

International Relations and Politics

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Rivier College
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Course Description

To study the behavior of nation-states in their relation with each other in view of providing an understanding of the causes of war and the conditions of peace.

To examine the role of nongovernmental organizations in international relations.

To teach students how to think about international politics in the late twentieth century.

To examine the consequences of the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

To provide the intellectual tools needed to analyze events and to gain a deeper understanding of some of the external and internal forces that nation-states confront and the reasons they act as they do.

To maintain a strong historical emphasis in order to demonstrate that analytical frameworks and concepts do not exist in a vacuum.

To examine the behavior not only of the advanced industrial nation-states but also of the developing countries.

To foster life-long habits of curiosity and capacity to learn.

To understand the requirements of effective citizenship in the community, nation-state, and the world.

To develop the ability to place oneself and one's society in historical, cultural, and global perspective.

To develop the ability to think critically.

To develop the capacity for precise and articulate communication .

Course Reading

Spanier, J., & Wendzel, R. (1996). *Games Nations Play*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.

MATERIALS ON RESERVE

Bell, D. (1996). The Future of Europe. In R. Jackson (Ed.), *Global Issues 96/97* (pp. 173-177). Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin Publishing Group.

Boutros-Ghali, B. (1995). Empowering the United Nations. In H. Purkitt (Ed.), *World Politics 95/96* (pp. 231-236). Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin Publishing Group.

Brecher, J. (1995). Global Village or Global Pillage? In H. Purkitt (Ed.), *World Politics 95/96* (pp. 182-185). Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin Publishing Group.

Cohen, R. (1995). A Realignment Made Reluctantly. In H. Purkitt (Ed.), *World Politics 95/96* (pp. 180-181). Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin Publishing Group.

Kirschten, D. (1996). Midlife Crisis. In R. Jackson (Ed.), *Global Issues 96/97* (pp. 226-230). Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin Publishing Group.

Klare, M. (1996). The New Challenges to Global Security. In R. Jackson (Ed.), *Global Issues 96/97* (pp. 198-204). Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin Publishing Group.

Levy, J. (1992). The Causes of War: Contenting Theories. In C. Kegley, & E. Wittkopf (Eds.), *The Global Agenda* (pp. 61-71). New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc.

Mearsheimer, J. (1990, August). Why We Will Soon Miss The Cold War. *The Atlantic Monthly*, pp. 35-50.

Pitroda, S. (1996). From GATT to WTO. In R. Jackson (Ed.), *Global Issues 96/97* (pp. 231-234). Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin Publishing Group.

Rosecrance, R. (1992). Force or Trade: The Costs and Benefits of Two Paths to Global Influence. In C. Kegley, & E. Wittkopf (Eds.), *The Global Agenda* (pp. 22-32). New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc.

Westoff, C. (1996). International Population Policy. In R. Jackson (Ed.), *Global Issues 96/97* (pp. 45-50). Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin Publishing Group.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance - Regular attendance is required of all students. Since the course will be taught using a combined lecture-discussion format, your attendance is expected.

2. Students are expected to follow the news and pay attention to what is happening around the world. Students are also expected to meaningfully participate in class discussions by asking and answering questions, and by commenting on the material read for class. Coming to class does not constitute class participation.

3. Exams - Two exams will be given as scheduled on this syllabus. A student who misses a scheduled exam must receive permission from the instructor to take a make-up exam. All exams, including the final, are essay exams.

4. Research paper - Students are required to write a 10-page research paper on a topic related to the course and make a ten minute presentation before the class. Students are expected to discuss their thesis with the instructor and use a minimum of ten sources.

Your paper should be typed, titled, and follow standard academic format. In documenting sources students are expected to follow the MLA or the APA format.

5. Oral presentation - Students are required to make a ten minute oral presentation based on the research paper. The students are expected to present their thesis and their findings.

6. Final exam - Students are required to take a final exam which will be cumulative.

Course Schedule

First Week: Thinking About International Politics, Ch.I

Second Week: The Three Levels of Analysis, Ch.2
The Players: States and Other Actors, Ch.3
The Stakes: The Actors' Objectives, Ch.4

Third Week: International Politics and the Security Game, Ch.5
The Ability to Play: Calculating Power, Ch.6

Fourth Week: The Changing International System, Ch.7
National Style in Foreign Policy, Ch.8

Fifth Week: Domestic Conditions and Foreign Policy, Ch.9
FIRST EXAM

Sixth Week: Discussion of Westoff's article The Games Policy Makers Play, Ch.10

Seventh Week: Foreign Policy: The Importance of Perception, Ch.11
Diplomacy, Ch.12

Eighth Week: Playing Militarily, Ch.13
Discussion of Levy's article
Economic Tools and Techniques, Ch.14

Ninth Week: International Trade and Interdependence, Ch.15
Discussion of Rosecrance's article
Discussion of Cohen's and Brecher's articles
Discussion of Pitroda's article

Tenth Week: Changing the Rules of the Game, Ch.16
SECOND EXAM

Eleventh Week: Peace Through International Organization, Law, and Morality, Ch.17
Discussion of Boutros-Ghali's article
Discussion of Kirschten's article

Twelfth Week: Peace Through Changing the Games Nations Play, Ch.18
Discussion of Bell's article

Thirteenth Week: The Environment and Interdependence, Ch.19
Violence in the Post-Cold War World, Ch.20
Discussion of Mearsheimer's article
Discussion of Klare's article

Fourteenth Week Class presentations

Fifteenth Week Class presentations

Sixteenth Week Final exams