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School of Diplomacy and International
Relations

Spring 2014

DIPL 1711 International Relations

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DIPL 1711 - Spring 2014

International Relations

Instructor: Joseph O'Mahoney

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Class: 0930-1045 Tuesday & Thursday in DH 61

Office Hours: Tuesday 1300 - 1500 & By appointment

Course Description

DIPL 1711 is required for all students majoring in Diplomacy and International Relations. This course provides an introduction for undergraduates to selected ideas in the study of international relations. The course is designed both to be a starting-point for students who are contemplating further study in IR and to be a standalone survey for students who are not. Students are expected to read, contemplate, and discuss among themselves the assigned readings for the course, attend lectures, and complete three written assignments and three exams.

Readings

Required readings are listed below for each class session. The following are required textbooks for the class.

Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2013. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, Second Edition. Norton Press. ISBN: 978-0-393-91238-8.

Fareed Zakaria, 2012. *The Post-American World: Release 2.0*, W.W. Norton & Co.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain key recurring patterns in international politics;
2. Interpret new or ongoing political events in light of general theories of world politics;
3. Identify and explain broad social science phenomenon including bargaining and conflict resolution, collective action and cooperation, and the use and limits of power,
4. Research and write competently in preparation for upper-division coursework.
5. To provide an opportunity to further develop skills in writing, analysis, discussion, and public presentations on themes related to international relations theory.

Requirements and Grading

Course Grades will be a weighted average of the following:

3 Exams	45% (15% each)
3 Papers	45% (15% each)
Participation and Presentation	10%

Exams

Each exam consists of two parts: 5 short-answer identification questions worth 2% each (choose 5 out of 8) and 1 short essay question worth 5% (choose 1 out of 2). Students who miss exams will have one chance to take a makeup and will be marked down unless they have a valid medical or university business excuse. The exams will be written in class without books, notes, computers, phones, audio devices, or other aids.

Papers

The specific assignments will be posted online before each due date. Papers will be at least 4 pages long, double-spaced, with standard font and margins. Students turning in papers containing plagiarism will fail the course. Papers are due at midnight the evening of the due date, and will be marked down one point for each day (or fraction of a day) late.

Participation and Presentation

Students are expected to attend all classes, arrive on time and remain for the duration of each class. **All material covered in class and in the readings could potentially be on the exams. Not all material covered in class will be in the readings and not all the material in the readings will be covered in class.** There will be exercises and discussions during class that students are expected to participate fully and enthusiastically in.

Once during the semester students will be responsible for offering a short summary of one current development in international politics and two questions to spark class discussion. Some background research may be required on the issue (e.g. one or two newspaper articles), but the briefing is not designed as a major research assignment. Students should sign up for one week and must email a one page overview and the discussion questions to the instructor forty-eight hours before the lecture. Presentations should include 1-2 Powerpoint slides to guide the presentation. Students may work in a group of 2.

Extra Credit

Attend an event on campus, in New York City, or in the NYC area on any subject related to world politics, broadly defined, and write a blogpost summarizing your experience. Posts must be well-written to receive credit; I will send back poorly-written posts for revisions before they are accepted. You will receive 5 extra credit points for both attending the event and writing the post. All events must be completed by Monday April 28 and blog posts submitted for final approval by Friday May 2. Blog posts are kept private by default, but we may make selected posts public by mutual agreement.

Communications Policy

The primary mode of communication between you and I is email. I will endeavour to respond to email within 48 hours, but usually I will be able to do so within 24 hours.

Accommodations Policy

Students requiring special accommodation should contact Disabilities Support Services.

Academic Integrity

Thinking about cheating? Don't do it. Standards of academic conduct are set forth in the School of Diplomacy's Standards of Academic Conduct, <http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>. By registering, you have acknowledged your awareness of the Standards, and you are

obliged to become familiar with your rights and responsibilities as defined by the Standards. Violations of the Standards of Academic Conduct will not be treated lightly, and disciplinary actions will be taken should such violations occur. Please see me if you have any questions about the academic violations described in the Code in general or as they relate to particular requirements for this course.

Course Schedule

Many readings will be posted electronically. If you are unable to access a reading, please contact me in adequate time before the class session in which the reading is due. This schedule of readings may be changed with appropriate notice.

1. *Tuesday January 14* Introduction

No reading assigned.

2. *Thursday January 16* The World Wars

FLS Chapter 1

3. *Tuesday January 21* Violence and Political Objectives

Carl von Clausewitz, On War, Chapters 1 and 2

4. *Thursday January 23* Interests, Interactions, Institutions

FLS Chapter 2

5. *Tuesday January 28* Private Information and Incentives to Lie

Start on FLS Chapter 3

PAPER #1 DUE

6. *Thursday January 30* Pre-emptive and Preventive War

FLS Chapter 3

7. *Tuesday February 4* Nuclear Weapons and the Early Cold War

George Kennan, The Sources of Soviet Conduct

8. *Thursday February 6* Nuclear Deterrence and Arms Control

Louis Menard, Fat Man; and Jeremi Suri, The Nukes of October

9. *Tuesday February 11* Domestic Politics and War

FLS Chapter 4

10. *Thursday February 13* NO CLASS

PAPER #2 DUE

11. *Tuesday February 18* International Institutions and War

FLS Chapter 5

12. *Thursday February 20* Terrorism

FLS Chapter 6

13. *Tuesday February 25* Discussion and Review

14. *Thursday February 27* Exam #1

15. *Tuesday March 4* Climate

Garrett Hardin, Tragedy of the Commons,
<http://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/TragedyoftheCommons.html>

16. *Thursday March 6* Environmental Cooperation

FLS Chapter 13

NO CLASS MARCH 10-15 - SPRING BREAK

17. *Tuesday March 18* Trade

FLS Chapter 7

18. *Thursday March 20* The World Trade Organization

FLS Chapter 7

19. *Tuesday March 25* Poverty

FLS Chapter 10

20. *Thursday March 27* Ethical Issues

No reading assigned

PAPER #3 DUE

21. *Tuesday April 1* Ethical Questions

Peter Singer, "What should a Billionaire give, and what should you?", NY Times, December 17 2006, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/17/magazine/17charity.t.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

22. *Thursday April 3* Discussion and Review

23. *Tuesday April 8* Exam #2

24. *Thursday April 10* International Law

FLS Chapter 11

NO CLASS APRIL 15 or 17 - EASTER HOLIDAY

25. *Tuesday April 22* Human Rights

FLS Chapter 12

26. *Thursday April 24* International Structure

Fareed Zakaria, 2012. *The Post-American World*, W.W. Norton & Co. Chapters 1-5.

27. *Tuesday April 29* American Foreign Policy

Fareed Zakaria, 2012. *The Post-American World*, W.W. Norton & Co. Chapters 6-7.

FLS Chapter 14

28. *Thursday May 1* Discussion and Review

***TBA* Exam #3**