

Government 360N/Fall 2012
#38770 TTh 11-12:15 in Mezes BO 0.306
#38775 TTh 2-3:15 in JGB 2.218

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Prof. David V. Edwards

Office hours in Batts 3.126

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-10:45 and Tuesday 3:30-4

and by appointment via email (dedwards@austin.utexas.edu)

or whenever else you find me in my office

Teaching Assistant: Rodolfo Disi Pavlic

Office hours in Batts 1.118:

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-11

and by appointment via email (rdisi@utexas.edu)

Course Description and Objectives

International relations have enormous impacts on our daily lives, even in the absence of events such as terrorist attacks on the homeland, whether we realize this or not, and whether we play any conscious roles in international relations or not. In fact, as we'll see this semester, many of the things we do in everyday life are influenced by international relations, and things we do in our own lives in turn can have impacts on aspects of international relations.

In this course we'll examine the varying political, military, economic, and cultural phenomena that cross state boundaries in the world today—among them war, diplomatic negotiation, peacekeeping, terrorism, economic relations, ecological problems, cultural exchange, and spiritual movements. Our major interests will be in discovering what actually happens, in examining competing ideas about why things happen as they do, and in considering various ideas about how things could change or be changed.

Our ultimate goal will be to develop the knowledge and analytical skills that can make us better able to understand international relations, and even to act in international relations, either directly or through influencing American foreign policy, in whatever ways we may someday wish.

Class Sessions

Class sessions will be devoted to a combination of lectures and discussions on the topic assigned for the day and on current events from the daily *New York Times* (which will be required reading Monday through Friday all semester, starting Tuesday September 4 through Friday December 7), accompanied by occasional videos and audios as they relate valuably to our session topics. Lectures will expand upon or relate to the readings assigned for each session, most of which will be in the course textbook (see below), but **lectures will not summarize these readings**. Instead, **lectures and discussions will be based on the assumption that you have done the reading**

assignments before class. Please also bring your copy of the day's New York Times to class every class day so we can refer to it as appropriate.

Contacting Us

You have my office hours and email address as well as those of our TA above. We encourage you to bring questions and problems to us after class or in office hours in a timely manner, because the earlier we address them, the better for your experience of the course as well as for your course grade. If you cannot see either of us during scheduled office hours, we can make special arrangements by phone or email.

The Course Website

We will make use of the course website on Blackboard for announcements and other class materials, including various lecture outlines and Powerpoints.

Required Reading

Most of your reading assignments will be in the paperback textbook: Kegley & Blanton: *World Politics*, 2012-2013 edition, published in paperback by Wadsworth/Cengage, which should be available new and used in bookstores and on the web. There have been drastic changes in this new edition since the previous edition, so that earlier editions won't be an adequate substitute. However, you have several options. (1) You may purchase the looseleaf version, available in the Coop for about half the price of the bound edition; the Coop has informed me that it will buy the looseleaf edition back at the end of the course if you wish. (2) You can also rent the book through the Coop or through the publisher, (3) Or you can purchase the e-book from the publisher for less than the looseleaf version. (4) **I'm also placing copies of the book on two-hour reserve in PCL.** Class session topics and reading assignments, along with scheduled exam dates, are listed at the end of this syllabus.

The other major required reading is *The New York Times*, daily Monday through Friday, from Tuesday September 4 through the end of the semester, Friday December 7 (with no paper over Thanksgiving). The cost will be about \$42. Separate sheets on Blackboard contain information on how to subscribe at the drastically reduced student rate. In brief, this is the information: To subscribe at the special classroom rate, call 1-888-NYT COLL (1-888-698-2655); the accompanying sheets on Blackboard give a mail option, but using that will delay the start of your subscription by a week or so, and is therefore not advisable. . (The newsstand cost is a \$2.50 a day and \$6.00 on Sunday, so the rate you get is a major savings of about 50%.) You are only required to read it Monday through Friday, but the Sunday paper is full of interesting and valuable sections with many relevant articles, and I encourage you to read it online. In most cases, the paper will be delivered to your home, arriving before 7 am. If you live on campus, or in a large apartment complex, you will have to select a campus lockbox from the options the operator will give you when you call and listed on the separate sheet, at which to get your paper each day Monday through Friday; weekend delivery is not an option with lockbox delivery. You may also read the *Times* online at www.nytimes.com. If you subscribe to the online edition alone, you must now pay a fee, which is \$15 per month. If you subscribe to the paper edition, you will have free access to the paper online as well, so even if you plan to read it online, it's best to subscribe to the paper edition,

because it will be cheaper. Because I recommend that you clip and file important articles so that you will have them at hand when we deal with their topic and to use in preparing for exams, you may find it preferable to use the paper copy. It would be very costly to print all those articles, and hard to manage them online if you don't print them out. **You should call to arrange your subscription immediately, or it won't start on time.** I will explain in more detail how to use the paper and how to clip and organize your clippings in class once your subscription has started.

There may also be various "handouts" posted online; if so, you will be responsible for any of those marked "required."

Questions about Course Material

If you have any questions about the reading assignment for a given day, you may raise them with me or your TA before or after class or in our office hours. Please feel free to raise your hand and ask a question in class during lecture or discussion if you believe an answer to it might be helpful to others as well as to you. **If you do not ask questions about course materials, we shall assume that you understand them.**

Course Organization, Requirements, and Grading

There will be two or three occasional quizzes in class, which will together count 10 percent of your grade. There will be three exams in the course, the first two given during class time on the days indicated on the assignment sheet at the end of this syllabus, and the third, a comprehensive final, given on the specified final exam day and time. The first in-class exam will count 20 percent of your semester grade, the second 30 percent, and the final 40 percent, so that you will get additional benefit from whatever improvement you achieve in your performance during the semester. Grading will be on the standard ten-point per grade scale, with final grades converted to letter grades with pluses and minuses. Attendance will not be a part of your grade, but class sessions will include lecture material and video clips for which you will be responsible on exams, so **regular attendance is highly recommended.** There will be one comprehensive makeup exam, described below, for the entire semester.

The quizzes will consist of multiple choice and perhaps fill-in-the-blank questions. The exams will include such questions too, but will consist primarily of short essay questions, among which you will probably have limited choice. The quizzes and exams will cover the lectures, readings in the textbook, materials from the *New York Times*, videos and audios from class, and any required "handouts" or downloads from the course website. There are no exams on file for you to examine, because each exam will be tailored to the current readings and other course materials plus this semester's classroom happenings, and will emphasize using the analytical tools we develop in class to analyze current international developments reported in the *Times*. I will, however, give you sample exam questions from time to time in class, and discuss how to answer them well. We do not curve grades, so you are not competing directly with your fellow students, and your good work will be rewarded on its own merits. There will be a special review session conducted by your TA just before each exam.

It is regrettable but inevitable that some of you will be scheduled to take several exams on the same day. Please prepare for these situations in advance, because we cannot reschedule exams.

We are unable to make provisions for your submitting extra work for extra credit, so be sure you do your best work on the exams.

Grades and Grade Appeals

We will post grades on Blackboard. Exams will be returned in class as soon as they have been graded—generally a week or so from the date of the exam. Your TA keeps the records of all your grades, and is therefore the one you should consult first if you have any questions about them. It is also a good idea to discuss your exams with your TA after you receive them back so he can point out ways to improve your performance.

If you believe an error or an incorrect judgment or assessment has been made in grading your exam, please follow these procedures: Discuss the matter with your TA during your TA's office hours or by appointment. If you are dissatisfied with your TA's decision, you may appeal to me. I will then regrade the entire exam, and you will receive whatever grade I assign to you, whether it is higher or lower than that which you received from your TA. I will, of course, also be glad to discuss our decisions with you personally in office hours. To be considered, you must make any such appeal to your TA or to me no later than a week after that exam has been returned in class.

The Comprehensive Makeup Exam

There will be one makeup exam, given near the end of the semester and covering the entire semester's work up to that point, to substitute for and count the same percentage as any exam or quiz you missed with a valid excuse—observing a religious holy day, a death in the immediate family, a serious medical problem, or required absence for participation in a University-sponsored event. If you have such an excuse, you must get it approved by your TA, furnishing appropriate documentation, in advance of the exam or immediately upon your return to campus in the event of an emergency.

Disabilities

The University requires that the following notice be included in this syllabus: "If you have a learning disability or another disability that requires special arrangements for exam-taking, you may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, following which you should consult with your TA well in advance of each exam to work out appropriate approved arrangements."

Honesty, Dishonesty, and Plagiarism

The University recommends that the following notice be included in this syllabus: "Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses punishable by failure of the course. The administration asks that you familiarize yourself with the U.T. Honor Code and the nature of plagiarism by consulting the following site: <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html>. " ***No cell phones or tablets (or computers) will be allowed during exams or quizzes***

Counseling and Related Assistance

The UT Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC): <http://cmhc.utexas.edu/> has asked that I make available the following information about valuable campus resources available to you:

- --For information about students with urgent needs :
<http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/talktosomeone.html>
- --CMHC's 24/7/365 Telephone Counseling Line: 471-CALL/2255;
<http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/24hourcounseling.html>
- --To find out about making an appointment:
<http://cmhc.utexas.edu/appointments.html>
- --For information about our Be That One Suicide Prevention Program, check out
<http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/bethatone/>
- * Behavior Concerns Advice Line- Concerned about someone on campus?
BCAL provides a central resource for UT faculty, students, and staff who may have concerns about the behavior or well-being of another member of the campus community. BCAL is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information contact 512-232-5050 or www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal

Religious Holidays

The University requests that I include the following notice in this syllabus: “By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.”

Emergency Evacuation

The University requests that I include the following notice concerning emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767 in this syllabus:

“Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

“Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

“Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.

“In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.

“Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, UT Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

“Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency.”

Assistance with Writing

The Writing Center has asked that I include the following paragraph: “The Undergraduate Writing Center, FAC 211, 471-6222: <http://www.uwc.utexas.edu/>) offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Any undergraduate enrolled in a course at UT can visit the UWC for assistance with any writing project. The consultants there work with students from every department on campus, for both academic and non-academic writing. Whether you are writing a lab report, a resume, a term paper, a statement for an application, or your own poetry, UWC consultants will be happy to work with you. Their

services are not just for writing that has "problems." Getting feedback from an informed audience is a normal part of a successful writing project. Consultants help students develop strategies to improve their writing. The assistance they provide is intended to foster independence. Each student determines how to use the consultant's advice. The consultants are trained to help you work on your writing in ways that preserve the integrity of your work."

Evaluations and Suggestions

We invite your suggestions of ways we can improve the course throughout the semester, and will conduct a midterm evaluation for this purpose as well as our own detailed end-of-semester evaluations. Please feel free to express criticisms and suggestions, either in person or by note (anonymously, if you wish), to me or to your TA at any time during the semester. In my experience, students often have very valuable ideas to offer, and the sooner you let us hear from you, the sooner we can make whatever changes are desirable and feasible.

Your recommendations of relevant materials, especially websites and video clips

We will appreciate your suggesting interesting sources of relevant materials—especially websites and video clips—you encounter, and of course you can share such suggestions with the class where appropriate by using the group email provisions in Blackboard.

A Final Note

We find international relations fascinating, and hope you will too. We will try to make all aspects of the course as interesting and informative as possible. We depend on you to be attentive to the readings and classroom happenings, and hope you will participate as actively as the size and the structure of the course—over which none of us has any control—allow. Please share your views—and any interesting materials on our subject that you encounter—with us. Your decision to make the course a valuable one for yourself will help to make it valuable for others as well.

Gov 360N: CLASS SESSION TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

No.	Date	Day	Topic	Reading Assignment
1	Aug. 30	Th	Introduction to the course	Special videos
	Part	I:	<i>HOW TO STUDY WORLD AFFAIRS</i>	
2	Sept 4	T	How scholars study world affairs	Chapter 1
3	Sept 6	Th	What happens in world affairs, and how we'll use the <i>N.Y. Times</i> in this course	<i>N.Y. Times</i> Sept 4 & Sept 5
4	Sept 11	T	Major theories of WA: "Realist" theories	Chapter 2: 21-28
5	Sept 13	Th	Major theories of WA: "Liberal" theories	Chapter 2: 28-35
6	Sept 18	T	Major theories of WA: "Constructivisms" and other critical perspectives	Chapter 2: 35-50
	Part	II:	<i>ACTORS IN WORLD AFFAIRS</i>	
7	Sept 20	Th	Decision making in world affairs	Chapter 3
8	Sept 25	T	The "Great Powers"	Chapter 4
9	Sept 27	Th	The "Global South"	Chapter 5
10	Oct 2	T	Nonstate actors	Chapter 6
11	Oct 4	Th	FIRST EXAM	
	Part	III	<i>PROBLEMS, POLICIES, SOLUTIONS</i>	
12	Oct 9	T	Armed conflict: war and terrorism	Chapter 7
13	Oct 11	Th	Debates over power and strategy	Chapter 8
14	Oct 16	T	Alliances, power, & nuclear weapons	TBA
15	Oct 18	Th	The real nature of war	TBA
16	Oct 23	T	Arms control and international law	Chapter 9
17	Oct 25	Th	Theories and conflict	TBA
18	Oct 30	T	SECOND EXAM	
	Part	IV	<i>GLOBAL ECONOMICS AND HUMAN SECURITY</i>	
19	Nov 1	Th	Globalization and international finance	Chapter 10
20	Nov 6	T	Globalization and international trade	Chapter 11
21	Nov 8	Th	Population, health, and information	Chapter 12
22	Nov 13	T	Ecological issues: land and water	Chapter 14: 467-472
23	Nov 15	Th	Ecological issues: food	Chapter 14: 474-480
24	Nov 20	T	Ecological issues: energy	Chapter 14: 472-474; 480-483
	Nov 22	Th	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
25	Nov 27	T	Ecological issues: environment	Chapter 14: 454-467; 483-488
26	Nov 29	Th	Human development and human rights	Chapter 13
27	Dec 4	T	Global ethics	TBA
	Part	V	<i>CONCLUSIONS</i>	
28	Dec 6	Th	Global problems and agendas, The future of the world, and What can be done?	Chapter 15

	Dec 12		FINAL EXAM, 11:00 CLASS	Wed 7-10
	Dec 14		FINAL EXAM, 2:00 CLASS	Fri 9-12