

Department of Political Science
University of Oklahoma

PSc 2503
Relations Among Nations
Syllabus, Fall 2008

Instructor: William Hanson **E-Mail:** whanson@ou.edu
Office Phone: Dale Hall Tower, Room 807
Office Hours: tbd
Class Times: Tues and Thurs 9:00 – 10:15a
Class Location: Adams Hall, Room 355
Online Materials: <http://learn.ou.edu>

Course Description:

This course introduces students to sources of continuity and change in world politics. Emphasis is given to the struggle for power and search for peace among state and non-state actors. Additional topics include the relevance of international law, foreign policy decision-making, balance of power, collective security, and moral choices in international politics.

Prerequisite: Completion of PSc 1113.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Understand and apply the basic theoretical schools of International Relations theory
- Understand the impact of global trends on relations among nations
- Understand the kinds of actors in the international system
- Understand the impact of different types of foreign policy decision making
- Identify key issues affecting the global community
- Understand the roles of violence, the international political economy, and social justice issues
- Appreciate the complex interplay of ideas and interests in the international system

Hardware and Software requirements:

- Computer capability sufficient to connect with the D2L website (<http://learn.ou.edu/ComputerReq.asp>).
- A web browser (Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator or Mozilla – same as D2L requirement)

Graded Items:

1. There will be periodic quizzes, worth a total of 150 points. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and will include multiple choice, definitions and short answers. Students will be able to throw out the lowest two scores.
2. There will be two exams, worth 100 points each. These will include multiple choice, definitions, short answers, and essays.
3. You are required to review one book from the book review list on page five, the book review is worth 100 points.
4. You will have one final paper, worth 150 points. This will be a case study in which you will integrate ideas and themes from the course material.
5. There will be one comprehensive final exam, worth 250 points. The exam will cover the entire course, but will be weighted toward material presented after the second exam.
6. Attendance and participation will be part of your grade.
7. There may be opportunities for extra credit at the instructor’s discretion.

Required Textbooks

Essentials of International Relations, 4th ed., Karen Mingst. W.W. Norton, 2007.
ISBN-13 978-0-393-92897-6 (**Text**)

Essential Readings in World Politics, 3rd ed., Karen Mingst & Jack Snyder. W.W. Norton, 2008.
ISBN-13 978-0-393-93114-3 (**Reader**)

Grading:

Item	Points	Weight	Final Grades – Points (%)
Quizzes	150	15%	A: 900 + (90% and above)
Exams (2@ 100 pts)	200	20%	B: 800 – 899 (89% – 80%)
Book Review	100	10%	C: 700 – 799 (79% – 70%)
Final Project	150	15%	D: 600 – 699 (69% – 60%)
Final Exam	250	25%	F: less than 600 (below 60%)
Attendance & Participation	150	15%	
Total	1000	100%	

A grade of A implies that all requirements have been met and substantially exceeded. “A, the highest grade, is given of work of exceptional quality. D is the lowest grade for which credit is given in any undergraduate college and means that, although in the judgment of the instructor credit should be allowed for the course, a degree will not be conferred upon a student whose work is all of that level.” (*The University of Oklahoma General Catalog, 2003-2006*, p. 34)

A grade of F implies failure to meet minimal requirements. School of Library and Information Studies policy requires that any student receiving a grade of F be recommended for dismissal from the Bachelor of Arts and Information Studies Program.

My Expectations:

1. Be on time – to class and with assignments. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class and is part of your grade.
2. Come to class to **actively** participate. It is essential to your development and understanding of the course – part of your grade depends on it. I will appreciate your effort and you in turn will find the time spent in class more enjoyable.
3. Read the assignment and be prepared for each class session.
4. Do not hesitate to ask questions during class. If it is not clear to you, it probably is not clear to someone else.
5. Do not expect me to lecture the entire class period. Your participation is part of your grade.
6. Cell Phones are to be turned off during class.
7. Drinking is allowed...Eating is not allowed.

Due Dates and Late Assignments

All assignments are due in the D2L dropbox at 5 PM, OU local time, on the due date in the syllabus. Late work will not be accepted except under extraordinary circumstances, and then only by prior arrangement with the instructor. Computer problems, illness, family issues, or schedule conflicts are not valid reasons for late work – plan ahead.

Exams: Make-up exams will only be given in extraordinary circumstances. If you miss an exam, I will require standard documentation (illness, special needs, etc.), prior to the exam if at all possible.

Course Outline (All readings are from the course texts unless otherwise stated -- Graded items in Bold Print):

Week	Dates	Subject	Reading
1	26,28 Aug	Approaches to International Relations	Text: Ch 1
2	2,4 Sep	Putting Things into Context	Text: Ch 2 Reader: Ch 1 and 2
3	9,11 Sep	Contending Perspectives, Part I	Reader: Ch 3
4	16,18 Sep	Contending Perspectives, Part II The International System, Part I	Text: Ch3 Text: Ch 4
5	23,25 Sep	The International System, Part II Catch-up and Review for Exam	Reader: Ch 4
6	30 Sep, 2 Oct	Exam #1 The State, Part I	Text: Ch 5
7	7,9 Oct	The State, Part II The Individual, Part I (Beat Texas!)	Reader: Ch 5 Reader: Ch 6
8	13,16 Oct	The Individual, Part II International Organizations, Part I	Text: Ch 6 Text: Ch 7
9	21,23 Oct	International Organizations, Part II	Reader: Ch 7
10	28,30 Oct	Catch-up and Review for Exam Exam #2	
11	4,6 Nov	War and Strife, Part I	Reader: Ch 8
12	11,13 Nov	War and Strife, Part II Book Review Due in D2L Dropbox by 5pm Nov 11 International Political Economy, Part I	Text: Ch 8 Text: Ch 9
13	18,20 Nov	International Political Economy, Part II	Reader: Ch 9
14	25 Nov	Global Issues, Part I No Class on 27 Nov -- Thanksgiving Holiday	Text: Ch 10
15	3,4 Dec	Global Issues, Part II Final Project Due in D2L Dropbox by 5pm, Fri Dec 5	Reader: Ch 10
16	9,11 Dec	What Have We Learned? Review for Final	
Finals	16 Dec	Final Exam: 8:00-10:00 AM	

Books for Book Review Assignment:

Collier, Paul (2007): The Bottom Billion
Easterly, William (2002): The Elusive Quest for Growth
Farmer, Douglas and Sen, Amartya (2004): Pathologies of Power
Fromkin, David (2001): A Peace to End All Peace
Fukuyama, Francis (2007): America at the Crossroads
Hopkirk, Peter (1992): The Great Game
Kagan, Robert (2008): The Return of History and the End of Dreams
Kissinger, Henry (1994): Diplomacy
Rivoli, Pietra (2006): The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy
Zakaria, Fareed (2008): The Post-American World

Guidance: Write a 5-6 page review of one of the books from the above list, using standard fonts and margins. Provide:

- A brief summary of the main argument of the book
- Strengths and weaknesses of the argument
- Your reaction to the book (note: not to be a critique of the author's writing style)

Academic Integrity:

(the following statement is extracted from <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity> -- all students are encouraged to review the OU policy and to discuss any issues or questions with me)

What does "academic integrity" mean?

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Professors have to obey rules of honest scholarship, and so do students. Here are the basic assumptions about academic work at the University of Oklahoma:

- (1) Students attend OU in order to learn and grow.
- (2) Academic assignments exist for the sake of this goal.
- (3) Grades exist to show how fully the goal is attained.
- (4) Thus, all work and all grades should result from the student's own effort to learn and grow. Academic work completed any other way is pointless, and grades obtained any other way are fraudulent.

Academic integrity means understanding and respecting these basic truths, without which no university can exist. Academic misconduct -- "cheating" -- is not just "against the rules." It violates the assumptions at the heart of all learning. It destroys the mutual trust and respect that should exist between student and professor. Finally, it is unfair to students who earn their grades honestly.

Sexual Harassment Policy:

The University of Oklahoma explicitly condemns sexual harassment of students, staff, and faculty. Sexual harassment is unlawful and may subject those who engage in it to university sanctions as well as civil and criminal penalties. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature in the following context:

- 1) When submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or academic standing, or
- 2) When submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions affecting such individual, or
- 3) When such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment.

University of Oklahoma Reasonable Accommodation Policy on Disabilities

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

University of Oklahoma Policy on Religious Holidays

It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.

Internet Information

Course material will be posted on the OU Desire 2 Learn site (<http://learn.ou.edu>). Slides, revisions to this syllabus, announcements, and revisions to the course outline will be posted in the appropriate folder. You are required to use this Internet site to keep abreast of course changes. The D2L site will also include the class discussion board and chat room.

WILLIAM E. HANSON
Instructor, Department of Political Science