Government 3328: International Relations
The University of Texas at Dallas – Spring 2006
(Course/Call Number 12884)

Time: Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30-10:45 am
Location: CN 1.120

Instructor: Clint Peinhardt
Contact: clint.peinhardt@utdallas.edu
Office: 3.524 Green Hall (phone: 972-883-4955)
Hours: Monday 2-4 pm and by appointment

Course Overview

The readings and lectures in this course provide an introduction to the study of the cross-border interactions. Their primary purpose is to uncover patterns of behavior of international actors, such as countries, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and multinational corporations. Our laboratory for these behaviors is world history – particularly the last couple of hundred years – and so we will spend a good portion of the course studying that history with the expressed purpose of generalizing from it. In the laboratory, we will explore enduring questions, such as:

- Why do wars begin?
- Can international law achieve the same compliance as domestic laws?
- Who benefits from globalization (and who does not)?
- Can universal human rights be enforced?
- Is global warming really a threat?

Of course, most of these questions do not have easy answers, but we will review the best answers that have been proposed, and the existing evidence, even if we do not necessarily resolve the debates.

Overall Course Objectives

Students should emerge from this course with a greater understanding of international politics. That understanding should allow students to place current events within a larger historical framework and to estimate the importance of a given event. Students should also begin (or continue) to develop their own opinions about American foreign policy, international organizations, and other current issues, and they will be better able to articulate and support those opinions with historical evidence and logical structure.

Required Texts

Grades

The core requirements are as follows:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Throughout</td>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Throughout</td>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation *</td>
<td>25%</td>
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* Class participation includes, but is not limited to, (a) attendance, (b) participation in class, (c) participation in online discussion, and (d) think-pieces or other short writing assignments.

Policies and Procedures

Attendance, Preparation, and Participation

Students are expected to attend all lectures. Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester, via student sign-in. Students with poor attendance records will suffer penalties to participation grades. While lectures are designed to clarify and enhance your knowledge, they will not be avenues to pass the course in their own right. All students should prepare adequately for class discussions by reading the any necessary material before class.

Participation in discussions is just as important as attendance. Participation is also the avenue for demonstrating preparation. In addition to class participation, we will have an online discussion area, for which participation is also required (the web site is [http://webct.utdallas.edu/](http://webct.utdallas.edu/)). Each student should post reactions to the readings, to class discussions, and to posts from other students and/or the instructor. These posts will be evaluated on their contributions. While posts need not be long, they should be thoughtful and relevant to the topic.

To facilitate early and ongoing online discussion, the semester will be divided into three posting periods. Each student should post at least once during each period – this ensures a minimum of three (3) posts. Each post can earn up to ten points, but maximum awards will rarely be awarded for only one post. While there is no maximum number of posts during any one period, students should avoid commenting on every topic or posting without significant forethought. It is possible that more posts result in lower participation grades if the quality of the posts is poor.

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<tr>
<th>Period</th>
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<tr>
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<td>3/27</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
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**Communication**

I prefer email communication and will respond to most such correspondence within the next business day. However, please send email directly to clint.peinhardt@utdallas.edu rather than creating email within WebCT. I have the latter forwarded to my account, but the emails do not show your name and unless you have also autoforwarded your WebCT email, replying to sender usually fails to go to the right address. To make sure that you receive all official course notices, please forward your email to your university email account within WebCT (you must do this for each course individually: login to WebCT, go to the course, then to Mail, and then Message Settings). Also please note that university policy considers student email as authentic only if sent from your university address (not gmail, AOL, etc.).

**Make-up Exams & Grade Appeals**

Make-up exams will be rarely granted, only if prior arrangements have been made with the professor or in case of extreme emergency (proven through documentation). Anyone missing the midterm exam for any unexcused reason may choose to take a zero or replace that zero with the grade from the final exam.

Any student who wishes to challenge a grade on any written assignment in the course may challenge the grade by writing a memo specifying the grade you think you deserve and the logic supporting your request. Address that memo to me, and include the original assignment and evaluation. Appeals must be made within one week of receiving the graded assignment.

**Topics and Readings**

- **January 9**  
  Course Overview

- **January 11**  
  Introduction to World Politics – Spiegel Ch. 1

- **January 16**  
  Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – NO CLASS

- **January 18**  
  Levels of Analysis – Spiegel Ch. 2

- **January 23**  
  Levels of Analysis continued

- **January 25**  
  Introduction to IPE (Trade) – Chapter 3  
  Last Day to Drop without a “W”

- **January 30**  
  Introduction to IPE (Money)

- **February 1**  
  Barriers to Cooperation

- **February 6**  
  Origins of the Modern International System – Spiegel Ch. 4

- **February 8**  
  Origins continued
February 13 World War I and Interwar Period – Spiegel Ch. 5
February 15 World War II
February 20 The Cold War – Spiegel Ch. 6
February 22 The Cold War continued
February 27 Evolution of the World Economy – Spiegel Ch. 7

March 1 Midterm Exam
March 6-10 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
March 13 Globalization & Fragmentation – Spiegel Ch. 8
March 15 International Security (Security Dilemma, Deterrence) – Spiegel Ch. 9

March 16 Last Day to Drop with “WP” or “WF”
March 20 International Security (Terrorism)
March 22 The Global Economy (BW Institutions) – Spiegel Ch. 10
March 27 The Global Economy (Economic Blocs)
March 29 International Law and Organizations – Spiegel Ch. 11

April 5 The United Nations
April 10 Nongovernmental Organizations
April 12 Social Issues (Population, Migration, Food) – Spiegel Ch. 12
April 17 Social Issues (Energy Resources & Environment)
April 19 The Future of World Politics – Spiegel Ch. 13

April 24 In-class Final Exam

Note: since this is my first time using this book, topics may be moved around slightly, adding an extra lecture for some topics or reducing them for others. If you stay on track with the readings as outlined, you will be okay. If I move any chapters to earlier in the term, I will notify everyone via email (see Communication, above)