

SYLLABUS
POLS 1335: WORLD POLITICS
Department of Political Science
University of Houston
Fall Semester 2008
T-TH 11:30-12:45
PGH 344

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Course description

Political Science 1335 provides students with a broad general introduction to the politics beyond the nation-state. It is designed both to offer a self-contained overview of current themes and issues in world politics as well as to equip students with concepts for further study in political science and international relations. A focus of the course will be to understand historical and contemporary events in world politics through different perspectives. By considering and weighing different arguments, we can gain a better understanding of the causes and (anticipated) consequences of developments in world affairs. The principle course textbook emphasizes the role of different perspectives by viewing history and current affairs through three lenses, realism, liberalism and the identity perspective.

The course is divided into two main sections, international security and international political economy. The salience of both of these areas for domestic politics and society in the United States and elsewhere has increased in recent years. While international affairs was primarily the purview of governments and business elites in years past, today the worldwide political and economic system directly affects the daily lives of people everywhere. Today, threats of global terrorism are foremost in the news – this course will consider these threats in relation to more traditional security concerns emphasized in the study of international relations. Also, the world economy has now grown to the point where there are few aspects of the market which remain bounded by nation-states.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students will:

- gain an understanding of how social scientists make sense about international security and the international economy;
- become conversant on contemporary problems in the areas of international conflict, foreign policy making, trade and finance, international development, and the environment; and
- understand how international factors affect their everyday lives.

Course requirements and evaluation

- Do the assigned readings. Assigned readings should be completed *before* we discuss the topic in class. The general schedule of readings follows the calendar below. Any changes to reading assignments will be announced at least one week in advance.
- Attend class and participate in in-class discussions. Attendance in class two times a week is required. This class works best when there is some interaction between students and the instructor. I randomly take roll in class. Your grade can suffer from lack of attendance/participation. Attendance and participation are worth 5% of your final grade.

Also, a note about course lectures: in this course I use a variety of presentations,

including power-point, the board, discussions, and video. *You are responsible for information delivered in all these formats (not just the power-point slides!)*

- Complete 3 exams. Exams will be part multiple choice and part short essay. I will discuss the specific content of each exam in class before the exam dates listed in the schedule below. If you foresee problems with exam dates, see me during office hours, or contact me by phone or electronic mail **before** the assigned dates. Make-up exams will not be offered except in extremely rare circumstances. If you have an *unanticipated* emergency that causes you to miss the exam, contact me as soon as possible. If you foresee any absences for religious holy day observation, please contact the instructor in advance.
- Write one short (4 double-spaced page, 12 point font, 1-inch margin) reaction paper on the film *Thirteen Days*, which we will watch in class. I will distribute more information on the expectations for the reaction papers in class.

Your final grade will be composed of the following:

Exam 1	September 25	50 points	25%
Reaction paper on <i>Thirteen Days</i>	October 16	40 points	20%
Exam 2	October 30	50 points	25%
Exam 3	December 4	50 points	25%
Attendance and participation		<u>10 points</u>	<u>5%</u>
Total		200 points	100%

Final letter grades will be calculated using the following percentages:

93-100% = A	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+
90-92 = A-	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D
	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-

Other Course and University Policies

Academic honesty

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and observe the University of Houston's policies against cheating and plagiarism. The University's statement on academic honesty is available from the student handbook or at <http://www.uh.edu/dos/hdbk/acad/achonpol.html>.

Students with disabilities

The University of Houston is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for eligible students with disabilities, including students who have learning disabilities, health impairments, psychiatric disabilities, and/or other disabilities. If you believe you have a disability which requires accommodation, please contact the Center for Students with DisABILITIES (CSD) at 713-743-5400-voice or 713-749-1527 (TTY)

Cell phones, laptop computers, and other pieces of technology

Since they cause interruptions and distractions, cell phones should be turned off during class time. In particular, no cell phones may be accessible during exams. Also, students increasingly bring laptop computers to class – with the ostensible purpose of taking notes. I will continue to allow laptops in class for the sole purpose of taking notes. Surfing the web or email will not be tolerated – if you must do this in class, I advise you to drop the course.

Required books

The following required paperback books have been ordered for this course and are available are available for purchase at the University Bookstore, Rothers, or online (via amazon.com, etc):

Friedman, Thomas L. 2007. *The World is Flat* (Release 3.0). Picador. ISBN: 9780312425074

Sachs, Jeffrey D. 2005. *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*. Penguin. ISBN: 0143036580.

Stiles, Kendall W. 2007. *Case Histories in International Politics*, 5th edition. Pearson Longman. ISBN: 0205550568 (please use 5th edition)

Zakaria, Fareed. 2003. *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad*. WW Norton. ISBN: 0393324877 (book has been re-printed on a few occasions – any edition is fine).

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Exams

Readings should be done in the order listed. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of these changes. Date changes to readings and exams will be announced in class well in advance.

Week 1: Aug 26 (no class August 27 due to American Political Science Association meetings)

Topic: Course introduction

Read: No readings assigned

Week 2: Sept 2-4

Topic: The Levels of Analysis and theories of how politics on the world stage works

Read: Stiles case 2 "Sino-Soviet-American Relations: The Balance of Power"

Stiles case 3 "US role after the Cold War: National Interest"

Week 3: Sept 9-11

Topic: International Relations during the Cold War and Contemporary Era

Read: Stiles case 5 "The Persian Gulf War: Capabilities and Influence"

Start reading Zakaria, *The Future of Freedom*, pp. 13-270

Week 4: Sept 16-18

Topic: International Conflict, Traditional and Contemporary Bases

Read: Continue reading Zakaria, *The Future of Freedom*, pp. 13-270

Week 5: Sept 23-25

Topic: The Democratic Peace and the Effect of Domestic Regime on Prosperity and Cooperation

Read: none

EXAM 1: SEPTEMBER 25

Week 6: Sept 30-Oct 2

Topic: Foreign Policymaking: who and how

Read: Stiles case 4 "The Cuban Missile Crisis: Rationality"

Stiles case 7 "Vietnam Homefront: Public Opinion"

Week 7: Oct 7-9

Topic: Foreign Policymaking, continued.

Read: Stiles case 11 “US Interventionism: Strategic and Humanitarian Intervention”

Video: *Thirteen Days* (shown in class)

Week 8: Oct 14-16

Topic: International Organizations and Global Governance

Read: Stiles case 18 “Europe Uniting: Supranationalism”

Stiles case 17 “Regionalism in the Developing World”

“THIRTEEN DAYS” REACTION PAPER DUE: OCTOBER 16

Week 9: Oct 21-23

Topic: Introduction to the study of international political economy, discussion of Trade

Read: Start reading Friedman, *The World Is Flat*, pp. 51-232 and pp. 263-336

Week 10: Oct 28-30

Topic: Money and Finance

Read: Continue reading Friedman, *The World Is Flat*, pp. 51-232 and pp. 263-336

EXAM 2: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

Week 11: Nov 4-6

Topic: Globalization: Economic and Cultural Forms

Read: Friedman ch. 11, “How Companies Cope,” pp. 441-474.

Stiles case 16 “Sweatshops, Outsourcing, and Global Production: Globalization”

Video: “Commanding Heights” (in class)

Week 12: Nov 11-13

Topic: Globalization, continued; plus introduction to International Development

Read: Friedman, ch. 10, “The Virgin of Guadalupe,” pp. 403-440.

Start reading Sachs, *The End of Poverty*, chapters 1-11 (pp. 5-225) and chapter 16, pp. 309-328

Week 13: Nov 18-20

Topic: International Development

Read: Continue reading Sachs, *The End of Poverty*, chapters 1-11 (pp. 5-225) and chapter 16, pp. 309-328

Week 14 & 15: Nov 25, Dec 2-4 (no class on Thursday, November 27 for Thanksgiving holiday)

Topic: The Environment and Population pressures

Read: Stiles case 15 “The Kyoto Protocol: Collective Goods”

EXAM 3: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4