INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

This course examines basic politics among states and other “actors” in the international arena. The first portion of the course will focus on historical cases, using these to illustrate important problems in international politics and the measures taken to address them. The second portion investigates contemporary issues. We normally will meet 9:30 am on M,W and again, in smaller discussion groups in the afternoon on Wednesday—probably 1 and 2 pm. As possible and convenient, we will use the Friday am time for any desirable adjustments to our meeting schedule.

Books

The following books (all in paperback) are available in the bookstore. Purchase them as practicable. Asterisked readings (*) will be available through the course blackboard http://blackboard.swarthmore.edu. Use the login of sc.yourid1 and e-mail password. Use it for readings; hard copies of books and most readings will be on reserve at McCabe Library.

Richard K. Betts, ed. Conflict after the Cold War, 2ND EDITION (2005!)
G. John Ikenberry, After Victory (Princeton, 2001)
John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations go to War (8th or later ed., 2000)

Suggested:
Ngaire Woods, Explaining International Relations Since 1945 (1996)

Course Requirements

Two papers will be due during the term; each serves partly as a take-home exam. Topic [s] for each of the papers will be distributed a week in advance. Paper one will be due October 3, paper two on November 21. Each of these papers will count for 20% of the course grade and will about 7 pages or 2000 words +/- 50). A final examination which will count for 45% of the grade in the course will be held during the last day of class. 3) Class participation will count 15%. Half of this will be based on interventions during normal classes; half will rest on the contribution each student makes in leading on one occasion a weekly class session during the last six weeks of the term.

Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

PART I: The Construction of Contemporary International Politics

I. The Origins of September 11: War and Peace in the Age of Globalization (August 29, 31)

*Hopkins and Hopkins, “9/11” on blackboard
Samuel Huntington, “Clash of Civilization,” in Betts, pp. 33-50
John Ikenberry, After Victory, pp. 3-10.
Betts, pp. 491-536.
*Essays and book review by Crenshaw, et. al.
Film “UNCOVERED, THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT THE IRAQ WAR”
MOVEON ORGANIZATION ; THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS ; RESERVE

Suggested: Additional
*Mark Danner, “Battlefield of the American Mind,” NYT, October, 16, 2001
II. Theories in International Politics: Realism and Liberalism (September 5, 7)

Betts, pp. 86-104; 128-145; 181-201; 291-306 [essays by Waltz, Gilpin, Bull, Wendt, Doyle, Keohane and Nye].
*Kenneth Oye, “Explaining Cooperation Under Anarchy”
*John Lewis Gaddis, "History, Theory and Common Ground" from Woods (1996),


III. The Political Origins of the First World War (September 12, 14)

John Ikenberry, *After Victory*, pp. 80-162, chs. 4-5.
Betts, pp. 361-423.

IV. The Economic Origins of the Second World War and their Post-War Consequences (September 19, 21)


Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, pp. 275-357

V. The Nuclear Revolution and the Cuban Missile Crisis (September 28, 30)

*Stiles, Cuba
Film: ABC News, *The Missiles of October* on reserve--Library

Suggested: Robert Kennedy, *Fourteen Days*

First Paper Due (October 3) by 5:00 pm [at political science office]

VI. The Vietnam War (October 3, 5)

Betts ed., pp. 457-490
"**Teaching the Vietnam War**, FPRI conference notes

Suggested:
Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, pp. 395-437
George Herring, *America’s Longest War*
Fredrik Logevall, *Choosing War*
PART II: Contemporary Problems in International Politics

VII. The Collapse of Communism and the End of the Cold War (October 18, 20)
Bettis, ed., pp. 17-32; 146-158.
*Chapters from Lebow and Risse-Kappen by Oye, Levy and Herrmann

Suggested

VIII. Nuclear Weapons Management and Threats of Terrorism (October 25, 27)
Betts, ed. pp. 146-158; 423-444.
*CQ Researcher, “Nuclear Proliferation and Terrorism,” 2004

IX. Globalization and Non-State Power (October 31, November 2)
*Thomas L. Friedman, The Lexus and the Olive Tree, chs. 2, 9, 10.

Suggested: recent NYT columns by Friedman, Krugman on links of economy and politics

X. Failed States, Sovereignty and Dysfunctional Nationalism (November 7, 9)
John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations go to War, ch. 8.
*Peter Uvin, “Reading the Rwandan Genocide." ISQ (2001)
*Filip Reyntjens, Rwanda: Ten Years On” (2005)

Suggested:
Francis Fukuyama, Failed States (2004)

XI. International Political Economy after WWII: Bargaining for Mutual Gain (November 14, 16)
Robert Gilpin, pp. 88-192; 265-357.
Betts, ed. pp. 274-286.
Peruse websites for USTR, OECD, WTO and IMF:
Look for articles or studies on development, trade, monetary order, and other issues of cross-border economic transfers.

Second Paper Due: November 21

XII. European Integration, and US-EU relations (November 21, 23—We can discuss T-Break changes and class session on December 5)

Gilpin, pp. 193-264.
*Robert Kagan, “Power and Weakness” essay from Hoover Institution
*Paul Talor, ch. 13 in Woods, “The EU in the 90’s”
*Peter Peterson, “Riding for a Fall,” FA, 2004

XIII. Institutions and Organizations Shaping Future World Order (November 28, 30)
*Raymond F. Hopkins, “Anomie, System Reform, and Challenges to the UN System,” in Milton J.
Betts, ed. pp. 597-617.
*J. Martin Rochester, Between Two Epochs, (2002), Chapter 8, pp. 230-256
European Journal of International Relations 10.4 (December 2004).

XIV. Review (December 5)