

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Time: Monday through Friday; 1230pm to 315pm

Place: Student Learning Center 214

Professor: Dr. Brock F. Tessman

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Office: 328 Candler Hall

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday; 330pm to 430pm, or by appointment

COURSE SUMMARY

This course serves as the foundation for your study of international relations. During the semester, we will address a number of crucial questions:

- What are the major theoretical approaches in this field of study?
- How is “power” defined in the 21st Century?
- Why do countries go to war when the human and economic costs are so high?
- How influential are international organizations like the United Nations?
- Is globalization a positive or negative force in less developed countries?

Beyond addressing specific questions, your first and most important task is to develop a strong *analytical* and *theoretical* background that will allow you to intelligently assess a wide range of developments in the world around you. In addition, you will be asked to participate in a complex international relations simulation during the final few days of this term. In this active learning exercise, you will take on a leadership position within a country, and then work with team members to ensure that your country survives and prospers in a fictitious international system called *Politica*.

BOOKS

- Bruce Russett, Harvey Starr and David Kinsella (2006) *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*. (8th Edition) London: Thomson Wadsworth.
- Brock F. Tesson (2007) *International Relations in Action: A World Politics Simulation*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Any additional assigned readings will be made available to you in hard copy, e-reserves or through an online source. There is a reasonable reading load for this course, so I expect that you will have read all assigned pages before the date they are discussed in class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING COMPONENTS

Exam #1:	25 Percent	<i>Monday May 19th, 2008</i>
Exam #2:	25 Percent	<i>Tuesday May 27th, 2008</i>
Exam #3:	25 Percent	<i>Wednesday June 4th, 2008</i>
Simulation:	15 Percent	
Participation:	10 Percent	

GRADING SCALE

98.00 to 100.00	= A+	78.00 to 79.99	= C+
92.00 to 97.99	= A	72.00 to 77.99	= C
90.00 to 91.99	= A-	70.00 to 71.99	= C-
88.00 to 89.99	= B+	68.00 to 69.99	= D+
82.00 to 87.99	= B	62.00 to 67.99	= D
80.00 to 81.99	= B-	60.00 to 61.99	= D-
Below 60.00	= F		

Participation is defined by classroom attendance and contribution during discussions. You will start with a 100% participation grade, but you will lose 5% for each unexcused absence. I will take attendance every day; there aren't very many class meetings, so you need to make every one count! The exams will take place in class and will only last for 50 minutes. They will be comprised of a mix of identification questions and short essay prompts. There is no paper assigned for this course, so the exams are a great way to show off your reading comprehension and also your ability to formulate a coherent and persuasive written argument. Details about the *International Relations in Action* Simulation will be discussed as we move through the term.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Make-up examinations are only offered for university-excused absences. Please contact me during the first week of the term if you have a conflict that will prevent you from taking an exam in class on the scheduled date.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in a “Culture of Honesty.” All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Don’t cheat; if you get caught you could very well fail the course and be subjected to the harshest penalty offered by the university.

The University of Georgia seeks to provide students with disabilities the opportunity to fully participate in educational programs and services. In keeping with this philosophy, it is University policy that students with documented disabilities receive reasonable accommodations through access to classroom information. If you require special accommodations because of a university-documented condition, please contact me during the first two weeks of the semester and we can work with the Disability Resource Center in order to achieve a positive outcome.

COURSE OVERVIEW

(Important: This schedule is for planning purposes only and is subject to change)

(Tuesday) 05.13.2008: Introduction and Theory

RSK (CH 1): World Politics: Levels of Analysis, Choice, and Constraint. (pp. 1-26)

RSK (CH 2): Thinking about World Politics: Theory and Reality. (pp. 27-48)

(Wednesday) 05.14.2008: Realism: Foundation of International Relations

Thucydides: “The Melian Dialogue” (see WebCT)

Hobbes: “Leviathan, Chapter 13” (see WebCT)

Morgenthau: “Six Principles of Political Realism” (see WebCT)

Waltz: “Structural Realism after the Cold War” (see WebCT)

(Thursday) 05.15.2008: Liberalism: A (Slightly) Different Perspective

Rousseau: “The Origins of Inequality, Part I” (see WebCT)

Kant: “Perpetual Peace” (see WebCT)

Wilson: “Fourteen Points” (see WebCT)

Keohane and Nye: “Power and Interdependence” (see WebCT)

(Friday) 05.16.2008: Alternative Theories of IR

Lenin: “Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism” (see WebCT)

Tickner: “Feminism and IR Theory” (see WebCT)

Copeland: “The Constructivist Challenge to Structural Realism” (See WebCT)

(Monday) 05.19.2008: Exam #1 and Movie: Fog of War

No Reading; Study!

(Tuesday) 05.20.2008: Players and Power

RSK (CH 3): International Actors: States and Other Players on the World Stage. (pp. 49-72)

RSK (CH 4): The World System: International Structure and Polarity. (pp. 73-101)

RSK (CH 5): Relations between States: Power and Influence. (pp. 102-132)

(Wednesday) 05.21.2008: Foreign Policy Decision Making

RSK (CH 6): Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy: Society and Polity. (pp. 133-162)

RSK (CH 7): Individuals and World Politics: Roles, Perceptions, and Decision Making. (pp. 163-192)

(Thursday) 05.22.2008: Conflict and Strategy

RSK (CH 8): Military Conflict: Why States and Other Actors Resort to Force. (pp. 193-229)

(Friday) 05.23.2008: Other Challenges to International Security

RSK (CH 9): The Security Dilemma: Armament and Disarmament. (pp. 230-267)

RSK (CH 12): Political Economy of National Security and Defense. (pp. 341-376)

(Tuesday) 05.27.2008: Exam #2 and Movie: Hotel Rwanda

No Reading; Study!

(Wednesday) 05.28.2008: International Organization and Law

RSK (CH 10): International Law and Organization. (pp. 268-307)

RSK (CH 11): Causes of Peace and Nonviolent Transformation. (pp. 308-340)

(Thursday) 05.29.2008: Trade, Globalization and Development

RSK (CH 13): Interdependence and Economic Order. (pp. 377-409)

RSK (CH 14): Regional Economic Integration and Globalization. (pp. 410-443)

RSK (CH 15): Development and Underdevelopment: the North-south Gap. (pp. 444-476)

(Friday) 05.30.2008: MEET IN GROUPS! IR in Action: Organizational Meetings

IR in Action (pp. 1-35)

(Monday) 06.02.2008: Emerging Challenges, Global Futures and IR in Action Turn 1

RSK (CH 16): Limits of Sovereignty: Humanity and the Commons. (pp. 477-511)

RSK (CH 17): Which Global Future? (pp. 512-520)

IR in Action (pp. 39-67)

(Tuesday) 06.03.2008: IR in Action Turns 2 and 3

IR in Action (pp. 71-129)

(Wednesday) 06.04.2008: Exam #3 and Simulation Debriefing

No Reading; Study!