

GVPT200
International Political Relations
Winter Term 2009

Instructor: Peter Voitsekhovsky

Classes: Mo, Tu, We, Th, 6:00 – 9:15 pm, 0101 Tydings Hall

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The study of international relations is a major subfield of Political Science. This course serves as an introduction to the discipline. It familiarizes students with fundamental principles and concepts of international relations study, its major theories, and topical issues in some key problem areas, such as international security and conflict, international trade, international law and institutions, international development and assistance. This course is an opportunity to develop a better understanding of today's dynamically changing world, and of the nature of U.S. leadership in the international community, as well as the challenges that confront the U.S. on the world arena. This course is a foundation for further study of IR. Most importantly, it provides a student with knowledge and skills needed for an intelligent and active citizen of the 21st century.

READINGS

The main text for this course will be:

Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse. International Relations. Brief Fourth Edition. 2008.

Additionally, readings for specific classes will include some scholarly articles, all of which can be accessed on-line via Research Port of the UM Libraries.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Course grades will be determined by the students' success in fulfilling the following requirements, with their respective weights:

Weekly quizzes (10% each) -	30%
Attendance and participation -	20%
Home essay -	20%
In-class exam -	30%

The home essay will be an exercise in comparative application of theoretical paradigms of international relations to a chosen case study – a historical event, a series of related events, or a policy issue in bilateral or multilateral relations. More specific guidelines and the choice of topics for the essay will be discussed in class.

CLASS SESSIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

January 5, Monday

Introduction. Goals, principles, and concepts of IR study.

Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 1.

January 6, Tuesday

The international system and global politics.

Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 1.

Robert Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, Jr. *Power and Interdependence in the Information Age*. Foreign Affairs, September – October 1998.

January 7, Wednesday

Contending theories of international relations. Realism and power politics.

Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 2.

Stephen M. Walt. *One world, many theories*. Foreign Policy, Spring 1998.

January 8, Thursday

Contending theories of international relations. Liberal, constructivist, and radical perspectives.

Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapters 2 and 3.

Jack Snyder. *One world, rival theories*. Foreign Policy, Nov./Dec. 2004.

January 12, Monday

War, Conflict, and International Security.

Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 4.

Robert Trager, Dessisava Zagorcheva. *Deterring Terrorism*. International Security, vol.30, #3, 2005/06

January 13, Tuesday

International trade relations.

Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 5.

The Index of Globalization. Foreign Policy, Nov/Dec., 2007.

January 14, Wednesday

International institutions and international law.

Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 6.

Hans Köchler. *United Nations Organization and Global Power Politics*. Chinese Journal of International Law. Vol 5, No. 2 (2006).

Michael Smith. *Taming the Elephant: the European Union and the Management of American Power*. Perspectives on European Politics and Society, vol. 6, No. 1 (2005)

January 15, Thursday

International Development and Assistance.

Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 7.

Nancy Birdsall, Dani Rodrik, Arvind Subraminian. *How to help poor countries*. Foreign Affairs, July/August 2005.

January 19, Monday

***There will be no class in observation of Dr. Martin Luther King Day.
This is an opportunity to concentrate on your home essay!***

January 20, Tuesday

The future of international politics.

Fareed Zakaria. *The Future of American Power*. Foreign Affairs, May/June 2008.

Richard Haass. *The Age of Nonpolarity*. Foreign Affairs, May/June 2008.

Condoleezza Rice. *Rethinking the National Interest*. Foreign Affairs, July/August 2008.

Barack Obama. *Renewing American Leadership*. Foreign Affairs, Jul/Aug 2007.

January 21, Wednesday

Paper presentations. Review and discussion.

January 22, Thursday

Final examination.