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SPRING SEMESTER, 2007
M, W, 15:45-17:00
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International Affairs

PL 209

Course description:

This course covers the concepts, the theory and the practice of international politics. The course analyses the main theoretical schools of international politics, the foreign policy players, and major conflicts. Current issues of war and peace will be discussed. Attention will be paid to the historical development of the international political system. Recent trends in globalization will be analysed. The class format will include lectures, discussion, presentations, and audiovisual materials. The students will be asked to do a small research project, utilizing information technology.

Course goals:

This course attempts to provide the student with a general understanding of international relations development, and transition processes in a global context. A major goal is to provide the student with the necessary tools to analyze international affairs. Priority is given to conceptualization of different phenomena and their historical development. Critical thinking and comparative analysis will be applied to achieve a clear understanding of the world's international affairs.

Required readings:

Kegley C.W., Wittkopf E.R., *World Politics. Trends and Transformation*. London, 2007. [International Student Edition].
Mingst K.A., *Essentials of International Relations*. Third Edition, New York, 2004.

Recommended readings:

Young J.W., Kent, J., *International Relations since 1945. A Global History*. Oxford, 2004.
Baylis J., Smith S., (ed.), *The Globalization of World Politics*. Third Edition, Oxford, 2005.

General readings:

Goldstrein J. S., *International Relations*. New York, 2001.

Course requirements:

Two in-class Exams (midterm exam and final exam).
A Final Paper (with a Portfolio).
A Presentation.
Regular attendance and participation in class.

Exams: Midterm and final exams have the same format. The exam has two parts of equal value. The first part is an essay, the student will choose one theme out of three proposed, and will write a well organized essay. The second part of the exam is made of ten terms to be concisely defined.

Program:

<u>Unit 1</u> (Jan. 22, 24)	Introduction. Methodology. Definitions. Exploring Twenty-first Century World Politics. (Kegley, p. 1 - 51; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 2</u> (Jan. 29, 31)	Foreign Policy Decision Making. The Emergence of the Modern State System. The Role of Leaders. (Kegley, p. 53 - 91; Mingst, p. 1 - 15; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 3</u> (Feb. 5, 7)	Great-Power Rivalries and Relations. The Quest for Great-Power Hegemony. WWI. WWII. The Cold War. (Kegley, p. 92 - 128; Mingst, p. 17 - 54; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 4</u> (Feb. 12, 14, 16)	The Global South in a World of Powers. Theoretical Explanations of Underdevelopment. (Kegley, p. 129 - 167; Mingst, p. 55 - 82; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 5</u> (Feb. 19, 21)	Nonstate Actors in the Interstate System. Intergovernmental Organizations. Nongovernmental Organizations. (Kegley, p. 168 - 217; Mingst, p. 83 - 99; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 6</u> (Feb. 26, 28, Mar. 2)	Humanitarian Challenges and the protection of Human rights. The Global Refugees Crisis. International Ethics. (Kegley, p. 219 - 256; Mingst, p. 101 - 135; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 7</u> (Mar. 5, 7*)	Globalization and the Prospects for Global Governance. Globalization and the State. (Kegley, p. 257 - 299; assigned readings) * MIDTERM EXAM
<u>Unit 8</u> (Mar. 12, 14)	Markets and Money in the Global Political Economy. The Changing Free-Trade Regime. Global Economy. (Kegley, p. 300 - 344; Mingst, p. 137 - 157; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 9</u> (Mar. 26, 28)	Population Pressure, Resource Depletion. Preservation of the Global Environment. Ecopolitics and Sustainability. (Kegley, p. 345 - 395; Mingst, p. 159 - 195; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 10</u> (Apr. 2, 4)	The Face of Twenty-first Century Armed Conflict. Continuity and Change. Terrorism. (Kegley, p. 396 - 443; Mingst, p. 197 - 231; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 11</u> (Apr. 11)	Military Power, Coercive Diplomacy, and National Security. Power in International Politics. (Kegley, p. 444 - 501; Mingst, p. 233 - 272; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 12</u> (Apr. 16, 18)	The Realist Road to Security through Alliances, Arms Control, and the Balance of Power. (Kegley, p. 502 - 534; Mingst, p. 273 - 314; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 13</u> (Apr. 23)	The Liberal Institutional Paths to Peace. International Law and World Order. Political Integration. (Kegley, p. 535 - 578; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 14</u> (Apr. 30, May 2*)	Twenty-Fist-Century Global Prospects. Conclusions. Review. (Kegley, p. 579 - 608; assigned readings) * FINAL PAPER *PORTFOLIO *WRITTEN PRESENTATION
(May 5 - 11, tba*)	* FINAL EXAM

Final paper: The final paper (3,000 words) will be on any topic of the student's choice related to the class program. The topic should be precisely defined and worthy of investigation. **Portfolio:** In order to produce their final papers, students will keep a portfolio of research materials during the semester. The portfolio will be shared with, and evaluated by the instructor. The production of the final paper is a work in progress during the semester. The portfolio and the paper project are progressive steps toward completion of the final paper.

Final paper format:

Cover page - title, student's name, course name, instructor's name, semester, year.

Text pages - a well organized research paper with an introduction, a body with critical analyses and evidence presented, and conclusion.

Additional materials (when appropriate) - charts, maps, photos, other materials.

Bibliography pages, listing the journal articles and electronic references.

Presentation: Students are encouraged to give a short individual or team presentation on a specific topic of their choice related to the class program. The presentation will be well-organized, concise, and include (when opportune) audiovisual and electronic materials. A separate written (three pages) presentation in substitution of the oral presentation is accepted.

Grading:

The final grade will be computed as follows: midterm exam, 30%; final exam, 30%; final paper, 30%; portfolio, presentation, and other assignments, 10%. Absences, lateness, and missed deadlines will lower the final grade by 10%. Improvement over the semester will be rewarded. Letter grades correspond to the numerical scale:

A to A- = 100% to 90%. B+ to B- = 89% to 80%. C+ to C- = 79% to 70%. D+ to D- = 69% to 60%. F = <60%.

Papers retrieval:

All papers are retrievable from the instructor's office up to the end of the following semester. Students can have their papers mailed to them by giving the instructor a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Library sessions:

The class will meet sometimes in the library to receive instruction on electronic tools and sources. Individual assistance will be provided to the students for their research. To be announced.

Guest speakers:

Guest speakers expert in the fields related to the program may be invited during the semester. To be announced.

Field trips:

Field trips may be scheduled during the semester in connection with ongoing cultural events of interest in Rome. To be announced.

Journals:

International Affairs, Current History, The Economist.

Data bases:

EBSCO. Social Sciences Abstracts. Historical Abstracts. JSTOR.

Internet sites:

Europa <http://europa.eu>

APSA <http://www.apsanet.org>

This syllabus is on line: www.gabrielesimoncini.it