Political Science 343
Winter 2001
Class TTh 10:30AM-12:15PM, Willis 204

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Office Hours

TURBULENCE IN WORLD POLITICS

Political Science 343 addresses the lingering questions left in the wake of the Cold War. More importantly, this course attempts to identify the problems and opportunities that will command our interest into the twenty-first century. I developed Political Science 343 to be an addendum to Political Science 170 (International Relations & World Politics). In the introductory course, students were exposed to the major approaches in studying global political phenomena. Furthermore, they became acquainted with some of the major issue areas in the field. In Turbulence in World Politics, we will delve deeper in analyzing major international issues. By reviewing major theoretical approaches by leading scholars in the field of world politics, we can better analyze and make sense of the changes and challenges that lie before the United States and world.

The key idea behind this course is that the post-Cold War world is divided between a zone of peace (characterized by liberal free market democracy) and a zone of turmoil (characterized by ethnonationalist, religious, and territorial conflict). Given that the key security concerns of the United States will emanate not from Western Europe, but from the former Communist states and the geopolitical periphery of the Third World, it is vitally important that we understand the security concerns of states in the throes of development.

In a world caught up in revolutionary change, where instability, turbulence, and violence are widespread, no one can predict the shape of events to come. The level of danger to Americans will vary, but our political and economic interests are global. The world's attitudes toward, and perceptions of, American leadership - and its role as a force for democracy and international stability - affect not just our political relations, but also our economic relationships and markets.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE

A principal focus of Turbulence in World Politics will be a review of the major theoretical debate in world politics between Realism and Liberalism, as well as an examination of the changed world order since the end of the Cold War. Of particular concern is the formulation of American national security policy in the "new world entropy." With American forces now deployed in Bosnia, we will explore the issue of military intervention in the volatile Second Tier (the former Communist states and Third World). Such intervention should be examined from the standpoint of protecting American interests and values. Much of the turmoil in the Second Tier stems from the legacy of weak state institutionalization, ethnic conflict, and the pains of socioeconomic transformation.

The role of cultural identity as a crucial variable in world politics will be taken up as well. With ethnic and religious conflict occurring around the world, Communitarianism is now vying with Realism and Liberalism as a political force. Will we see a "clash of civilizations" or are the nations of the Third World on the road to a universal Liberalism?
This course will be organized as a seminar. Students are responsible for completing the assigned readings before each class session. In-class seminar discussion is indispensable to the learning process and will make up 24% of the grade. Volunteers will lead discussion of readings each class session. All students should come to class with a list of major points brought out in the readings as a guide to discussion. In addition, I will set up an electronic discussion conference and strongly encourage students to participate in outside-class discussions of global political issues.

In addition to discussion, students are required to write an abstract of a data-based article on world politics (4% of grade). Abstracts are short, one-and-a-half to two page papers analyzing data-based journal articles. In the abstract, students are to list: 1) the query, or the question to be tested and explained; 2) the explanatory and outcome variables and the putative relationship between the two; 3) the indicators used in measuring the variables and the strength of relationship between them; 4) data sources that the author used; 5) any data manipulation used (e.g., regression, analysis of variance); and 6) the findings.

I am assigning three eight-to-nine page examinations on the major theoretical themes of the course. These exams will make up 14% apiece (42% total). The purpose is to give students an opportunity to critically evaluate arguments made on the emerging world order. Finally, there is a 20-to-25-page term paper (30% of grade) on a major international or American national security topic (e.g., the "rogue state threat" or American intervention policy). The paper topic must be approved by the instructor.

All late exam essays are subject to a one-third-grade deduction penalty per day (e.g., a "B+" paper shall receive a "B" if one day late, a "B-" if two days late, and so on).

I will put some flexibility into the course outline in order to take advantage of any "in time" developments that may occur. I strongly encourage students to read the major world politics/international securities affairs journals in staying current on world events. These journals include International Security, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, World Politics, Current History, and Orbis. You should also become a regular reader of a newsweekly, such as The Economist.

BOOKS


Robert Litwak, Rogue States and U.S. Foreign Policy: Containment After the Cold War (2000)

COURSE OUTLINE

I. After the Dawn: The Changed World Order

January 4


January 9


January 11


*Exam I - Explaining the End of the Cold War (due by January 22)*

**II. Realism and the neo-Liberal Challenge**

January 16


January 18


January 23


January 25


Exam II - Realism v. Liberalism as relevant paradigms in the post-Cold War world (due by February 5)

III. Zones of Uncertainty: Russia, China, and the Third World

January 30


February 1


February 6


Exam III - Dealing with Russia & China/ Does the Third World Matter? (Due by February 19)

IV. Rogue States - "the search for new enemies"?

February 8


February 13


https://acad.carleton.edu/curricular/POSC/classes/Posc343/W01/index.html
February 15


February 20


February 22


V. Redefining American Security Interests


February 27


March 1


March 6


March 8
