

Fernando Tormos, Instructor

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OFFICE: YOUNG 445

Office hours: Tuesdays 11:00am-2:30pm and by appointment

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of world politics. The objectives of this course are: 1) to *acquaint* students with international relations theories, 2) to *develop* critical thinking and analysis skills, and 3) to *train* students to analyze global affairs. There are no prerequisites to this course and students are not expected to have any prior knowledge of world politics or international relations theories.

Required Course Materials

All course materials will be made available to students through the Purdue Humanities, Social Science, and Education Library (HSSE) and Blackboard. Any additional readings that are not listed in the course schedule will be provided electronically.

Course Schedule

Course introduction (6/13 and 6/14)

These class sessions will introduce students to our course. We will review the course policies, substantive content, and introduce ourselves. Students will get acquainted with the major perspectives of world politics and the history of the international political system. As you are doing your readings, consider the following questions: How can we define politics and, more specifically, world politics? What are international relations?

Assigned Readings:

6/14 Emergence of the Modern State System

Chapter 1 of *International Relations: Perspectives, Controversies and Readings* by Keith Shimko (pages 1-32)

Perspectives of International Politics (6/15-6/24)

Assigned Readings:

6/15-6/17 Introduction to IR Theories

Chapter 2 of *International Relations: Perspectives, Controversies and Readings* by Keith Shimko (pages 33-55)

6/20-6/21 Realism and Neorealism

“Six Principles of Political Realism” by Hans J. Morgenthau (pages 14-22)

“Introduction” in *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* by John J. Mearsheimer (pages 1-27)

6/22- 6/23 Liberalism and Constructivism

Chapter 3 of *International Relations* by Goldstein and Pevehouse (pages 63-77)

“Anarchy is what States Make of it” by Alexander Wendt

6/24 Marxism

“The Marxist Perspective” in *The Political Economy of International Relations* by Robert Gilpin (pages 34-54)

6/27 Feminism

“A Critique of Morgenthau’s Principles of Political Realism” by J. Ann Tickner (pages 22-34)

Midterm Review (6/28)

Writing workshop (6/29)

Reading and Writing Day (7/30)

No Class

Exam 1 (7/1)

Blackboard

Reading and Writing Day (7/5)

No Class

War and Peace (7/6-7/8)

Critical Review Due on Blackboard on 7/8 @ 5PM

Assigned Readings

Chapter 3 and 4 of *International Relations: Perspectives, Controversies and Readings* by Keith Shimko (pages 51-110)

Global Political Economy (7/11-7/14)

Assigned Reading

Chapter 6 and 7 *International Relations: Perspectives, Controversies and Readings* by Keith Shimko (pages 135-183)

“Global Economic Inequalities: A Growing Moral Gap” by Michael Doyle (pages 79-97)

“Assisting’ the Global Poor” by Thomas Pogge (pages 531-563)

International Organizations (7/15 & 7/18-7/19)

Assigned Reading

Chapter 1 of *International Organizations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance* by Karns et al (pages 1-41) (Available at <https://www.rienner.com/uploads/55b14c992d1b2.pdf>)

United Nations Charter (Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/un-charter-full-text/index.html>)

Non-state Actors in World Politics (7/20 -7/22)

Assigned Reading

“Transnational Politics: Contention and Institutions in International Politics” by Sidney Tarrow

“Rival Networks” Ch. 2 of *Social Movements for Global Democracy* by Jackie Smith

International Law and Human Rights (7/25 -7/27)

Assigned Reading

Chapter 9 and 10 of *International Relations: Perspectives, Controversies and Readings* by Keith Shimko (pages 211-258)

Globalization (7/28-7/29)

Assigned Reading

Chapter 8 of *International Relations: Perspectives, Controversies and Readings* by Keith Shimko (pages 189-214)

Global Commons (8/1-8/2)

Assigned Reading

“Commentary: Living on a Lifeboat” by Garrett Hardin (pages 561-68)

“The World Bank, the WTO, and the Environmental Social Movement” by Robert O’Brien, Anne Marie Goetz, Jan Aart Scholte, and Marc Williams (pages 109-158)

Final Exam (8/3)

Blackboard

Grading

The grading strategy for this course is designed to give students a chance to show what they have learned through class discussion of assigned readings, critical reviews, a policy research project, and a research paper presentation. Handouts will be distributed with guidelines for each assignment. Please use the APSA Style citation format for all writing assignments.

Evaluation

Class participation (20%)

Please come to class with the assigned readings, comments, and questions that you would like to raise during class discussion. If a student has to miss class for any reason, the student will be responsible for notifying the instructor in advance.

Critical Review (20%)

Students will conduct a review of the book *Individual Rights and the Making of the International System* by Christian Reus-Smit. This book is available online through the Purdue Libraries website. Reviews should be turned in no later than July 8th on Blackboard. Reviews should answer the questions:

What is the author's main argument? How is this argument supported? What critique do you have of the text? The reviews should be no longer than five double spaced pages in Times New Roman font 12 with 1" margins. For further suggestions refer to:

Alex-Assensoh's (2008) "Teaching Critical Analysis Skills with Analysis Briefs: What They Are and How They Work."

MIDTERM (30%)

Students will take this exam on Blackboard.

FINAL EXAM (30%)

Students will take this exam on Blackboard.

Attendance Policy

Purdue's official attendance policy can be found at:

<http://www.purdue.edu/odos/services/classabsence.php>

Students are expected to come to every class with their reading materials and ready to actively engage in class discussion. Please avoid coming to class if you have any infectious sickness. If a student is unable to come to class, please notify the instructor through email in advance. Electronic devices are only accepted if they are being used to read the assigned reading. Students are encouraged to print the reading, bring the book, and avoid the use of electronic devices. Coming to class, engaging in class discussion, and making proper use of electronic devices are crucial components of the class participation grade.

Late Policy

Late assignments are only accepted under extenuating circumstances.

Academic dishonesty and Student Code of Conduct

Students are expected to be aware of the university policies against academic dishonesty and have knowledge of the Student Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be reported to the pertinent university authorities. Papers will be checked with software for evidence of copying or cutting-and-pasting. Plagiarism will not be tolerated; students who cheat or copy will fail the course and be turned into the Dean of Students. If you have any questions concerning plagiarism, refer to the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/printable/589>

Course caveat

The itinerary for the course and the readings assigned are subject to change. In case of any emergency or unforeseen obstacles the instructor will email students with information regarding the changes or accommodations made. In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Every student is responsible for checking their mail and being informed about any changes to the course schedule.

Accommodations

Students that need special accommodations should register with the Disability Resource Center in the Office of the Dean of Students. Students may notify the instructor of any assistance needed at anytime throughout the semester.

Online resources

American Political Science Association. 2006. *Style Manual for Political Science*.

Washington, DC: American Political Science Association.

<http://www.ipsonet.org/data/files/APSASyleManual2006.pdf>.

Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL)

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

Purdue OWL Handout on Avoiding Plagiarism

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>.

American Political Science Association website

www.apsanet.org

C-SPAN Video Archive

<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/videoLibrary/>

Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/index.html>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

<http://plato.stanford.edu/>

New York Review of Books

www.nybooks.com

London Review of Books

www.lrb.co.uk