

World Politics

POLS 103.005

Fall 2008

Tuesday and Thursday, 1:40-2:55

Location: Lightsey Conference Center, B 08

Professor: Dr. Kea Gorden

gordenk@cofc.edu

Office Phone Number: 843-953-7858

Office Hours: Mondays 1-2:30, Tuesdays 3:30-4:30, by
appointment

Office Location: 114 Wentworth St., Room 205

Note: syllabus subject to revision

Course Description and Learning Objective

This course serves as an introduction to world politics and international relations. We shall examine the theoretical perspectives that political scientists use to understand the conflicts and concerns of our contemporary global society. Increasingly, the classical approaches to understanding the politics of world affairs have come under scrutiny for their western-centered, heteronormative perspective, and this class will offer students the opportunity to consider alternative approaches. Therefore, we will be using a textbook written by two professors of international relations that offers a classical approach to world politics, and we will be buttressing this textbook with additional readings that will serve to complement and critique the textbook's style. Beyond critically examining the various means of analyzing world politics, this course will apply these theories to selected contemporary issues in global politics such as wars of intervention, ethnic conflict, globalization, and global environmental protection. We will examine the international institutions and organizations that have developed to address these challenges. The goal of this course is to encourage critical thinking skills through examining a range of perspectives that are applied to the study of world politics and international affairs. The course is designed to help students not only with their comprehension of this topic, but to develop their writing, speaking and research skills.

Required Readings

Joshua S. Goldstein & Jon C. Pevehouse, *International Relations, Brief Edition, 4/E*

Philip Gourevitch, *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda*

Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalization and Its Discontents*

Additional Readings are available via E-Reserve and online.
New York Times (Mon. - Fri. Paper or Online)

Online scholarly journals will be used to access a number of readings. You will need a campus connection or web proxy to access these articles.

Assignments and Grading

During the session, there will be brief in-class writing assignments, one mid-term exam and one final paper. The final grade is based on the following combination: Attendance and Participation (20%), Mid-Term Exam (25%), and In-class Writing Assignments Papers (20%) and Final Paper (35%).

This class will include lectures, but will also rely heavily upon discussion and debate. More than two absences may result in a failing grade. Your active participation in class is required. This means that I expect you to have completed the readings that are due for class, and to bring discussion questions or comprehension questions with you to class. I will ask for these questions at the end of class, so be prepared to turn them in every class. The mid-term exam will take place in class on October 9th. It will include short-answers and a brief essay. The final paper will be due during finals week. However, I expect an outline or a rough-draft by November 25th. This paper is a research paper. Please refer to the Writing Guide composed by Professor Ronnie Lipschutz for citation and style advice. You are expected to use scholarly journals, articles from quality media sources such as the *Economist* or *The New York Times*, or books. Wikipedia is not a valid source. I want you to choose from the concepts that we will cover, many of which are listed in this syllabus, and apply that concept to a current event. I expect you to do more than summarize the topic. Rather, you are to choose an event in the news, or a specific empirical example from our class discussions, and critically apply the concepts (such as the problem of collective goods, or constructivism, or states of exception) to an analysis of the current event that you have chosen. I will give you more explicit instructions as we make our way into the semester. ***I want you all to come to my office hours sometime before November 20th to discuss your paper topic with me. You must have approval from me on your paper topic.

Honor System and Academic Integrity

Any breach of the College of Charleston Honor Code will result in a failing grade in this class. The following is taken from the College of Charleston website and can be found at
http://www.cofc.edu/StudentAffairs/general_info/honor_system/faculty_guide.html

Honor Code

The Honor Code specifically forbids lying, cheating, attempted cheating, stealing, attempted stealing and plagiarism. Students at the College are bound by honor and by their acceptance of admission to the College to abide by the Code and to report violations.

Code of Conduct

As members of the College community, students are expected to evidence a high standard of personal conduct and to respect the rights of other students, faculty, staff members, community neighbors, and visitors on campus. Students are also expected to adhere to all federal, state, and local laws.

Faculty members are required to report violations of the Honor Code or Code of Conduct to the Office of Student Affairs.

Disability Statement

If there is a student in this class who has a documented disability and has been approved to receive accommodations through the Center for Disability Services/SNAP (Student Needing Access Parity), please come and discuss this with me during my office hours.

Course Outline (subject to change)

Week 1, August 26 and 28: Thinking About Our Study of Global Politics

Introductory Concepts: Actors in Global Politics, Levels of Analysis (Individuals, States, and the International System), Collective Goods Problems

Required Readings: Goldstein, Ch. 1: The Globalization of International Relations Waltz, Kenneth, "Globalization and Governance," PS Online, Dec. 1999,

<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel.walglob.htm>

–Complete by Thursday, August 28

Lord of the Flies–Complete book by Tuesday, September 2

**Week 2, September 2 and 4: The Instruments of Statecraft
Film: Lord of the Flies**

Concepts: Anarchy, Power, Bargaining, Rationality, Strategies, Deterrence, Realism as **Required Readings:**
Selections from Social Contract Theory: Hobbes, **Leviathan**, Chapters 13 and 17 at
<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-c.html>

Goldstein, Chapter 2: Power Politics

Shaw, Karena. "Knowledge, Foundation, Politics."
International Studies Review (2004) 6, Issue 4, p. 7-20.
Available via College of Charleston Online Journals.
-Due Thursday, September 4

Week 3, September 9 and 11: Deconstructing Realism (and its neo-conservative version)

Empirical Study: The Bush Doctrine and the Project for the New American Century

Required Readings:

<http://www.newamericancentury.org/defense-20020130.htm> and
<http://www.newamericancentury.org/statementofprinciples.htm>

Agathangelou, Anna M. and L. H. M. Ling, "Power and Play through Poisies:

Reconstructing Self and Other in the 9/11 Commission Report."

Journal of International Studies, 2005. Vol.33, No.3, pp. 827-853. Available via E-Reserve

Week 3, September 16 and 18: Liberalism and Marxism

Concepts: Rationality, Collective Goods, International Regimes, Free Trade, Hegemony, Class, Global Capitalism, Transnational Elites, Multinational Corporations

Required Readings: Goldstein - Chapter 3: Alternatives to Power Politics, Stiglitz, Chs. 1-3: The Promise of Global Institutions, Broken Promises, and the Freedom to Choose

Week 4, September 23 and 25: Critical Theory, Constructivism, and Feminism

Concepts: Critical Theory, Constructivism, Alternate Views of Human Nature and Power, Feminist Theorists of IR

Required Readings: Agathangelou, Anna and L.H. Ling. "The House of IR: From Family Power Politics to the Poisies of Worldism." *International Studies Review* (2004) 6, p 21-49. Available via College of Charleston Online Journals.

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. "Under Western Eyes Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. (2002)

28.2, pp 499-535. Available via College of Charleston Online Journals.

Week 6, September 30 and October 2: Insecurity, Conflict, War

Concepts: The Causes of War, Theories about War, Territorial Disputes, Economic Conflict, Ethnic Conflict, Religious Conflict, Ideological Conflict, Types of War, Terrorism, Managing Insecurity, Configuring Forces, Conventional Forces, Nuclear Weapons, Chemical and Biological Weapons, Proliferation and Arms Control

Empirical Study: Nuclear Weapons in Iran and North Korea

Required Readings: Goldstein, Ch. 4: Conflict, War, and Terrorism

Young, Iris Marion. "The Logic of Masculinist Protection: Reflections on the Current Security State." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* (Autumn 2003) 29, 1, p 1-25.

Week 7, October 7 and 9: Foreign Policymaking

Concepts: Models of Decision Making. Individual Decision Makers. Group Dynamics, Substate actors, Bureaucracies, Interest Groups, the Military-Industrial Complex, Public Opinion, Legislatures, Democracy and Foreign Policy, Interaction Between Domestic and Foreign Policy

Empirical Study: Public Opinion and the War in Iraq

Required Readings: Deborah A. Stone, "Causal Stories and the Formation of Policy Agendas," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 104, No. 2 (Summer, 1989), pp. 281-300.

Available via College of Charleston Online Journals.

MID-TERM IN CLASS on OCTOBER 9th

Week 8, October 16: Global Governance and International Law

Concepts: The Evolution of World Order, International Norms and Morality,

Intergovernmental Organizations (UN, EU, NATO), Nongovernmental Organizations,

Treaties and Customary Law, Enforcement of International Law, the

World Court, International Cases in National Courts, Laws of Diplomacy, War Crimes.

Empirical Studies: Wars in the Balkans, Genocide in Rwanda

Required Readings: Goldstein, Ch. 6: International Organization, Law, and Human Rights, Gourevitch, Chapters 1-11.

Week 9, October 21 and 23: Global Governance (continued)

Film Clip: PBS Frontline on Rwanda

Required Readings: Gourevitch, Chapters 12-22. Patricia V. Sellers, "Sexual Violence and Peremptory Norms: The Legal Value of Rape," *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 34, #3 (Summer 2002): pp 287-303. Available via College of Charleston Online Journals.

Week 10, October 28 and 30: States of Exception, Humane Interventions

Concepts: War as State Expansion Mechanism, Human Rights, Issues of Sovereignty

Required Readings: Agamben, Giorgio, "A Brief History of the State of Exception," pp. 11-22 in *State of Exception* (Chicago, 2004). Available at

<http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/009254.html>

Week 11, November 4 and 6: International Trade, the Global Economy and Power Relations

Concepts: Liberalism and Mercantilism, Comparative Advantage, Balance of Trade, Interdependence, Autarky, Trade Regimes, The World Trade Organization, Resistance to Trade, Bilateral and Regional Agreements, International Currency Exchange, Central Banks, The World Bank and the IMF, Multinational Corporations, Foreign Direct Investment.

Empirical Study: The Free Market and Corruption in Russia

Required Readings: Goldstein, Ch. 5: Trade and Money, Stiglitz, Chs. 4-6: The East Asia Crisis, How IMF Policies Brought the World to the Verge of Global Meltdown and Who Lost Russia, and Unfair Trade Laws and Other Mischief

Week 12, November 11 and 13: Globalization in Perspective

Concepts: Gendered Relations of Globalization, International Political Economies, Politics of Capitalist Development

Required Readings: Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. "Women Workers and Capitalist Scripts: Ideologies of Domination, Common Interests, and the Politics of Solidarity." *Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures*. Eds. M. Jacqui Alexander and Chandra Talpade Mohanty. New York: Routledge, 1997. Pp 3-29. Available via E-Reserve.

Agathangelou, Anna. "Sexing' Globalization in International Relations: Migrant Sex and Domestic Workers in Cyprus, Greece and Turkey." In *Power, Postcolonialism, and International Relations: reading race, gender, and class*. Eds. Geeta Chowdhry and Sheila Nair. London; New York: Routledge, 2002. Pp. 142-169. Available via E-Reserve.

Week 13, November 18 and 20: Globalization in Perspective (continued)

Required Readings: Chowdhry, Geeta. "Postcolonial Interrogations of Child Labor: Human Rights, Carpet Trade, and Rugmark in India." In Chowdhry and Nair. Pp. 225-253. Available via E-Reserve.
Film: Life and Debt

Week 14, November 25: International Development

Concepts: Poverty, Imperialism, Postcolonial Dependency, World Hunger, Gendered Development, Newly Industrializing Countries, Corruption, Third World Debt, IMF Conditionality, Interdependence and the Environment. Sustainable Economic Development, International Security and the Environment
Empirical Study: Democracy and Capitalism in the "Developing" World: Does a Rising Tide Lift All Boats?
Readings: Goldstein, Chs. 7-8: North-South Relations & Environment and Technology

Week 15, December 2 and 4: International Development (continued)

Required Readings: Stiglitz, Chs. 7-9: Better Roads to the Market, the IMF's Other Agenda, and the Way Ahead

Final: PAPER DUE DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED.