

Dr. Richard L. Whitehead

Political Science 53 - 001
International Politics
Temple University, Spring 2003
MWF 10:40-11:30, Barton Hall

Instructor: Richard Whitehead
Office Hours: MWF 11:40-12:30
E-mail: richard@whitehead.cjb.net

Course Description

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to global-level politics. The course objective is to provide you with a basic familiarity of international relations so that you can engage in political life from an informed perspective. The course is divided into three sections. The first section offers an introduction to some of the philosophical/theoretical traditions in mainstream international relations thought: realism and neorealism, liberalism and neoliberalism, Marxism, and constructivism. The importance of theory cannot be emphasized enough. Like all subjects of inquiry in the social sciences, there are few objective facts in international relations. Instead, one's understanding of international politics is conditioned on one's 'weltanschauung' or world view. Therefore, we must attempt to explicate theory before discussing the history of, or contemporary issues in international politics.

The second section presents an overview of some important historical events in international relations. This section will begin with a reading on the emergence of the modern system of states in Europe in the sixteenth century. Next, we will examine several visions of the Cold War and its demise. Finally, we will discuss the history of north-south relations – relations between the 'developed' world, and the 'under-developed' world. This section will include discussions on imperialism, colonialism, and racism in international relations.

The third section is an investigation of various issues in contemporary international politics including globalization, human rights and humanitarian law, the prospects for peace and conflict, and the environment. It is important to approach this final section with a solid understanding of the material from the first two sections. Much of the material here will require students to recall material from earlier lectures. Likewise, the final exam is comprehensive – material prior to the mid-term is relevant to the final exam.

Classes will include lectures and discussions in line with the course progression listed below. As for the discussions specifically, the topics will generally revolve around a news event as it relates to a particular lecture topic. So, this course will ask you to stay on top of current events and participate in class discussions. Furthermore, disagreement during debates is encouraged and must be respected. Please remember, freedom of speech is to be honored, but so too is the responsibility of respecting others.

Course Requirements

Grades will be based on two essay and short answer exams, a mid-term exam (35%), and a final exam (35%), as well as a short paper (30%). The paper will be evaluated in conjunction with a three session United Nations Security Council simulation, to be held at the end of the semester.

Course Materials

- Reader
- Articles distributed in class.

Policies

I do not give make-up exams. Exams are conducted on the aforementioned dates only. Only dire circumstances warrant exceptions.

I do not accept late essays and do not allow rewrites. If you feel that you need the chance for a rewrite, then please simply turn the essay in no less than one week prior to the due date.

Since this course is based on the philosophy that experiential learning is the best route for enhancing understanding and critical thinking, attendance is mandatory. Failure to attend on more than TWO occasions will result in a FIVE point penalty from the final grade for each absence. Perfect attendance (missing no classes) results in a FIVE point bonus added to the final grade.

Important Information

Disability Accommodations and Services:

Any student who has a need of an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 at 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Temple University's Policy on Academic Honesty:

"Academic cheating is, generally, the thwarting or breaking of the general rules of academic work or the specific rules of individual courses. It includes falsifying data; submitting without the instructor's approval, the work in one course which was done in another; helping others to plagiarize or cheat from one's own work or another's work; or actually doing the work of another person. The penalty for plagiarism or cheating as a first offense is normally an F in the course in which the offense is committed and a report to the Dean. A subsequent offense may in addition be referred to the University Discipline Committee."

<p>Part I: Introduction to international politics and international relations theory.</p> <p>Week 1: Jan. 22-24 Course introduction Reading: Text chapter 1, pp. 2-8, 11-21</p>	<p>Part III: Contemporary issues in international politics.</p> <p>Week 9: Mar. 24-28 Globalization and non-state global actors Reading: (1) Text chapter 7 pp. 196-217. (2) Friedman and Ramonet. <u>Duelling Globalizations.</u></p>
<p>Week 2: Jan. 27-31 Realism, Neorealism – states and power politics Reading: (1) Text chapter 3, pp. 59-71, 80-91. (2) Machiavelli. <u>The Prince.</u> (3) Hobbes. <u>Leviathan.</u> (4) Waltz. <u>Nuclear Myths and Political Realities.</u></p>	<p>Week 11: Apr. 7-11 International political economy and American hegemony Reading: (1) Text chapters 12 pp. 374-400 and 13 pp. 407-15. (2) Waltz. <u>Globalization and American Power.</u></p>
<p>Week 3: Feb. 3-7 Liberalism, Neoliberalism – prospects for cooperation. Reading: (1) Locke. <u>Second Treatise on Government.</u> (2) Kant. <u>Perpetual Peace.</u> (3) Puchala. <u>Building Peace out of the Pieces.</u></p>	<p>Week 10: Mar. 31-Apr. 4 Globalization and interstate cooperation Reading: (1) Text chapter 8 pp. 223-255 and chapter 12 pp. 368-74.</p>
<p>Week 4: Feb. 10-14 Marxism and Social Constructivism – class and identities Reading: (1) Dougherty pp. 428-37. (2) Christian Reus-Smit. <u>The Constitutional Structure of International Society..</u></p>	<p>Week 12: Apr. 14-18 Conflict, cooperation, and international orgs Reading: (1) Text chapters 9 and 10. (2) Huntington. <u>The Clash of Civilizations.</u></p>
<p>Part II: The History of International Relations.</p> <p>Week 5: Feb. 17-21 The emergence of state-centered theory and practice Reading: (1) Text chapter 2.</p>	<p>Week 13: Apr. 21-25 Human rights, democratization & global environment Reading: (1) Text chapter 14, 15. (2) Fukuyama. <u>The End of History.</u> (3) Brown. <u>We can Build a Sustainable Economy.</u></p>
<p>Week 5: Feb. 24-28 National security and The Cold War Reading: (1) Text chapter 4. (2) Campbell chapter 4.</p>	<p>Week 14: Apr. 28-May 2 United Nations Simulation Week Papers due at the week’s end</p>
<p>Week 6: Mar. 3-7 North-South relations – imperialism, colonialism, and race. Reading: (1) Text pp. 71-73. (2) Campbell chapter 3.</p>	<p>Week 15: May 5-9 MAY 5TH LAST CLASS – REVIEW DAY STUDY WEEK FINAL EXAM: May 9th, 8:30-10:30</p>
<p>Week 7: Mar. 10-14 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES.</p>	
<p>Week 8: Mar. 17-21 North-South relations continued MIDTERM REVIEW: 19/3 MIDTERM: 21/3</p>	