, Political Freedom, and the Roots of Terrorism." *American Economic Review* 96: 50-56.

Date: June 29

Topic: The "Threatdown," Day 2 -- Nuclear Weapons and Proliferation

Readings:

- Shimko, ch. 11 ("Nuclear Proliferation")
- Sagan, Scott et al. 2007. "A Nuclear Iran: Promoting Stability or Courting Disaster?" found at http://iis-db.stanford.edu/pubs/21918/Sagan_Nuclear_Iran.pdf

Date: June 30

Topic: Discussion/Reflection/Review

Date: July 1

Final Examination