

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SYLLABUS, FALL 2003

Course: POLS 231-002  
Class Time: 8:40-9:30 MWF  
Classroom: MP 106

Instructor: Dr. Ross E. Burkhardt  
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Office Hours: 3:00-5:00 TThF,  
or by appointment

This course is designed as a general introduction to the politics of relationships between countries, groups of countries and nonstate actors such as (but not limited to) terrorists and multinational corporations. It is a required course for political science majors, and a designated Core Curriculum course. No prior political science courses are required to take this course. The goal of the course is to allow you to become an analyst of some expertise in the patterns of global politics: how countries came to their present international situation, and what the future may hold for global politics. Toward achieving that goal, a course objective is to understand the course material as organized into two theoretical perspectives (realism and idealism) and four major topical areas (foreign policy, economics, nonstate actors/globalization, and peace & war). The primary learning tools for the course will be lecture and discussion. You are responsible for any changes made to the syllabus. **This course is a Blackboard course. Please check Blackboard (blackboard.boisestate.edu) regularly for announcements regarding the course material and assignments.**

**Learning Outcomes:** After successfully completing this course, which involves participating in and listening to class discussions as well as completing the examinations and written assignments, you will have an enhanced ability to do the following in regard to the events, issues, and questions that surround the interactions of countries and nonstate participants:

- clearly identify, analyze and develop informed opinions;
- develop and present well reasoned, grammatically correct, written and spoken positions;
- recognize and understand the nature and importance of diverse cultural perspectives (including your own);
- reflect on and understand the meaning and importance of an informed, involved membership in a global community comprised of peoples with diverse values and views; and
- understand and use concepts from the study of international relations (such as foreign policy decision making or trade policy) that may be relevant and applicable in other political contexts (such as national, state, or local government).

### **Grade Assessment of Learning Outcomes:**

**Midterm Exams**, given on **September 19<sup>th</sup>, October 17<sup>th</sup>, and November 14<sup>th</sup>**, each worth 25% of the course grade

**Final Exam**, given on **Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am-10:00am**, worth 25% of the course grade

The exams will consist of a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions.

**Participation**, influential in borderline final grade cases

### **Required Books** (available at BSU Bookstore):

Kegley, Charles W., Jr., and Eugene R. Wittkopf. 2004. World Politics: Trend and Transformation. 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. Belmont CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

Ziegler, David W. 2000. War, Peace, and International Politics. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York: Longman.

**Topics** (no class on September 1<sup>st</sup>, November 26<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>)

1. Introduction

2. Important Global Political Questions: K&W ch. 1

3. Theories of International Relations: K&W ch. 2; Ziegler ch. 7

4. Foreign Policy Decision Making: K&W ch. 3; Ziegler chs. 1-2

**5. First Midterm Exam, September 19<sup>th</sup>**

6. Patterns of War and Peace: K&W chs. 4 (all) & 11 (pp. 403-423); Ziegler chs. 3-5

7. Development of and Inequality among Countries: K&W ch. 6

8. International Political Economy: K&W ch. 9

**9. Second Midterm Exam, October 17<sup>th</sup>**

10. International Collective Organization & Nonstate Actors: K&W ch. 5; Ziegler ch. 13, 17-18

11. Human Rights: K&W ch. 7

12. Globalization and the Environment: K&W chs. 8 (all) & 10 (pp. 368-395)

**13. Third Midterm Exam, November 14<sup>th</sup>**

14. Conventional and Nuclear Weaponry: K&W chs. 12 (all) & 13 (pp. 499-509); Ziegler ch. 14

15. Toward a Peaceful Realist World: K&W ch. 14

16. Toward a Peaceful Liberal World: K&W ch. 15; Ziegler chs. 12, 20

**17. Final Exam, Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am-10:00am**

**THAT'S ALL FOLKS!**

Here are some international relations-related websites (also consult the K&W book):

BBC World Service	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk">http://www.bbc.co.uk</a>
CNN World News	<a href="http://cnn.com/WORLD/index.html">http://cnn.com/WORLD/index.html</a>
Christian Science Monitor	<a href="http://www.csmonitor.com">http://www.csmonitor.com</a>
Economist	<a href="http://www.economist.com">http://www.economist.com</a>
European Union	<a href="http://europa.eu.int/">http://europa.eu.int/</a>
New York Times (free registration)	<a href="http://www.nytimes.com">http://www.nytimes.com</a>
United Nations	<a href="http://www.un.org/">http://www.un.org/</a>
World Factbook (information on all countries)	<a href="http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/">http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/</a>

**ONE FINAL NOTE: Section 1 of the Student Code of Conduct reads as follows:**

“Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable. The University functions to promote the cognitive and psychosocial development of all students. Therefore, all work submitted by a student must represent her/his own ideas, concepts, and current understanding. Academic dishonesty also includes submitting substantial portions of the same academic course work to more than one course for credit without prior permission of the instructor(s).”