

**Introduction to International Relations**  
**DePaul University**  
**Department of Political Science**

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PSC 140, Sec 102

Autumn Quarter 2018

Arts and Ltrs Hall, Rm 414

Tues/Thurs, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

**Course Description:**

This course examines the evolution of the international state-system, its basic dynamics, and the key issues facing state actors today. The first part of the course will focus on the theoretical approaches to understanding the nature of international relations, with a particular emphasis upon the two dominant paradigms (realism and liberalism). The second part of the class will examine the historical context of international politics, and the dominant features of the state system as it evolved over the past century and a half. In the last part of the course, we will turn toward a discussion of the continuing issues and challenges that define the present era.

**Course Requirements:**

Each student is expected to read the assigned material before class and to be prepared to discuss its contents each week. Class attendance and participation is mandatory, and will comprise 10 percent of your grade. Those missing over 50 percent of the class meetings will fail the course. Periodic quizzes on the assigned reading will also be included in your participation grade. There will be a mid-term exam (worth 40%), and a final exam (worth 40%).

There is also one short paper assignment, a reflection on any four films, documentaries or public events of your choosing that relate to the course. The paper (4 - 5 pages, double spaced) should identify these events/films, discuss their primary themes, their connection to the course material, and offer your comments on them. *For more information on this assignment – including a list of suggested films and documentaries - see the course D2L website under 'Assignments.'* All papers must be submitted via the course D2L website, and are due by the end of exam week.

**Required Reading**

The textbook listed below can be purchased at the college bookstore or any on-line outlet. Articles designated by an asterisk (\*) are available on the D2L course website. All articles can also be found through the library's on-line resources. Articles and material listed under the heading '*Additional Material*' are *NOT* required reading.

*Book to purchase:*

-Joseph Nye, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation: An Introduction to Theory and History* (Pearson/Longman Publishing), 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> Edition.

**Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the effort to pass someone else's work off as one's own. This includes turning in papers that you did not write, cutting and pasting material from the internet without proper citation, or turning in a paper that you purchased either on-line or from another source. Any paper submitted with plagiarized material will result in a failing grade for the assignment. More than one infraction will lead to your failing the course. For more on the University policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty, see the Student Handbook that is available on the DePaul University Website.

**Learning Disabilities:** For students with learning disabilities, please contact me at the beginning of the course. The school has a clear policy on this issue, and I am happy to accommodate students with legitimate needs. All conversations along these lines will remain confidential. You should also be in touch with the CSD Program office, which is located in the Student Center, Room 370.

**Technology:** The operation of cell phones, tablets and laptop computers are prohibited during our class meetings without prior permission from the instructor.

## Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

### **PART I: Interpreting the World**

#### **Week 1: Introduction (September 6)**

##### Class 1: Introduction

#### **Week 2: Key Ideas and Concepts (September 11, 13)**

##### Class 1: Anarchy, Conflict and War

-Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*, pp. 47-62, 73-87 and 400-408.\*

##### Class 2: Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, et. al.

-Joseph Nye, *Understanding International Conflicts*, Chapter 2 (pp. 65 – 78 only).

-Kegley and Raymond, *The Global Future: A Brief Introduction to World Politics*, Chapter 2, pp. 26-46.\*

### **PART II: The Inter-State System**

#### **Week 3: The Evolution of the Inter-State System (September 18, 20)**

##### Class 1: Understanding the Interstate System

-Joseph Nye, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation*, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 (pp. 39 – 65 only).

##### Class 2: Balance of Power and the Origins of World War I

-Nye, *Understanding International Conflicts*, Chapter 3.

-David Calleo, *The German Problem Reconsidered*, Introduction only.\*

#### **Week 4: Geopolitics, the League of Nations and WWII (September 25, 27)**

##### Class 1 and 2: The Inter-War Period and World War II

-Nye, *Understanding International Conflicts* (2003) Chapter 4.

-Tuathail, et. al. (eds.), *The Geopolitics Reader*, pp. 13-25, 33-35 and 40-43 only.\*

-Scott Sagan, “The Origins of the Pacific War,” in *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* (Spring 1988).\*

##### *Additional Material:*

-Documentary Film: *The War of the World – episode 1, 3 & 4.*

#### **Week 5: The Cold War (October 2, 4)**

##### Class 1 and 2: The Cold War

-Joseph Nye, *Understanding International Conflicts*, Chapter 5.

-George Kennan, “Sources of Soviet Conduct,” *Foreign Affairs* (July 1947).

-Thomas Powers, “Who Won the Cold War?” *The New York Review of Books*, June 20, 1996.\*

-Vladimir Sorkin, “On Hearing ‘Whole Lotta Love’ for the First Time in Moscow,” *International Herald Tribune*, March 11, 2011.\*

##### *Additional Material:*

-Film: *Dr. Strangelove*

- Film: *Fail Safe*
- Film: *War of the World, Episode 5*

## **Week 6: Midterm Exam (October 9, 11)**

### Class 1: End of the Cold War

- Michael Mandelbaum, “Coup de Grace: The End of the Soviet Union,” *Foreign Affairs*, Winter 1991/92.\*
- Dan Deudney and John Ikenberry, “Who Won the Cold War?” *Foreign Policy*, Sum 1992.\*
- John Tirman, “How We Ended the Cold War,” *The Nation*, December 1, 1999.

### Class 2: Midterm Exam

## **Part III: Contemporary Issues:**

## **Week 7: Democracy, Globalization and the New World Order (October 16, 18)**

### Class 1: The Globalization and the Demise of the Nation State?

- Joseph Nye, *Understanding International Conflicts*, Chapter 8 (focus on pp. 298 – 319).
- Thomas Friedman, “A Manifesto for the Fast World,” *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*, March 28, 1999.\*
- Jeff Madrick, “Our Misplaced Faith in Free Trade,” *The New York Times*, October 3, 2014.\*

### Class 2: The Promise of Democracy?

- Summary of Democratic Peace, Appendix Rand Report.\*
- Fareed Zakaria, “The Rise of Illiberal Democracy,” *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 1997.\*

## **Week 8: Ethnic Conflict, Failed States and Intervention (October 23, 25)**

### Class 1: Managing Conflict in Post-Cold War Era

- Nye, *Understanding International Conflicts*, Chapter 6.
- Robert Kaplan, “The Coming Anarchy,” *Atlantic Monthly*, February 1994.\*
- Ethan Kapstein, “The New Global Slave Trade,” *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/December 2006.\*

### Class 2: Human Rights, International Law and Humanitarian Intervention

- “What are Human Rights” and “International Human Rights Law” on United Nations website (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights).\*
- John Jancevic, Humanitarian Intervention.\*
- Ezra Klein, *The Syrian Civil War Explained*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKb9GVU8bHE>
- Michael Aarons, “Syria and the Crisis of Humanitarian Intervention,” *E-International Relations*, Feb 2014.\*

### *Additional Material*

- Frontline Documentary: *Trafficked in America*
- Frontline Documentary: *On Our Watch (Genocide in Darfur)*.\*
- Documentary Film: *Ghosts of Rwanda*.
- Film: *Lord of War*

## **Week 9: America's War on Terror (October 30, November 1)**

### Class 1: 9/11, the War on Terror and Iraq

- Jeffrey Record, "The Bush Doctrine and War with Iraq," *Parameters* (2003).\*
- John Ikenberry, "America's Imperial Ambition, *Foreign Affairs* (Sept/Oct 2002).\*
- Francis Fukuyama, "After Neoconservatism," *The New York Times*, February 2006.\*

### Class 2: Obama's War on Terror

- Max Fisher, The Rise of ISIS, VOX Video –  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzmO6RWy1v8>
- Barack Obama, "We Will Degrade and Ultimately Destroy ISIL," September 10, 2014.\*
- Peter Beinart, "How Obama Thinks About Terrorism," *The Atlantic Monthly*.\*
- Stephen Walt, "The Unbearable Lightness of America's War Against the Islamist State," *Foreign Policy*, December 2015.\*

### *Additional Material:*

- Frontline Documentary: *Bush's War and Bitter Rivals: Iran and Saudi Arabia*

## **Week 10: Challenges to International Order (November 6, 8)**

### Class 1: The Trump Era

- John Ikenberry, "The Plot Against American Foreign Policy," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2017.\*
- Eric Kaufman, "Good Fences Make Good Politics: Immigration and the Future of the West," *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2018.\*
- Stephen Walt, "The World Is Even Less Stable Than it Looks," *Foreign Policy*, June 26, 2017.\*
- Jake Sullivan, "The World After Trump," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2018.\*
- Adam Posen, "The Post-American World Economy," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2018.\*

### Class 2: New Threats?

- Graham Allison, "China vs. America," *Foreign Affairs*, Sept/Oct 2017.\*
- Ivo Daalder, "Responding to Russia's Resurgence," *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2017.\*
- Vali Nasr, "Iran Among the Ruins," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2018.\*

### *Additional Material:*

- Frontline Documentary: *Putin's Revenge*

## **Week 11: Summation and Review (November 13)**

- Ishaan Tharoor, "Trump, McCain and the Waning of the 'Liberal Order," The Washington Post, August 27, 2018.\*
- Pankaj Mishra, "The Religion of Whiteness Becomes a Suicide Cult," The New York Times, August 30, 2018.\*

Last Day of Classes for Autumn Quarter November 13.

Final Exam date: Thursday, November 15, 11:30 am to 1:45 pm

Papers due: Friday, November 15, 5:00 pm.