

GVPT 200: International Political Relations
Fall 2009
MW 9:00-9:50am
LeFrak 2205

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This course will serve as a broad introduction to the analytical study of international relations. Students will be exposed to a number of key issues relating to international security and the politics of international economic relations, including: the causes of war, arms races, international organizations, the politics of trade, and international cooperation over the environment.

The class will consist of 2 lectures each week taught by Prof. Kastner and a discussion section each week taught by one of the assistants, Nicholas Grossman, Tara Innes, or Mark Shirk. Both the lecture and the discussion section are required. Students are expected to come to discussion sections having done the readings for the week. The course prerequisite is GVPT 100. Grades will be based on 2 in-class exams (20 percent each), a final exam (20 percent), an essay assignment (20 percent), and participation in discussion sections (20 percent).

Students wishing to challenge a grade must do so within 1 week of the day the assignment is handed back. Challenges must be made in writing, with a clear argument explaining the reasons for the challenge. In these cases, the entire assignment will be graded again.

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html>.

I have ordered 1 book for the class:
John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York: Norton, 2001).

I have also assigned numerous articles that are available through ELMS or through Research Port.

Week 1

Aug. 31: Introduction: the challenge of studying international politics.

Sept. 2: Approaches to the study of international politics: realism, liberalism, constructivism.

Week 1 readings:

- Thomas Schelling, *Micromotives and Macrobehavior* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1978), chapter 1 (ELMS).
- Mearsheimer, chapter 1.

Week 2

Sept. 7: No Class, Labor Day.

Sept. 9: Power and influence in international politics.

Week 2 readings:

- Thomas Schelling, *Arms and Influence* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966), chapter 2 (ELMS).
- Mearsheimer, chapter 3.
- Joseph S. Nye, Jr., "Limits of American Power," *Political Science Quarterly* 117, 4 (Winter 2002/2003), pp. 545-560 (RESEARCH PORT).

Week 3

Sept. 14: Anarchy and the security dilemma.

Sept. 16: Seeking security in an anarchic world.

Week 3 readings:

- Mearsheimer, pp. 155-164, chapter 8.
- Robert Jervis. 1978. "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma." *World Politics* 30 (2): 167-214 (RESEARCH PORT).
- Thomas J. Christensen, "The Contemporary Security Dilemma," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 25(4): pp. 7-21. Article can be found online at: <http://www.twq.com/02autumn/christensen.pdf>

Week 4

Sept. 21: War as a puzzle in international politics.

Sept. 23: Exploring the causes of war.

Week 4 readings:

- Mearsheimer, chapter 9.
- Wendy Pearlman, "Spoiling Inside and Out: Internal Political Contestation and the Middle East Peace Process," *International Security* 33, 3 (Winter 2008/09), pp. 79-109 (RESEARCH PORT).
- Jason Lyall and Isaiah Wilson III, "Rage against the Machines: Explaining Outcomes in Counterinsurgency Wars," *International Organization* 63 (Winter 2009), pp. 67-106 (RESEARCH PORT).

Week 5

Sept. 28: Democracy and war: Is there a separate peace among democracies?

Sept. 30: Does trade promote peace?

Week 5 readings:

- Bruce Russett and John R. Oneal, *Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations* (New York: WW Norton, 2001), Chapter 1 ("International Systems: Vicious Circles and Virtuous Circles"), pp. 15-42 (ELMS).
- Michel Mousseau, "The Social Market Roots of Democratic Peace," *International Security* 33, 4 (Spring 2009), pp. 52-86 (RESEARCH PORT).

Week 6

Oct. 5: FIRST PRELIMINARY EXAM

Oct. 7: The rise of China: implications for world politics.

Week 6 readings:

- Mearsheimer, pp. 396-400.
- M. Taylor Fravel, "China's Search for Military Power," *The Washington Quarterly* 31, 3 (Summer 2008), pp. 125-141. Article is available at: http://www.twq.com/08summer/docs/08summer_fravel.pdf
- G. John Ikenberry, "The Rise of China and the Future of the West," *Foreign Affairs* 87, 1 (Jan/Feb. 2008), pp. 23-37 (RESEARCH PORT).

Week 7

Oct. 12: Nuclear proliferation.

Oct. 14: North Korea's nuclear program (in class video).

Week 7 readings:

- Scott D. Sagan and Kenneth N. Waltz, *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: A Debate Renewed* (New York: WW Norton, 2003), Chapter 3 ("Indian and Pakistani Nuclear Weapons: For Better or for Worse?"), pp. 88-124 (ELMS).
- Victor D. Cha, "North Korea's Weapons of Mass Destruction: Badges, Shields, or Swords?" *Political Science Quarterly* 117, 2 (Summer 2002), pp. 209-230 (RESEARCH PORT).

Week 8

Oct. 19: Terrorism.

Oct. 21: Strategies of terrorism and counter-terrorism.

Week 8 readings:

- Robert A. Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," *American Political Science Review* 97, 3 (August 2003), pp. 343-361 (RESEARCH PORT).
- Max Abrahms, "What Terrorists Really Want: Terrorist Motives and Counterterrorism Strategy," *International Security* 32, 4 (Spring 2008), pp. 78-105 (RESEARCH PORT).
- Brigitte L. Nacos, *Mass Mediated Terrorism: The Central Role of the Media in Terrorism and Counter-terrorism* (USA: Rowman and Littlefield, 2007), chapter 1 (ELMS).

Week 9

Oct. 26: International cooperation.

Oct. 28: The United Nations.

Week 9 readings:

- John J. Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," in Karen A. Mingst and Jack L Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics* (2nd Edition), pp. 283-294 (ELMS).
- Derek Chollet and Robert Orr, "Carpe Diem: Reclaiming Success at the United Nations," *The Washington Quarterly* 24, 4 (Autumn 2001), pp. 7-18. Article can be accessed at: <http://www.twq.com/01autumn/chollet.pdf>
- William J. Durch, "Picking Up the Peaces: The UN's Evolving Postconflict Roles," *The Washington Quarterly* 26, 4 (Autumn 2003), pp. 195-210. Article is available at : http://www.twq.com/03autumn/docs/03autumn_durch.pdf

Week 10

Nov. 2: International law

Nov. 4: PRELIM EXAM 2

Week 10 readings:

- Henry Kissinger, *Does America Need a Foreign Policy? Toward a Diplomacy for the 21st Century* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2001), Chapter 7 ("Peace and Justice"), pp. 234-282, especially pp. 273-282 (ELMS).
- Antonia Chayes, "How American Treaty Behavior Threatens National Security," *International Security* 33, 1 (Summer 2008), pp. 45-81 (RESEARCH PORT).

Week 11

Nov. 9: International trade and globalization.

Nov. 11: The World Trade Organization.

Week 11 readings:

- William J. Bernstein, *A Splendid Exchange: How Trade Shaped the World* (New York: Atlantic Monthly, 2008). Introduction and Chapter 14 (ELMS).
- Dani Rodrik, *Has globalization gone too far?* (Washington DC: Institute for International Economics, 1997), Chapter 1 (Introduction) (ELMS).

- Roger C. Altman, “Globalization in Retreat: Further Geopolitical Consequences of the Financial Crisis,” *Foreign Affairs* 88, 4 (July/August 2009), pp. 2-7 (RESEARCH PORT).

Week 12

Nov. 16: International monetary relations.

Nov. 18: The global financial crises of the 1990s. (In class video.)

Week 12 readings:

- Ming Wan, *The Political Economy of East Asia: Striving for Wealth and Power* (Washington DC: CQ Press, 2008), chapter 6 (“The Asian Financial Crisis”) (ELMS).
- Benjamin J. Cohen, “A Brief History of International Monetary Relations,” In Jeffrey Frieden and David Lake, eds., *International Political Economy: Perspectives on Power and Wealth*, 3rd edition (New York: St. Martens, 1995), pp. 209-229 (ELMS).

Week 13

Nov. 23: The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE

Nov. 25: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING. NO SECTIONS THIS WEEK.

Week 13 readings: none.

Week 14

Nov. 30: Cooperation and the global environment.

Dec. 2: Environmental security.

Readings:

- Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons,” *Science* 162 (December 13, 1968), pp. 1243-1248 (RESEARCH PORT).
- Thomas F. Homer-Dixon, “Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict: Evidence from Cases,” *International Security* 19, 1 (1994), pp. 5-40 (RESEARCH PORT).

- Ken Conca, "Rethinking the Ecology-Sovereignty Debate," in Conca and Geoffrey Dabelko, eds., *Green Planet Blues: Environmental Politics from Stockholm to Kyoto*, 2nd edition (Boulder, CO: Westview, 1998), pp. 85-93 (ELMS).

Week 15

Dec. 7: Sovereignty.

Dec. 9: Energy. Concluding remarks.

Week 15 readings:

- Flynt Leverett and Jeffrey Bader, "Managing China-U.S. Energy Competition in the Middle East," *The Washington Quarterly* 29, 1 (Winter 2005-2006), pp. 187-201. Article available online at: http://www.twq.com/06winter/docs/06winter_leverett.pdf
- David A. Lake, "The New Sovereignty in International Relations," *International Studies Review* 5, 3 (September, 2003), pp. 303-323 (RESEARCH PORT).