
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2253
Introduction to International Relations

SPRING 2009

Instructor: Dr. Lilian A. Barria

Office Hours: T 12:15-3:30 pm

R 12:15-2:00 pm

and by appointment

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Purpose and Description:

The purpose of this class is to provide an introduction to the key theories, issues and problems in international relations. We will examine issues such as the causes of peace and war, foreign policy making, international organizations and the world economy. The course should allow you to think critically about world issues and to identify the main actors and concerns involved in international relations.

Required Textbook:

Joshua S. Golstein and John C. Pevehouse. 2007. *International Relations*. New York: Longman.

Class Format:

This is essentially a lecture course, but you will be asked to participate in the learning experience. I expect you to come prepared to answer questions regarding the material in class. You are responsible for reading the assigned material BEFORE the class period. In addition, I expect you to keep informed of current international political events and we will discuss current international news every class period.

Classroom Etiquette:

In order to create a positive learning environment, you are expected to be in class every period. Entering and exiting the room is disruptive and should be done only under extreme circumstances. Bathroom breaks should be taken during class breaks. The use of computers and cell phones are not allowed in class, unless there is a University-approved reason. The Instructor will speak to students who are disrupting the class and request appropriate behavior modification.

Grading:

You will have the opportunity to earn exactly 200 points throughout the course of the semester. There are no planned extra credits or curves in this class. The points will be assigned as follows:

First Exam:	50
Second Exam:	50
Third Exam:	50
Best Grade out of the Three Exams:	50

A= 200-180 pts B= 179-160 pts C= 159-140 pts D= 139-120 pts F= 119-0 pts

EXAMS will consist of multiple-choice questions and are non-comprehensive. Tests can include reading assignments, lecture notes, guest lectures, films, internet pages visited in class, and current events information discussed in class. Tests missed may be made up **ONLY** if the student has a University-approved excuse and has made prior arrangements with me. If you have an emergency and cannot notify me before the exam, you must call me or email me as soon as possible to re-schedule the test. Make-up exams, **IF** given, will be different in content.

IMPORTANT *: DOCUMENT ANY ABSENCES FROM CLASS. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I WILL ALLOW YOU TO MAKE UP TESTS.**

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized possession of examinations, and alteration of grades or marking on returned work. Any examination or assignment that is tainted by academic dishonesty will merit action by the Instructor. The incident will be reported to the Chair of the Department of Political Science and to the Judicial Affairs Office, to determine appropriate disciplinary action. **NEVER TURN IN THE SAME OR SIMILAR ASSIGNMENT AS YOUR ROOMMATE OR FRIEND. THIS CONSTITUTES PLAGIARISM.**

Special Needs:

Students with a disability covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act that requires special arrangements should notify the Instructor during the first week of the course. I will do my best to accommodate your needs.

Weekly *READING Schedule:*

January 13-15	Introduction to the Course
January 20-22	Understanding International Relations: Chapter 1
January 27-29	Power Politics: Chapter 2
February 3-5	Alternatives to Power Politics: Chapter 3, Pages 99-118
February 10-12	Alternatives to Power Politics: Chapter 3, Pages 119-135
February 17-19	Foreign Policy: Chapter 4
February 24:	Exam 1
March 3-5	International Conflicts: Chapter 5
March 10-12	Military Force: Chapter 6
March 17-19	Spring Break – No Class
March 24-26	International Organization and International Law: Chapter 7
March 31:	Exam 2
April 3:	Deadline to Withdraw from a Course or University with W
April 7-9	Integration: Chapter 10
April 14-16	The North South Gap: Chapter 12
April 21-23	International Development: Chapter 13
April 28-30	Trade: Chapter 8
Finals Week	Exam 3