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Diplomacy Syllabi

Fall 2001

International Relations

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

DIPL 1711

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-3:45 pm or by appointment

Fall 2001
M/W 2:30-3:45 pm
Fahy 103

Course Description and Objectives

This course will examine the basic dynamics of international relations. It will explore how the countries and peoples of the world interact in this era of increasing global interdependence. Students will investigate both the roots of international conflict and the potential for international cooperation. These efforts will provide students with the ability to analyze and evaluate current international politics in a more thoughtful and comprehensive manner.

The course will begin with an overview of the basic structures, processes, and actors of the contemporary international system. It will also introduce important concepts in world politics such as power, anarchy, sovereignty, peace, security, conflict, and cooperation. In addition, it will consider how these basic features of international relations have evolved over time. With this background information in hand, students will investigate the politics associated with addressing different global problems such as war, weapons proliferation, arms control, nationalism, economic development, trade, human rights, and the environment. In the case of each issue covered in class, students will be challenged to consider the potential for both conflict and cooperation between countries.

Students must be prepared to complete the assigned readings before class each day so that they may actively and effectively participate in class discussion. This preparation will also enable each student to develop their own perspectives on the complex issues that will be addressed. In addition, students will have the opportunity to learn from each other through a series of group activities.

Course Materials

One textbook has been ordered for this class at the Seton Hall bookstore:

Dynamics of International Relations by Walter C. Clemens, Jr. Rowman & Littlefield, 1998.

In addition, students are required to closely follow current events throughout the semester. In order to accomplish this, students should plan on spending about 30 minutes every day reading a newspaper that provides thorough coverage of international news (such as the *New York Times*). Students may obtain access to many high quality papers on the internet or read them in Walsh Library.

Student Responsibilities

Class Participation (20% of course grade): Students are required to do the assigned reading before class and to participate in class discussion on a regular basis. The quality of class sessions is greatly enhanced when students are prepared to engage the course material in a constructive fashion.

As part of the course, students will be divided into groups. Each group will offer a strategy for addressing a current international conflict that they select. Groups will be formed on the first day of class and cases must be selected by Wednesday, September 19th. The groups will present their findings to the class late in the semester making sure to cover the information contained in both of the individual papers described below. The presentations will last about 30 minutes and each group should provide a short handout to the class. Students will also be required to ask questions of other groups. The presentations will take place November 26th & 28th and December 3rd & 5th.

Midterm Exam (20% of course grade): The midterm will be a combination of geography identification questions and short answer questions covering the course material. Study questions (including a list of countries) will be provided. It is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10th.

Paper One (20% of course grade): Students will write a background paper of about five pages on the international crisis their group selected. They should be sure to describe the current situation (including what actors are involved and what their interests are) and give relevant background information on when and how the crisis developed. Library research will be required and students must cite all ideas and arguments which are not their own. The papers will be due Wednesday, October 17th.

Paper Two (20% of course grade): Students will write a second paper on their case, this time developing a strategy to resolve the crisis using the concepts covered in class. In designing the strategy, be sure to consider all of the different dimensions to the conflict. Again the papers should be about five pages long, library research will be required, and students must cite all ideas and arguments which are not their own. These papers are due at the time of their group's presentation (11/26, 11/28, 12/3, or 12/5).

Final Exam (20% of course grade): The final will be an essay exam which will ask the students to integrate what they have learned across the semester. Study questions will be provided and students will have a choice of questions on the exam. It is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12th, during the last session of class.

Please Note: The Penalty for late work in this class is one-half letter grade per day.

COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS

Sept 10	Introduction (select groups)
Sept 12	Key Concepts Clemens chapter 1
Sept 17	Conflict and Cooperation Clemens chapter 2
Sept 19	Power (case selection deadline) Clemens chapter 5
Sept 24	Foreign Policy Clemens chapter 3
Sept 26	Violence and War Clemens chapter 4
Oct 1	Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict Clemens chapter 8
Oct 3	Negotiation Clemens chapter 7
Oct 8	Intervention Clemens chapter 9
Oct 10	MIDTERM
Oct 15	International Organizations – part 1 Clemens chapter 15
Oct 17	International Organizations – part 2 (first papers due) No new reading – focus on finishing your papers.
Oct 22	The Global Economy – part 1 Clemens chapter 11
Oct 24	The Global Economy – part 2 Clemens chapter 12

Oct 29	Political and Economic Transitions – part 1 Clemens chapter 10
Oct 31	Political and Economic Transitions – part 2 Clemens chapter 13
Nov 5	Security and Disarmament Clemens chapter 6
Nov 7	Human Rights Clemens chapter 16
Nov 12	The Environment Clemens chapter 14
Nov 14	The Future of International Relations Clemens chapter 17
Nov 19	Group Work No new reading – focus on finishing your papers and preparing your presentations.
Nov 21	Thanksgiving Break – No Class
Nov 26	Group 1 – Presentation and Second Papers Due No new reading – be ready to ask questions of other groups.
Nov 28	Group 2 – Presentation and Second Papers Due No new reading – be ready to ask questions of other groups.
Dec 3	Group 3 – Presentation and Second Papers Due No new reading – be ready to ask questions of other groups.
Dec 5	Group 4 – Presentation and Second Papers Due No new reading – be ready to ask questions of other groups.
Dec 10	Conclusions and Review No new reading – look over the final exam study guide.
Dec 12	FINAL EXAM