

PLSC 14: Introduction to International Relations
Summer 2012

Instructor: Vito D'Orazio
221 Pond Lab
vjd125@psu.edu
When emailing me, write "PLSC 14" in the subject line

Office Hours: Tuesday and Friday, 10-12
Class meets in 110 Borland Building

Class: MTWRF, 2:20 – 3:35

Course Goals and Overview

This is the introductory political science course on international politics. This course has three major goals. First, you should come away from this course with an idea of what the scientific study of "Political Science" is all about. Second, you should come away from the course knowing some general theories (explanations) for international behavior that you should use when you think about international politics in the future. Third, you'll be introduced to several important topics in international politics, including civil and international conflict, international economics and development, and terrorism.

This course is designed to get you to think. I do not expect to preach from a Powerpoint because I do not expect you to learn from a Powerpoint. However, I cannot force you to think, so I therefore expect effort. Do the readings, do the homework, and participate in class.

Course Text

James Lee Ray and Juliet Kaarbo. 2011. *Global Politics* (10th Edition). Boston, MA: Wadsworth.

Grading Policy

1. Attendance and participation – 10%
2. Short Homework Assignments – 30%
3. Group Project – 20%
4. Mid-term – 20%
5. Final – 20%

Attendance and participation. Attendance and participation are the easiest points you can get. Simply show up, be attentive, and participate.

Short homework assignments. The short homework assignments are the next easiest points you can get. There will be 3 or 4 of these assignments each week and they are based on the readings. For each assignment, you will have to do 3 things: summarize the reading(s), raise questions (at least 2), and write some analysis. These assignments are not meant to be difficult, they are a way for you to demonstrate that you are doing the readings and thinking about them. The assignments are to be submitted on Angel before the start of class.

Group projects. One of the best learning environments I had in my undergraduate experience was a course I took at Binghamton University where the professor actually had the students teach the majority of the course. Now, this is just an introductory course (that was a 400 level), but I would like to try to provide *some* of that environment for you.

Each group will be assigned one country that has experienced uprisings as part of what has become known as the Arab Spring. For these presentations, you are required to teach a course topic

through the experience of the country you have chosen. You may choose any course topic, and you may go into any level of detail for the country. The idea is to connect a topic of International Relations to current events. On the first Friday of the semester, I'll give the first presentation and it will be on the Arab Spring in general. My presentation will serve as an introduction to the Arab Spring and as an example of how to teach a topic through a case-study.

For the day of your lesson, groups are expected to have at least 30 minutes of material, not including questions from the class. This time does not have to be *just* a Powerpoint lecture. I encourage you to use your time in various ways, such as handouts, video clips, songs, maps, charts, text excerpts, etc. Get creative. If you would like assistance in planning your presentation come to office hours or talk to me after class. Providing a vivid depiction of your topic and relating it to your country is the goal, how you go about doing it is your choice.

The group project is worth a total of 20 points. 10 of the points will come from the group lesson as a whole. These points will be given based on the overall effectiveness of the presentation. Communication, organization and clarity, creativity; these are all important components of the overall presentation.

5 of the points will come from your individual contribution to the effort. These points will be given based on your contribution to the group's research and your cooperation with the rest of the group.

5 of the points will come from your group's participation when other groups are presenting. During the presentations, groups will sit together. If another group is asking for participation, I expect your group to participate. I also expect every group to raise appropriate questions.

Mid-term and Final. The mid-term and the final are both take-home exams that will be given out after class on Friday and are **due by Monday at 2:20**. You will be given four or five essay topics, and **you'll answer two**. I expect **each answer to be 500-1,000 words** and to include citations from the readings. Citations from sources we have not read in class are also acceptable. **The essays are to be submitted through Angel**. For each day late, your essay will be marked down a full letter grade. The essay is late one day if it is submitted after 2:20 on Monday, so plan accordingly.

Academic Dishonesty

The Department of Political Science, along with the College of the Liberal Arts and the University, takes violations of academic dishonesty seriously. Observing basic honesty in one's work, words, ideas, and actions is a principle to which all members of the community are required to subscribe.

All course work by students is to be done on an individual basis unless an instructor clearly states that an alternative is acceptable. Any reference materials used in the preparation of any assignment must be explicitly cited. Students uncertain about proper citation are responsible for checking with their instructor.

In an examination setting, unless the instructor gives explicit prior instructions to the contrary, whether the examination is in-class or take-home, violations of academic integrity shall consist but are not limited to any attempt to receive assistance from written or printed aids, or from any person or papers or electronic devices, or of any attempt to give assistance, whether the one so doing has completed his or her own work or not.

Lying to the instructor or purposely misleading any Penn State administrator shall also constitute a violation of academic integrity.

In cases of any violation of academic integrity it is the policy of the Department of Political Science to follow procedures established by the College of the Liberal Arts. More information on academic integrity and procedures followed for violation can be found at:

http://www.la.psu.edu/CLA-Academic_Integrity/integrity.shtml

Note to students with disabilities. Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, contact the Office for Disability Services. For further information regarding policies, rights and responsibilities please visit the Office for Disability Services (ODS) Web site at: www.equity.psu.edu/ods/. Instructors should be notified as early in the semester as possible regarding the need for reasonable accommodations.

Course Outline

Introduction

Week 1 (May 14 – 18)

Day 1: Syllabus and Introductions

Read: One article from realclearworld.com

HW.1: Write a sentence about each of the actors in the article.

Other: Pick the top three countries you would like to study for your group project.

Day 2: International Actors and Levels of Analysis

Read: Ray and Kaarbo, Chapter 2 through "The Impact of the Second World War"

9th Edition: p. 23-47

10th Edition: 24-48

HW.2: Summary, questions, analysis of reading

Day 3: IR in History I (pre-WWII)

Read: Ray and Kaarbo, Chapter 3 through "The End of the Cold War"

9th Edition: p. 53-78

10th Edition: 53-78

HW.3: Summary, questions, analysis of reading

Day 4: IR in History II (post-WWII)

Read: Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, "Human Security," chapter 1

Day 5: Instructor Presentation – Arab Spring and International Relations

Read: Hendrik Spruyt, "Global Horizons," chapter 2

HW.4: Summary, questions, analysis of reading

General Theory

Week 2 (May 21-25)

Day 6: Games of Cooperation: Prisoner's Dilemma, Stag Hunt, Chicken

Read: Lisa Martin, Coercive Cooperation, p. 27-45

Day 7: Types of Cooperation in Theory and Practice

Read: Ray and Kaarbo, chapter 1 through "Criticisms of Realism"

9th Edition: p. 3-13

10th Edition: 3-13

Read: Hans Morganthau, from Politics Among Nations

HW.5: Summary, questions, analysis of reading

Day 8: Realism

Read: Michael W. Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics"

HW.6: Summary, questions, analysis of reading

Day 9: Liberalism and Constructivism

Read: Ray and Kaarbo, chapter 6

9th Edition: 176-207

10th Edition: 182-214

Day 10: Explanations of International Conflict

Read: Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and David Lalman, Chapters 1 and 2

HW.7: Summary, questions, analysis of reading

Conflict

Week 3 (May 28 – June 1)

May 28 (Day 11): No Classes

Day 12: International Interaction Game

Read: James Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War"

HW.8: Summary, questions, analysis of reading

Day 13: Fearon's *Rationalist Explanations for War*

Read: Matthew Kroenig, "Time to Attack Iran"

Read: Stephen Walt, "The Worst Case for War With Iran"

Read: Colin Kahl, "Not Time to Attack Iran"

HW.9: Summary, questions, analysis of reading

Day 14: Application: Iran and Nuclear Weapons

Review for Mid-Term

Day 15: Group meetings, mid-term handed out.

Mid-term is due on Monday, June 4, at 2:20 pm.

Ethnicity and Terrorism

Week 4 (June 4 – 8)

Day 16: Measurement and Regime-Types

Read: Ray and Kaarbo, Chapter 7, start through "The Scope of Ethnic Conflict in the Contemporary Global System"

9th Edition: p. 208-217

10th Edition: 215-224

Read: Samantha Power, "Bystanders to Genocide"

HW.10: Summary, questions, analysis of reading

Day 17: Defining Ethnicity and Rwanda Genocide

Read: Ray and Kaarbo, Chapter 7, "International Terrorism" through end of Ch 7

9th Edition: p. 230-249

10th Edition: 238-258

Day 18: Ethnic Conflict and **Group Lesson - Tunisia**

Read: Ray and Kaarbo, Chapter 7, "The Role of the International System and Economic Modernization in Ethnic Conflict" through "Resolving Ethnic Conflicts"

9th Edition: p. 217-229

10th Edition: p. 224-237

Read: Robert Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism"

HW.11: Summary, questions, analysis of reading

Day 19: Goals of Terrorism

Read: Ray and Kaarbo, Chapter 10, "Interdependence Among Rich States"

9th Edition: p. 342-374

10th Edition: p. 354-388

Day 20: Mid Terms Reviewed and **Group Lesson – Syria**

Read (start): Ray and Kaarbo, Chapter 11, "The Developing States in the International Political Economy"

Development and IPE

Week 5 (June 11 – 15)

Day 21: Defining Terrorism

Read: Ray and Kaarbo, Chapter 11

HW.12: Summary, questions, analysis of reading

Day 22: Economic Factors Affecting Terrorism

Read: Immanuel Wallerstein, "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System"

Read: Andre Gunder Frank, "The Development of Underdevelopment"

HW.13: Summary, questions, analysis of reading

Day 23: Development in Less Developed Countries and **Group Lesson - Libya**

Read: Bruce R. Scott, "The Great Divide in the Global Village"

Day 24: Economics

Read: Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, Economic Security, chapter 3

Day 25: Human Security and Economics and **Group Lesson - Yemen**

Read: Jared Diamond, Collapse, Chapter 14

HW.14: Summary, questions, analysis of reading

Environment and Globalization

Week 6 (June 18 – 22)

Day 26: Jared Diamond's *Collapse* Lessons

Read: Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, Environmental Security, chapter 4

Day 27: Environmental Security

Read: David Held and Anthony McGrew, "Globalization"

HW.15: Summary, questions, analysis of reading

Day 28: Globalization and **Group Lesson - Egypt**

Read: Henry Kissinger, "Syrian Intervention Risks Upsetting Global Order"

Read: James Rubin, "The Real Reason to Intervene in Syria"

HW.16: Come to class with three questions for the debate

Day 29: Debate on US Intervention in Syria

Day 30: Concluding remarks, final handed out

Final Exam is due Monday, June 25, at 2:20 pm.