

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH**  
**Department of Political Science**

84:115 – Introduction to International Relations – Fall 2009

*MWF 9:10-10:10am – Swart 301*

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**Office Hours:**    Tuesdays, 9-12pm and by appointment  
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**Course Overview**

International Relations (IR) is the subfield of political science that examines interactions between states. In this course we will explore the major theories and concepts in IR and then use them to help us find suitable explanations for past and present world issues. This course is one of three foundational courses for further study in political science, and is a prerequisite for advanced study in the subfield. It also fulfills a General Education/Social Science requirement.

*This is an introductory course, but that does not mean it is an “easy” course.* I have high expectations of my students, and you will see this reflected in your assignments and exams. The material is challenging and the readings are, at times, quite difficult. I expect that you will attend lectures and keep up with the readings, and I will do my best to ensure that you understand both.

**Textbooks**

The following textbooks are available for purchase at the University bookstore. Both books are required. I prefer that you buy the most recent edition (listed below) for each text; if you buy an older version, it is your responsibility to ensure that you are not missing essential updates.

**Nye, Joseph Jr. 2007. *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Longman.**

**Betts, Richard K. 2005. *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Longman.**

There are also a number of readings that are not from your textbooks. Those readings will be placed on E-Reserve at the Polk Library OR accessible to you via the library’s many research databases. Articles can be printed free of charge at the library if you do not have your own printer.

Part of the goal of this course is to make you more aware of the world around you, and of how international politics affect you. The following news sources may be helpful to you as you prepare for class (and especially for your panel presentations):

<i>New York Times</i>	<a href="http://www.nytimes.com">http://www.nytimes.com</a>
<i>The Economist</i>	<a href="http://www.economist.com">http://www.economist.com</a>
National Public Radio	<a href="http://www.npr.org">http://www.npr.org</a> (or tune in to 90.3FM or 89.3FM)
BBC Online	<a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk">http://news.bbc.co.uk</a>

## Course Requirements and Grading

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh now uses a +/- grading scale as follows:

A	94-100	C	74-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	65-66
B-	80-83	F	0-64
C+	77-79		

Your grade will be determined as follows:

### *Participation: 10%*

You can earn your participation grade in several ways: contributing quality comments to in-class discussions or offering news events for discussion, answering questions I pose to the class either in-class or via D2L, being an active participant in in-class activities, and/or stopping by my office hours to discuss the course. If you attend class every day we meet but never say a word, you can expect a C for this portion of your grade. Participation cannot be made up if you are not in class, no matter the reason for your absence. I do not take attendance, but clearly you cannot participate if you're not in class.

### *Panel Discussions and Other Activities: 25%*

Several times throughout the semester you will be asked to form small groups (panels) to discuss a particular reading and answer questions I provide, or to present arguments from particular readings. Students who are not present and *actively* participating in these activities will not receive credit. The dates on which students will be presenting are noted as "Panel Presentation" in **bold** on in the schedule of readings.

### *Written Assignment: 35%*

There is one (6-8 double-spaced pages) writing assignment for this course. This assignment will ask you to address major issues in international politics, take a position, and defend it using IR principles. Detailed instructions on this paper will be given in class. Late papers will not be accepted without a valid written medical or University excuse.

### *Exams: 40% (Midterm 20%, Final 20%)*

There will be two exams in this course, a midterm and a final. Both exams have roughly the same format. The first section of each exam will require that the student answer 25-30 multiple choice questions, and the second section will be composed of essay responses. Students are expected to spend about half the exam period on each section. Exams must be taken on the date and at the time scheduled unless the student informs the professor *in advance* of the exam and can provide documentation for the absence (e.g., note from the doctor, letter from University official authorizing absence for a University-sponsored event, etc.).

## **Academic Misconduct (Cheating, Plagiarism, etc.)**

Students should familiarize themselves with the UW System Student Discipline Code (available at <http://www.tts.uwosh.edu/dean/studentdisciplinecode.html>) and particularly Chapter 14 on academic misconduct. Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in you failing this course and, in very serious incidences, your expulsion from the University. The Dean of Students office will be notified of any and all instances of plagiarism.

## **Special Note to Political Science Majors**

If you are currently a political science major or if you think you will be one of our majors in the future, it is important that you save your graded coursework from this class. Seniors in our department are required to take Political Science 401, a seminar in which students' progress through the major is surveyed and a portfolio

of their work is created. Angie Hammond (Clow Faculty 427) has a file for each major and will save your work for you if you ask so that you do not have to hunt it down later. If you have questions, please see me after class.

### **Schedule of Topics and Readings**

September 9	<b>Overview of syllabus and expectations; information on finding online readings (e.g., JSTOR, Academic Search Elite, etc.); also The “Logic” of Conflict in World Politics: A Common Vocabulary for IR</b> Nye, Chapter 1
September 11	<b>Levels of Analysis in IR</b> Nye, Chapter 2
September 14	<b>Theories of IR: Classical Realism</b> Betts/Thucydides Betts/Machiavelli Betts/Hobbes Betts/Carr
September 16	<b>Theories of IR: Structural (Neo-) Realism</b> Betts/Waltz
September 18	<b>Theories of IR: Hegemonic Stability</b> Betts/Gilpin Betts/Blainey
September 21	<b>Theories of IR: Classical Liberalism</b> Betts/Kant Betts/Wilson Betts/Doyle
September 23	<b>Theories of IR: Neoliberal Institutionalism</b> Betts/Bull Betts/Keohane and Nye
September 25	<b>Panel Presentation: NORTH KOREA</b>
September 28	<b>Theories of IR: Constructivism</b> Betts/Wendt
September 30	<b>Theories of IR: Constructivism</b> Betts/Mueller
October 2	<b>Theories of IR: Constructivism</b> Betts/Finnemore
October 5	<b>Theories of IR: Feminism</b>

Betts/Tickner

- October 7           **Panel Presentation: IR THEORY: SO WHAT?**  
Drezner, Daniel. 2009. "Theory of International Politics and Zombies."  
*Foreign Policy* website:  
[http://drezner.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/08/18/theory\\_of\\_international\\_politics\\_and\\_zombies](http://drezner.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/08/18/theory_of_international_politics_and_zombies)
- October 9           **World Politics: Nationalism and World War I**  
Betts/Gellner  
Nye, Chapter 3
- October 12          **World Politics: World War II**  
Nye, Chapter 4
- October 14          **World Politics: Cold War**  
Nye, Chapter 5
- October 16          **World Politics: Cold War**  
Nye, Chapter 5  
Review for Midterm if necessary
- October 19          **Midterm Examination**
- October 21          **Issues in IR: Nuclear Weapons**  
Betts/Waltz (Spread of Nuclear Weapons)  
Mueller, John. 1988. "The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons: Stability in the Postwar World." In Mingst and Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton. [E-Reserve]
- October 23          **Issues in IR: Nuclear Proliferation**  
Sagan, Scott D. 1997. "The Causes of Nuclear Proliferation." Chapter 3 in Bova, Russell, ed. *How the World Works*. New York: Pearson.  
Rosen, Stephen P. 2006. "After Proliferation: What to Do if More States Go Nuclear." *Foreign Affairs* 85: 5.
- October 26          **Panel Presentation: IRAN**
- October 28          **Issues in IR: International Law**  
Reus-Smit, Christian. 2005. "International Law." Chapter 15 in Baylis and Smith, eds., *The Globalization of World Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [E-Reserve]
- October 30          **Panel Presentation: INTERNATIONAL LAW**  
The *Nuclear Weapons* case (International Court of Justice)  
Slaughter, Anne-Marie. 2003. "Leading Through Law." *Wilson Quarterly* 27:4.

- November 2           **Issues in IR: International Organizations**  
Taylor, Paul and Devon Curtis. 2005. "The United Nations." Chapter 18 in Baylis and Smith, eds., *The Globalization of World Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [E-Reserve]
- November 4           **Issues in IR: Intervention**  
Nye, pages 175-200
- November 6           **Issues in IR: The Changing Face of UN Peacekeeping**  
Weiss, Thomas. 2007. *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. [E-Reserve]
- November 9           **Issues in IR: Intervention in Ethnic Conflicts**  
Nye, pages 157-175  
Betts/Kaufmann  
Betts/Kumar
- \* After class, head to Reeve for a special event commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. More information in class. See you there!
- November 11          **Panel Presentation: INTERVENTION and DARFUR**  
Abramowitz, Morton and Thomas Pickering. 2008. "Making Intervention Work: Improving the UN's Ability to Act." *Foreign Affairs* 87: 5.
- November 13          **Issues in IR: Globalization and Interdependence**  
Nye, Chapter 7
- November 16          **Issues in IR: International Political Economy**  
Oatley, Thomas. 2010. "International Political Economy." Chapter 1 in *International Political Economy*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Pearson. [(E-Reserve)]
- November 18          **Issues in IR: International Political Economy**  
Oatley, Thomas. 2010. "The World Trade Organization and the World Trade System." Chapter 2 in *International Political Economy*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Pearson. [E-Reserve]
- November 20          **Panel Presentation: IPE**  
Fallows, James. 1993. "How the World Works." *Atlantic Monthly*, December 1993. [Available at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/199312/fallows-world>]
- November 23          **Issues in IR: The Environment**  
Betts/Homer-Dixon  
Victor, David G. 2007. "What Resource Wars?" *The National Interest* 92: November/December 2007.
- November 25          **No class: Happy Thanksgiving!**
- November 27          **No class: Happy Thanksgiving!**

- November 30           **Panel Presentation: THE KYOTO PROTOCOL (NOW WHAT?)**
- December 2           **Issues in IR: Global Health**  
 Snow, Donald M. 2008. "Worse Than the Bubonic Plague: AIDS in Africa as a Transstate Issue." Chapter 15 in *Cases in International Relations: Portraits of the Future*. New York: Pearson/Longman. [E-Reserve]
- December 4           **Issues in IR: Global Terrorism**  
 Nye, pages 233-250  
 Betts/Crenshaw, pages 491-504
- December 7           **Panel Presentation: TERRORISM**  
 Mueller, John. 2008. "Terrorphobia: Our False Sense of Insecurity." *The American Interest*. Summer (May/June).
- December 9           **Issues in IR: The Clash of Civilizations**  
 Betts/Huntington (both)
- December 11          **Issues in IR: American Hegemony? A Discussion**  
 Betts/Betts  
 Nye, Chapter 9
- December 14          **Review for Final Examination**  
 Bring your questions to class!
- December 16          **Final Examination**
- December 18          **No class – enjoy!**