

Introduction to International Relations - PLS 2253
Spring 2009
Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 – 9:15
Coleman 2210

ABOUT YOUR PROFESSOR

Jocelyn Tipton

Phone: 581-7542 (office) 591-2523 (department)

Email: jtipton@eiu.edu

Office: Booth Library, Room 1505

Office Hours: Thursday 1:00-4:00; Friday 10:00-12:00 and by appointment

Office Location: Enter Booth Library from the South doors (near the clock tower). There will be an elevator to your left. Next to the elevator is a gray door. Knock on that door, and someone will let you into the hallway where my office is located. If no one answers the door, find a campus phone anywhere in the building and dial 581-7542.

ABOUT THE CLASS

Course Description

An introduction to the primary theories and political issues in international relations, including examination of the causes of war, international organizations, foreign policy making, the politics of the world economy, and other political issues of transnational character, such as terrorism, AIDS, and the environment.

Course Goals

The overall goal of this course is for students to gain a general understanding of international relations and preparation for advanced courses in political science. By the end of the semester each student should have:

- Knowledge of the theories of international relations and how they relate to world events throughout time;
- A basic understanding of the principal issues, arenas, actors and institutions in international relations and how they interact;
- The ability to think critically about international relations and world events.

Required Text

- *World Politics: Trend & Transformation* 12th Edition, By CharlesW. Kegley. and Eugene R. Wittkopf
- A major newspaper or international news source that provides current information on international events
- Other readings may be assigned during class. These will be available on reserve at Booth Library.

WHAT'S EXPECTED FROM YOU

Class Attendance:

- Consistent attendance will facilitate your understanding of the course material. Information presented during the lectures and class discussions will be included on quizzes and exams.
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. If you arrive late or are not in the room when attendance is taken you will be marked absent. You are allowed 1 unexcused absence, after that your participation grade will be lowered two points for each unexcused absence. You must notify the instructor in advance of your absence to be excused. See the internal governing policy on class attendance for information about excused absences (<http://www.eiu.edu/~auditing/IGP/policy43.html>).

Readings and Discussions:

- Success in this class requires that you complete the assigned readings before class. Reading in advance of class allows you to better absorb the lecture, ask good questions, and participate in discussions.
- **Bring your textbook with you to class.** We will refer to specific sections of the assigned reading and discuss the charts and images during class.
- In addition to the required readings from the textbook, students should maintain an awareness of international events by reading a major newspaper. A discussion of current events will be included in every class.
- A large portion of this class will be discussion. In order to receive the full amount of participation points students should plan on speaking at least once a day.

Homework:

- Five homework assignments will be due throughout the semester. The purpose of these assignments is to encourage the student to read about contemporary world issues and apply the knowledge learned in the class to formulate and strengthen their own opinion. Details of each assignment will be distributed separately. *No late homework will be accepted.*

Class Simulation:

- Each member of the class will simulate international actors and together will work to solve a set of world problems. The attempts to solve these problems will incorporate the concepts learned throughout the semester. This activity will involve additional reading and brief writing activities. Grades will be based on preparation and presentation.

Quizzes:

- Five quizzes will be given throughout the semester. The quizzes will be short, 10-15 minutes, and will cover the readings and class discussions since the previous quiz. *No make-up quizzes will be given for unexcused absences.*

Exams:

- A mid-term and a final exam will be given. Exam questions will be based on material from the readings, lectures, and class discussions. The mid-term will include all topics covered prior to the exam. The final exam will focus on the cumulative knowledge gained from the course. *Exams must be taken on the day they are scheduled.*

Cheating and plagiarism:

- For the university policy on academic integrity see the Student Conduct Code http://www.eiu.edu/~judicial/student_conduct_code.html
- Anyone who cheats or plagiarizes is subject to disciplinary action and will receive an F for the course.

Disabilities:

- Students with disabilities requiring accommodation should meet with the instructor within the first week of the semester.

YOUR GRADE FOR THE CLASS

A total of 380 points are possible in this class.

5 homework assignments @ 10 points each = 50 points

5 Quizzes @ 10 points each = 50 points

Class Simulation = 50 points

Mid-term Exam = 100 points

Final Exam = 100 points

Attendance/Participation = 30 points

Final grades for the course will be based on total points earned. A=342-380, B=304-341, C=266-303, D=228-265, F=227 and below.

Course Outline

PLS 2253 – 003

Spring 2009

This schedule may change as the semester progresses.

Date	Day	Due	Topics	Reading
January 13	Tuesday		Introduction to course, Introduction to world politics	Chapter 1
15	Thursday		Introduction To World Politics	Chapter 1
20	Tuesday		Theories Of World Politics	Chapter 2
22	Thursday	Homework 1	Theories Of World Politics	Chapter 2
27	Tuesday	Quiz 1	International Decision Making	Chapter 3
29	Thursday		International Decision Making	Chapter 3
February 3	Tuesday		Power Rivalries And Relations	Chapter 4
5	Thursday		Power Rivalries And Relations	Chapter 4
10	Tuesday	Quiz 2	Global South	Chapter 5
12	Thursday	Homework 2	Global South	Chapter 5
17	Tuesday		Intergovernmental Organizations	Chapter 6
19	Thursday		Intergovernmental Organizations	Chapter 6
24	Tuesday	Quiz 3	Nongovernmental Organizations	Chapter 7
26	Thursday	Homework 3	Nongovernmental Organizations	Chapter 7
March 3	Tuesday		Human Rights	Chapter 8
5	Thursday	Mid-term Exam	Mid-term Exam	Mid-term Exam
10	Tuesday		Human Rights	Chapter 8
12	Thursday	Homework 4	Human Rights	Chapter 8
24	Tuesday		International Finance	Chapter 9
26	Thursday		International Finance	Chapter 9
31	Tuesday	Quiz 4	International Trade	Chapter 10
April 2	Thursday	Homework 5	International Trade	Chapter 10
7	Tuesday		Global Issues	Chapter 11
9	Thursday		Global Issues	Chapter 12
14	Tuesday	Quiz 5	Armed Aggression	Chapter 13
16	Thursday		Armed Aggression	Chapter 13
21	Tuesday		Class Simulation	Simulation
23	Thursday		Class Simulation	Simulation
28	Tuesday		Class Simulation	Simulation
30	Thursday		Semester Review	
May 7	Thursday	Final Exam	Final Exam	Final Exam