Government 155 International Politics

Fall 2011
Class Location: PAC 107
Home Page: http://dfoyle.web.wesleyan.edu/
Office Hours: W 11:30 am-1:30pm and by appointment

Professor Douglas Foyle
Phone: 685-5049
Office: PAC 307
Email: dfoyle@wesleyan.edu

Course Description

The purpose of the course is to provide the student with the background and conceptual tools for understanding contemporary international relations. Classes will address a wide variety of issues including the origins of the state system, the nature of power, the use of force, and international political economy. Conceptions derived from these discussions will be applied to consider topics arising in the present international system such as nationalism, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, the environment, and international organization.

Class periods will be devoted to lectures by the instructor and discussion of the reading material.

This course provides the foundation for upper-level courses in the international relations and a general introduction for non-majors. It is also fulfills a requirement for the Certificate in International Relations awarded by the Public Affairs Center.

Students are strongly encouraged to stay current with foreign policy developments by reading a major newspaper. Although a basic understanding of “front page” international news will be assumed, this course is not a current events course.

Requirements and Course Grading

Grading Policies: For specifics on my grading standards and numerical thresholds for various grades, see my website under the “Courses and Grading” link.

Please note: I do not “round” the numerical scores. A numerical score must at least reach the minimum threshold of a grade to receive that grade (e.g., 89.99 is a B+ while 90 is an A-).

Grades will be based on: 3 exams (80%), and participation in class discussions (20%).

Incompletes will be allowed only for significant and verifiable personal emergencies (e.g., serious personal illness, death in the family). No extensions will be granted due to the pressures of academic life (such as work due in other classes).

There are no make-up exams. At the instructor’s discretion, if a personal emergency keeps you from taking an exam, the exam portion of your final grade will be calculated based upon the other exams. For example, if one exam is missed, each of the two other exams would be worth 37.5% of the final grade (37.5% x 2 = 75%).

Unexcused absences from an exam will result in a “0” for that exam.
Exams

Exam #1 (25% of grade) and exam #2 (25% of grade) will take place as indicated on the schedule. Exam #3 (30% of grade) will cover the material over the entire course and will occur during finals week as scheduled by the registrar.

Exam question types:

*Identification questions* require you to define and give the significance of important terms and concepts. A complete list of these terms will be made available on the course Moodle prior to the exam.

*Essay questions* require an answer that broadly integrates material from the course (e.g., After taking this course, do you feel that the world is fundamentally peaceful or conflictual? Why?).

Exam #1 will consist of identification terms from classes 1-9 and an essay.

Exam #2 will consist of identification terms from classes 11-17 and an essay.

Exam #3 (the final exam) will consist of identification terms from classes 19-26 and essays.

Participation

Participation will be evaluated based upon the student's contribution to discussion, responsiveness to other students, and quality of insight. Class attendance is a basic requirement of the participation grade. You will receive two participation grades: one for the first half of the semester (classes 2-12) and one for the second half of the semester (classes 13-25). Your participation grade for the first half of class will be given shortly after the class 12. These two grades will be averaged to yield the final participation grade.
**Readings**

The following assigned readings are available for purchase at the bookstore (Please note: You must have this edition as significant revisions occur from edition to edition):


The following items are available for purchase (in paper or pdf format) directly from the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy:

- ISD Case #278 Going to the United Nations: George W. Bush and Iraq
- ISD Case 334 “The Cuban Missile Crisis”
- ISD Case # 258 “Establishing an International Criminal Court”

To order the cases, go to the ISD website: http://www.guisd.org/. Please note that these items are non-returnable.

All the above items are available on reserve in Olin Library. Additional readings are available on the course Moodle.

**Students with Disabilities:**

It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering with Disabilities Services can be found at http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disability-students.html.
## CLASS SCHEDULE

### 1. Key Concepts and Theoretical Perspectives

1. **September 6**  
   Introduction: IR as a Field of Study

2. **September 8**  
   IR Field to Present Day
   
   Nau, “Why We Disagree about International Relations,” pp. 1-20  
   Daniel Maliniak, Amy Oakes, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney,  
   “Inside the Ivory Tower,” *Foreign Policy* (March/April 2007), pp. 62-68. (Moodle)

3. **September 13**  
   Key Concepts
   
   Nau, “How to Think About International Relations,” pp. 21-68

4. **September 15**  
   Realism
   
   Thucydides, Morgenthau, Waltz, Mearsheimer, Walt (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 9-23, 37-69, 127-144

5. **September 20**  
   Liberalism
   
   Oye, Keohane, (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 79-92, 150-158

6. **September 22**  
   Constructivism (and Critical Theory)
   
   Tickner, Wendt, Doyle (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 24-36, 70-78, 114-126

7. **September 27**  
   Domestic Processes
   
   Nau, “The Democratic Peace” pp. 514-522  
   Ole R. Holsti, “Theories of International Relations,” *Making American Foreign Policy*, pp. 327-332. (Moodle)  
8. September 29  
Individual Level  
Ole R. Holsti “Cognitive Process Approaches to Decision-Making” Making American Foreign Policy, pp. 33-51. (Moodle)  

9. October 4  
Case Discussion: The 2003 Iraq War  
ISD Case #278 Going to the United Nations: George W. Bush and Iraq

II. The Recent International System and International Relations Theory

10. October 6  
European System through World War I  
Nau, “Perspectives on World History” and “World War I,” pp. 69-128

11. October 11  
Exam #1 (material in classes 1-9)

12. October 13  
The Interwar Period (1919-1939) Through the End of the Cold War  

13. October 18  
The Post-Cold War Era  
Kaldor, Jervis, Art, Cronin (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 231-237, 373-411

III. International Relations Subfields: International Security and International Political Economy

14. October 20  
Approaches to International Security  
Jervis, Hoffman (Art and Jervis Reader), pp. 93-113, 145-149
15. October 27  
Crisis, Coercive Diplomacy, and Nuclear Weapons  
Art, Schelling, Art (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 163-184, 196-212

16. November 1  
Case Discussion: The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962  
ISD Case 334 “The Cuban Missile Crisis”

17. November 3  
International Political Economy and Interdependence  
Gilpin, Scott, Frankel, Ghemawat, Blinder, (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 265-281, 292-338  

18. November 8  
Exam #2 (material in classes 10-17)

IV. Challenges in the Current World

19. November 10  
Morality, Human Rights and International Law  
Howard & Donnelly, Annan, Ratner, (Art & Jervis reader) pp. 450-74  
Nau, “Global Civil Society,” pp. 463-88

20. November 15  
War and Weaponry  
Hoffman, Pape, Sokolski, Posen (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 185-195, 213-230, 238-258

21. November 17  
Economic Development  
Rodrik, , Micklethwait & Wooldridge, Wade (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 339-366  
Nau, “Miracle and Missed Opportunity”, “Foreign Aid and Domestic Governance”, “Global Inequality, Imperialism, and Injustice” pp. 361-437
22. November 22  Internal State Conflict
   Kuperman, Kaufmann, Payne (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 412-459

23. November 29  The Environment

24. December 1  The International Structure of the 21st Century
   Nau, “Global Governance,” pp. 489-513

25. December 6  Case Discussion: The International Criminal Court
   ISD Case # 258 “Establishing an International Criminal Court: The Emergence of a New Global Authority?”

   **VI. Conclusion**

26. December 8  Conclusions
   Keck & Sikkink, Mallaby, Williams, (Art & Jervis reader), pp. 475-501

**Exam 3** as scheduled during finals week.