

PLS 2253G-004
Introduction to International Relations
Eastern Illinois University
Spring, 2009 (Noon: M, W and F)

Instructor Information:

Professor Ryan C. Hendrickson
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Office Hours: M; 11 a.m.-noon; W: 10 a.m.-noon; and F: 10-11 a.m. and by appointment.

Course Description

This course introduces the student to the key theories, decision-makers, issues and problems at the global level in world politics. Topics and research to be addressed include theories of state behavior and international relations, the causes of war, the foreign policy making process, the political relevance of weapons of mass destruction, the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and international law, political issues surrounding the world economy and transnational problems, including the political impact of AIDS, environmental pollution, the economic and political struggles of the global south, and terrorism. The course is designed to encourage students to think critically about international relations and to be able to identify the central theories, players and problems in world politics.

Required Texts:

Charles W. Kegley, Jr. *World Politics: Trend and Transformation, 12th Edition* (2009)

Journal Article Readings: Additional readings may be added during the semester.

Scott G. Bogerson, "Arctic Meltdown," *Foreign Affairs* 87, 2 (2008): 63-77

Daniel Byman, "Do Targeted Killings Work?" *Foreign Affairs* 85, 2 (2006): 95-111.

Philip H. Gordon, "Can the War on Terror be Won?" *Foreign Affairs* 86, 6 (2007): 53-66.

Richard N. Haass, "The Age of Nonpolarity," *Foreign Affairs* 87, 3 (2008): 44-56.

Keir Lieber and Daryl Press, "The Rise of U.S. Nuclear Supremacy," *Foreign Affairs* 85, 2 (2006): 42-54.

Moisés Naím, "Can the World Afford a Middle Class?" *Foreign Policy* 165 (2008): 94-5.

Michael L. Ross, "Blood Barrels," *Foreign Affairs* 87, 3 (2008): 2-9.

(The readings from the journals above are available on e-reserve. The course password is rh2253).

Course Policies

Students are expected to come to class ready to discuss the assigned readings and to pose questions regarding current events in international relations. Any student who cheats and/or plagiarizes on an exam or a quiz receives a failing grade for the course. Makeup exams will ONLY be given in very exceptional cases. In order to miss an exam, students must speak with me in advance or have an approved absence that fits directly under the excused absence guidelines of Eastern Illinois University. Students with disabilities must meet with the instructor to discuss accommodations no later than one week after enrollment in the class.

Class attendance will be taken daily. Students are allowed three un-excused absences. On the fourth un-excused absence, a student loses five percent of his/her overall grade. Students who demonstrate exceptional participation, by the instructor's determination, will receive extra credit points at the semester's end. If you miss class, please get the notes from another student and then see me if you have questions. For a maximum of five extra credit points (in approximately 500 words), students may respond to the arguments provided in Maria Stephan and Eric Chenoweth, "Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict," *International Security* 33, 1 (2008). Please do not provide a summary, but instead provide a response to their argument: Did you find this data and argument convincing? This journal is available at the library in paper copy as well as through EIU library's electronic journals; you will need to find it yourself. Other extra credit opportunities may be available during the course. Your response (in hard/paper copy only—no emailed attachment) to the Stephan and Chenoweth article is accepted no later than April 17.

Course Grading

Exams cover all assigned readings and lectures:

3 written exams @ 100 points each

5 unannounced quizzes @ 20 points each (The lowest quiz grade will be dropped)

Total points for the course: 380

A= 90% and above, B=89-80%, C=79-70%, D=69-63%, F=62% and below.

Important Dates

Exam and reading dates are subject to change based upon the pace of the class.

Test 1: Feb. 11; Test 2: March 27; Final exam: May 6: 12:30 p.m.

Reading Assignments

All reading assignments come from the required textbook (Kegley) unless additional readings are noted. Many of the additional readings are located on e-reserve. The course password to access the assigned journal articles is rh2253. The readings have been assigned on a weekly basis, but may change based upon progress in the course.

Week 1

Jan. 12: Introduction: Levels of analysis/Key terms in IR: Nations and States (Kegley Chp 1)

Week 2

Jan. 19: MLK Day

Jan. 21: IR Theory: Realism, liberalism and their adaptations: (Kegley Chp 2, Haass in *Foreign Affairs*)

Week 3

Jan. 26: Foreign Policy Making (Kegley Chp 3)

Week 4

Feb. 2: Foreign Policy/Great Powers and World War/Cold War (Kegley Chp 4, Gordon in *Foreign Affairs*)

Week 5

Feb. 9: IOs/United Nations and Peacekeeping (Kegley pages 162-173 and 525-537). Test 1: Feb. 11

Feb. 13: Abraham Lincoln's birthday observed; no class meeting

Week 6

Feb. 16: NGOs: Ethnopolitical/MNCs (Kegley pages 189-204 and 208-218)

Week 7

Feb. 23: Terrorism/Robert Pape's research/War (Kegley pages 204-208, Chp 13, Ross in *Foreign Affairs*)

Week 8

March 2: Military Spending (Chp 14, Byman in *Foreign Affairs*)

Week 9

March 9: Deterrence/WMD/Economic Sanctions/Arms Control Efforts (Kegley pages 514-524; Lieber and Press in *Foreign Affairs*)

March 16-20: Spring break

Week 10

March 23: IPE: economic liberalism and mercantilism (Kegley Chp 10): Test 2, March 27

Week 11

March 30: World Bank/IMF/European Union/Globalization (Kegley pages 177-188 and 322-335)

Week 12

April 6: North/South: Colonization/Marx/Global South's response (Kegley Chp 5, Naim in *Foreign Policy*)

Week 13

April 13: AIDS, Human Rights and their Enforcement (Kegley pages 319-322 and 232-253)

Week 14

April 20: Environment and Natural Resources: oil politics (Kegley Chp. 12 and Bogerson in *Foreign Affairs*)

Week 15

April 27: International law, diplomacy, just war doctrine (Kegley Chapter 16)

Final exam: Wednesday, May 6, 12:30-2:30 p.m.