

GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: POLS351 / INST 342: International Relations
Credits: 3 Credits
Instructor: Dr. Bernard Gbikpi, PhD



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Fall Semester 2008 - Meeting Times: Monday & Wednesday 14:00 - 15:30

COURSE CONTENT

This course introduces the students to the academic discipline of International Relations. It dwells notably on the traditions of realism, liberalism, international society, constructivism and Marxism. It also presents and discusses some contemporary issues in international relations.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

By the end of the course the students should understand the main IR theories and the values implicit in each of these different ways of looking at the world. They also should be able to read, understand, and analyze articles of varying complexity on international events and processes.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Monday's sessions consists in a lecture on the topic of the day by the teacher.

Wednesday's session consists in the presentation by one or two students of the reading of the day, and a general discussion and reassessment of the main points. All the students are required to hand a proper outline of each session's reading. The students who have led the session are required to integrate in their successive review/research paper the arguments brought up during the discussion. Each presentation is the basis of a review/research paper which outline is due for the successive session.

The tests consist in assessing in a proper way a reading.

COURSE GRADING

Participation of students (reading's outlines; constancy/assiduity along the semester; and participation in class) counts for 25% of the total grade.

Paper presentation and research paper counts for 25% of the total grade.

Mid-term exam and final exam contribute each to 25% of the total grade.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- A **reading-pack** of the readings for students' presentation is made available and is indispensable.

- The **textbooks** that we will use are available at GIF library:

- Robert Jackson and Georg Sorensen, 2007 (3rd ed.), *Introduction to International Relations. Theories and Approaches*, Oxford, OUP (online research centre).

- John Baylis and Steve Smith, eds., 2004 (3rd ed.), *The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations*, Oxford, OUP, (online research Centre)

Monday 22 September 2008

Introduction
IR as an Academic Subject & IR as an international state system

Wednesday 24 September 2008

Teacher's presentation and general discussion
Stephen M. Walt, 1998, International Relations: One World, Many Theories, *Foreign Policy*, 110, Spring, Special Edition: Frontiers of Knowledge, pp. 29-46

Monday 29 September 2008

Realism

Wednesday 1st October 2008

Students' presentation and general discussion
Brian C. Schmidt, 2004, Realism as Tragedy, *Review of International Studies*, 30, 3, 427-41

Monday 06 October 2008

Liberalism

Wednesday 08 October 2008

Students' presentation and general discussion
Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry, 1999, The Nature and Sources of Liberal International Order, *Review of International Studies*, 25, 2, 179-96

Monday 13 October 2008

The English School

Wednesday 15 October 2008

Students' presentation and general discussion
Brian Buzan, 2001, The English School: an underexploited resource in IR, *Review of International Studies*, 27, 3, 471-88

Monday 20 October 2008

Constructivists

Wednesday 22 October 2008

Students' presentation and general discussion
Alex J. Bellamy, 2003, Humanitarian responsibilities and interventionist claims in international society, *Review of International Studies*, 29, 3, 321-40

Monday 27 October 2008

Mid-term

Wednesday 29 October 2008

Around Bosnia and presentation of
David Chandler, 2006, Back to the future? The limits of neo-Wilsonian ideals of exporting democracy, *Review of International Studies*, 32, 3, 475-94

Wednesday 05 November 2008

Correction of the mid-term

Monday 10 November 2008

International Political Economy: Classical Theories

Wednesday 12 November 2008

Students' presentation and general discussion
Robert Cox, 2004, Beyond empire and terror critical reflections on the political economy of world order, *New Political Economy*, 9, 3, 307-23

Monday 17 November 2008

International Political Economy: Contemporary Debates: Economic Globalization and a Changing Role for States

Wednesday 19 November 2008

Students' presentation and general discussion

Arie Kacowicz, 2007, Globalization, Poverty, and the North–South Divide, *International Studies Review*, 9, 4, 565-80

Monday 24 November 2008

Republican Liberalism: Democratic peace theory

Wednesday 26 November 2008

Students' presentation and general discussion

Sebastian Rosato, 2003, The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory, *American Political Science Review*, 97, 4, 585-602

Monday 01st December 2008

The United Nations and International Order

Wednesday 03rd December 2008

Students' presentation and general discussion

Donald Puchala, 2005, World Hegemony and the United Nations, *International Studies Review*, 7, 4, 571-84

Monday 08 December 2008

Issues in International Relations: "Rogue States"

Wednesday 10 December 2008

Students' presentation and general discussion

Elizabeth Saunders, 2006, Setting Boundaries: Can International Society Exclude Rogue States, *International Studies Review*, 8, 1, 23-54

Monday 15 December 2008

Final exam

THE OUTLINE

- 1) The **main argument(s)**:
 - a. What is the overall claim of the writing? (or/and) What is the author trying to convince us of?
 - b. Can we formulate the argument into a sentence or two?
- 2) How does the author lead the argument? or What the **demonstration** consists in?
 - a. Here we need to follow the author's reasoning step by step. For this purpose giving titles to each paragraph and to each section as we read them is a good device. It serves to critically assess the demonstration
- 3) We aim to make an **assessment** of the argument: Does the argument convince us? Is only part of it convincing? Is it cogent/logical? Do we think it helps us understanding something fundamental about the issue at stake? What do we believe the strengths and weaknesses of the text are? Is there any particular assumption that is important for the argument that we think should be strengthened?
- 4) Keep in mind in making the assessment that, things such as the **vocabulary**: does the author use particular words or concepts that are particularly important for his argument/demonstration? What does he means by these words or concepts?; the **context** (the period of writing or the period the writing refers to, the social, political, economic, and religious factors); the presence of **alternative** or **counter-arguments** mentioned by the author her/himself, or anything else you deem relevant in the text, can be useful in making the assessment.

HOW TO WRITE THE REVIEW/RESEARCH PAPER:

Your papers include two parts: a review part and an assessment part.

The review part of your paper is a thoughtful account of the main article you've read. The point of the review is twofold: first, it describes the article's content and argument(s) supported with some quotations from the article; second, it indicates points of discussion that you are interested to pursue further and why you're interested in them.

- ✓ Bibliographical information about the writing, including author(s), title of the chapter, title of the book, publishing information, date, page numbers (always appears at the top of your review)
- ✓ General summary of content (what is the writing about; how many parts the article contains; does it contain a bibliography, how long, how specific)
- ✓ Account of the author's main point (why did the author write the book/chapter; what's the point(s) being made?)
- ✓ Identification of the main elements of argument (summarize the reasons the author cites to support the main argument)
- ✓ Account of the conclusion (what does the author conclude?)
- ✓ Identification of at least 2 problems/strengths that might be noted about the writing, the argument(s), the sources of information, the presentation, etc.

The research part of your paper is a discussion of the article you've read along the points you've indicated. The discussion should use other articles/books on the issue

- ✓ Suggest, fix, discuss, the problems/strengths you've identified. What might have made the work stronger/better? what is so special about the really good aspects of the work?
- ✓ Use at least two bibliographical sources for supporting the discussion of the problems/strengths you've identified and give sufficient hints on their content.
- ✓ Write a list of bibliographical references

Your paper should be between a medium-length paper (1500 words or 6 double-spaced pages) and a long paper (2500 words or 10 double-spaced pages).