

POLI 12

Spring 2005

## International Relations

9-9:50, MW

<http://polisci.ucsd.edu/slantchev/courses/ps12/>

WLH 2001

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**Professor Branislav L. Slantchev**

387 Social Sciences

Office Hours: 1-2pm, MW

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822-2684

**DESCRIPTION:** The study of international relations broadly encompasses two fields: international security and political economy. This course surveys both fields with a special emphasis on the common analytical approaches to their study. Topics in international security include state and non-state actors, the nature of power, the causes of war and peace, terrorism, international organizations, and human rights. Topics in international political economy include trade, finance, globalization, development, and environmental concerns. By the end of the quarter, students will be expected to

1. Know the scope of the field of international relations;
2. Understand the common theoretical approaches to the study of various issue areas;
3. Be able to interpret and analyze various historical and contemporary problems using the methods developed in class;
4. Learn to communicate effectively your results to others; and

**PREREQUISITES:** This is an introductory undergraduate course and no previous course work in international relations is necessary. This course is neither a survey of modern history nor a debating society on current events. Students without any background in history may find it necessary to read additional materials to familiarize themselves with the events mentioned in class.

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS:** Section assignments, office hours, and office locations for the teaching assistants are posted on the course website. Since office hours sometimes change during the quarter, the web site will always list the current schedules.

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**REQUIREMENTS:** The course requirements consist of a midterm exam (25%), a final exam (35%), participation in the discussion sections (10%), and two essays (15% each). The exams consist of identification, short-answer, and essay questions, and will be administered in class. The final is comprehensive. You must take both exams to receive a passing grade for the course.

**DISCUSSION SECTIONS.** You are assigned to a discussion section with mandatory attendance. We shall keep track of your absences and your performance every time. Discussion sections will account for 40% of your grade, so do not take them lightly. The TAs will routinely cover additional material that supplements my lectures, and you will be responsible for all of it. I cannot stress this enough: **If you skip your section, you will most likely fail the course.**

**ESSAYS.** There are two essays which are due in your discussion section during the week indicated in the schedule. Since answers to the essays may be discussed in section, late essays will earn zero credit. I will give you the essay topics approximately one week before they are due. I will then provide you with specific instructions about expected length and content.

**MISSED EXAMS.** Make-up exams will only be given under **valid, documented, and extreme** circumstances. If you know you will miss an exam for a legitimate reason, notify me at least 10 days in advance. Emails are perfectly acceptable. If you are not able to contact me in advance, you must do so as soon as possible. I am a reasonable person and will work with you to resolve reasonable problems. It is your responsibility to arrange with me to take a makeup exam.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY.** You are expected to do your own work. Students caught cheating on exams or plagiarizing their essays will receive a failing grade for the course and will be turned over to the dean of their college for administrative sanctions.

**GRADE APPEALS.** You can expect to be graded solely on your academic performance. This includes clarity of thought, knowledge of the material, composition, spelling, and grammar. Students who believe to have received an incorrect grade or a grade based on non-academic criteria should formally appeal it to me. The appeal will consist of a single typed page that identifies the problem and presents a reasoned argument that the grade fits the appeal criteria listed above.

**READINGS:** The following required book is available for purchase at the bookstore:

- Bruce Russett, Harvey Starr, and David Kinsella. 2004. *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*. 7th Ed. Belmont: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Several additional readings are posted on the course website in Adobe PDF format:

- Fearon, James. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." [FRN in the schedule]
- Mueller, John. 1995. "Expanding Deterrence." [MLR in the schedule]
- Schelling, Thomas. 1966. "The Art of Commitment." [SCH-1 in the schedule]
- Schelling, Thomas. 1966. "The Manipulation of Risk." [SCH-2 in the schedule]
- Treverton, Gregory F. 2000. "Framing Compellent Strategies." [TRV in the schedule]

**SCHEDULE:** This is only an outline of the topics. Note well the dates for the midterm and final examinations. The lecture notes on the course website will indicate which readings refer to the material covered.

PART I: ANALYTICAL DIMENSIONS

- 3/28 Introduction RSK-1
- 3/30 The Scientific Method RSK-2
- Section Realists, Liberals, and Radicals
- 4/4 State and Anarchy RSK-3
- 4/6 Rational Decision Making RSK-7
- Section The World System RSK-4
- 4/11 Bargaining and Dynamic Commitment SCH-1 [PDF]
- 4/13 Domestic Politics and Social Choice RSK-6
- Section Power and Influence RSK-5

PART II: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

- 4/18 Military Conflict RSK-8
- 4/20 Causes of War FRN [PDF]
- Section Rationalist Explanations for War
- 4/25 Deterrence and Compellence MLR & TRV [PDF]  
**ESSAY #1 DUE**
- 4/27 Brinkmanship SCH-2 [PDF]
- Section Weapons of Mass Destruction, Arms Control

MAY 2: MIDTERM EXAMINATION

**In class, closed book**

- 5/4 Security Dilemma RSK-9
- Section Causes of Peace RSK-11
- 5/9 Just War and International Law RSK-10

PART III: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

- 5/11 Strategy and Defense Spending RSK-12
- Section Approaches to Political Economy
- 5/16 Trade and Interdependence RSK-13
- 5/18 Collective Goods and Institutions RSK-16
- Section Globalization
- 5/23 Economic and Political Integration RSK-14
- 5/25 Development and Foreign Assistance RSK-15
- Section Global Environment
- 5/30 MEMORIAL DAY No class
- 6/1 Wrap-up and Course Review  
**ESSAY #2 DUE**
- Section Section Review

JUNE 10: FINAL EXAMINATION, 8:30-11:00A

**Closed book, comprehensive**