

POLS 227 (3)
Introduction to International Relations
Syllabus
Spring 2012
TR 1:30-2:50P
AD 219

NAME
O: AD 220, 674-2917; H: 676-1726
EMAIL
Hours: T 8-11A; W 10-11A; R 8-11A
Abilene Christian University

Mission Statement

The mission of Abilene Christian University is to educate its students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. The mission of the Department of Political Science is to provide a program of study that will help students understand domestic and international politics and to prepare them for informed and active participation in the political arena and public service. This course aims to fulfill this mission by introducing students to the major theories, themes, and disciplines of the study of international relations.

Course Description

This course is designed to give students an introduction to the study of international relations. We will address a variety of subjects including deterrence, globalization, nationalism, the Cold War, development, terrorism, democratization, international organizations, and U.S. foreign policy (because it is the most influential country in the world). Through the study and examination of various global concerns and current events, students will become familiar with the language and nature of international relations, as well as how one can be involved in global affairs. They will learn that global politics do affect the ways in which people live and that individuals and groups can affect global politics. In the process, students will also learn that there is room for Christian stewardship and influence.

Required Texts

Steven Spiegel, World Politics in a New Era (Fifth Edition, 2012).

Other readings may be assigned and placed on reserve during the semester, handed out in class, or emailed to students.

Background Reading (List is not exhaustive)

BBC
New York Times
Washington Times
Economist
Fox News
CNN

www.bbc.com
www.nytimes.com
www.washtimes.com
www.economist.com
www.foxnews.com
www.cnn.com

Class Procedure

Lecture/Discussion. Lectures are designed as a springboard for discussion and interaction among class members. Throughout the semester students will be also engaged in a variety of forms of active learning.

Faithful class attendance is expected, and irregular attendance can result in a lower grade or being dropped from the course. Attendance will be checked every class meeting. Students who miss more than six classes, regardless of cause, will be dropped from the course with a grade of "F."

It is expected that all students will adhere to the University's honor and dress codes. Violations of academic integrity and other forms of cheating, as defined in ACU's Academic Integrity Policy, involve the intention to deceive or mislead or misrepresent, and therefore are a form of lying and represent actions contrary to the behavioral norms that flow from the nature of God. Violations are addressed as described in the Policy. While the University enforces the Policy, the most powerful motive for integrity and truthfulness comes from one's desire to imitate God's nature in their life. Every member of the faculty, staff, and student body is responsible for protecting the integrity of learning, scholarship, and research. The full policy is available for review at the Provost's office web site (www.acu.edu/campusoffices/provost) and the following offices: Provost, college deans, dean of campus life, director of student judicial affairs, director of residential life, and academic departments.

Under no circumstances can class sessions be audio or video recorded in any manner without the express written consent of the instructor. Any violation of this policy may result in the student being dropped from the course with a grade of "F".

Tests

There will be Midterm and Final examinations. The privilege of taking the Midterm late will be reserved for students participating in official university activities, for illness, or if there is a death or serious illness in the family. If these conditions apply to you for the Midterm, contact the instructor prior to the test. The Final Exam must be taken at the time required by the university. The Midterm is one class period in length, and the Final Exam is two hours long.

Service Learning Project and Paper

All students must perform at least four hours of "service learning" at the Cold War-era Lawn Atlas Missile Base. A map is attached to this syllabus; wear work clothes. Students will work at the LAMB on a Saturday afternoon during the semester, and student teams (see the instructor to sign up for a team) should leave Abilene no later than 12:15P to assure arrival at the Base by 1P. Work times are 1-5P. This Cold War-era base was one of 72 in the U.S. that housed the first intercontinental nuclear weapons. The following dates are available, for teams of 6-7 persons: Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Feb. 25. A typed summary of your service learning experience is due by 5P on the last class day of the semester, and should be one full page. Include in your paper your duties/job and what you learned that supplements information studied in this course.

Extra Credit

There are two extra credit opportunities this semester. The Zambia Medical Mission container will be loaded Feb. 18Sa at 10A at 102 College Drive (behind the Bontke Brothers Construction building). In addition, students have the option to tour the 12th Armored Division Museum at 289 North Second (cost is \$3, hours are Tues. to Sat. 10-5P). Students who do one or both activities and submit a two-page paper by the date indicated on the syllabus about the meaning/significance of the assignment will earn up to 10 points on their Final Exam.

ACU Undergraduate Research Festival

Annually, undergraduate researchers in diverse fields of study share their projects at the ACU Undergraduate Research Festival, either through posters or oral presentations. It may be that students in this course would like to supplement the assignments by participating in an oral presentation or poster session. For students who do participate in the Research Festival, they can earn up to 20 points of extra credit added to the Final Exam. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor or Dr. Greg Powell (Director of Undergraduate Research).

Grades and Grading Guidelines

Midterm Exam 35%

Final Exam 35%

Service Learning Project 15%

Attendance 5%

Participation 10%

Student papers and tests remaining in the professor's possession one month after the last day of the semester will be discarded. A book award is given to the student with the highest average at the end of the semester. Grading guidelines are:

A 90-100 (Excellent)

B 80-89 (Good)

C 70-79 (Average)

D 60-69 (Inferior but passing)

F 59 and below (Failing)

Course Outline*

FOUNDATIONS OF WORLD POLITICS

Jan. 17T	Introduction	
Jan. 19R	- continued -	
Jan. 24T	World Politics: Complexity and Competing Processes	Spiegel Ch. 1
Jan. 26R	Theory and World Politics	Spiegel Ch. 2
Jan. 31T	World Politics and Economics: 1648-1945	Spiegel Ch. 3
Feb. 2R	- continued -	
Feb. 7T	World Politics and Economics: The Cold War CNN Cold War Series "Berlin 1948-49"	Spiegel Ch. 4
Feb. 9R	- continued - CNN Cold War Series "The Wall Comes Down"	
Feb. 14T	Imperialism and Its Victims	Spiegel Ch. 5
Feb. 16R	- continued -	

Feb. 21T Globalization and Fragmentation in a New World Order: Spiegel Ch. 6
1991 to the Present

Background:

“The State of the World: A Framework,” Stratfor.com, George Friedman, 2-21-12
(distributed by professor)

Feb. 23R - continued -

Feb. 28T **Midterm Exam**

MAJOR ISSUES IN WORLD POLITICS

Mar. 1R Security Theory and Practice Spiegel Ch. 7

Mar. 6T - continued -

Mar. 8R Spotlight on Terrorism

Mar. 12M-16F Spring Break (*No Class*)

Mar. 20T Contemporary Security Issues Spiegel Ch. 8

Mar. 22R - continued -

Mar. 27T World Politics: Trade and Investment Spiegel Ch. 9

Background:

“Talking Free Trade” www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LoB2i4fe5Q (3 min.)

“Global Economics - Global Exchange: Free Trade & Protection”
www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRJZWfqWcs0&NR=1&feature=fvwp
(31 min.)(London School of Economics)

Mar. 29R - continued -

Apr. 3T World Politics: Development Spiegel Ch. 10

“Life and Debt”

Background:

“Foreign Aid a Blessing, Curse for Struggling Haiti,” NPR, 3-31-10

www.npr.org/templates/player/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist=false&id=125343322&m=125361326

Apr. 5R	- continued -	
Apr. 10T	Human Issues: Demographic Trends	Spiegel Ch. 11
Apr. 12R	- continued -	
Apr. 17T	Resource Issues and Climate Change	Spiegel Ch. 12
	<u>Background Reading:</u> “An Inconvenient Truth” “No Need to Panic About Global Warming,” Wall Street Journal, 1-27-12 http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204301404577171531838421366.html	
Apr. 19R	- continued -	
Apr. 24T	Global Governance: International Law and Organizations	Spiegel Ch. 13
Apr. 26R	- continued -	
May 1T	World Politics in Context	Spiegel Ch. 14
May 3R	- continued -	
May 4F	5P Service Learning Project due, Extra Credit due	
May 8T	4-6P Final Exam	

*All dates, including test dates, are tentative and subject to change at the instructor’s discretion (except the Final Exam). Any test date changes will be announced at least one week in advance.