

**PO SC 102 Section 3, Introduction to International Relations
Fall 2009
Dr. Aron G. Tannenbaum
Clemson University**

1. Class meeting times:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays, Brackett 111
- 8:00 am sharp to 9:15 am

2. How to contact the instructor

- Office: Brackett 230
- Office hours:
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 – 10:30 am
 - And by appointment
- Email: atannen@clermson.edu
- Office phone: NA. Students should use email as the primary method of contacting the instructor. In an emergency, contact the political science department office, 864-656-3233, but only in an emergency. To talk with the instructor by phone, send him an email with your phone number and two exact times for him to call you back.

3. Course description

- “Overview of both theory and practice in contemporary global politics. Topics include the structure of and primary actors in the international system; reasons conflict occurs; and roles of international institutions, law, and policy.”
- Application to international relations of the Rodney King statement, “Why can’t we all just get along?”

4. General Education Curriculum

PO SC 102 meets the following two general education requirements:

- Social Sciences
- Cross-Cultural Awareness

5. Course goals

- Acquire a basic knowledge of political, historical, geographic, and economic facts about international relations
- Acquire an initial knowledge of the central questions raised in the study of international relations as a subfield of the study of politics
- Replicate and amplify an argument between opposing views about some of the central questions of international relations
- Acquire an initial capability to generate and test social science hypotheses
- Further develop research, writing and classroom participation skills

6. Course requirements and grading system

25%	First exam Tuesday Sept 22
25	Second exam Tuesday Oct 27
25	Research paper (various due dates)
25	Final exam Friday Dec 11, 7 – 9:30 pm

100%

The exams

Each exam will consist of two parts:

- Part 1, in-class multiple-choice questions, weighted at 1/3 of exam grade
- Part 2, in-class essay, weighted at 2/3 of exam grade

The research paper

- Approximately 1500 – 1800 words
- Topics to be discussed
- Due dates vary depending upon which end-of-chapter argument is selected

Make-up Exams

- In general, make-up exams will not be given except for extraordinary circumstances.
- An exam which is missed and not made up receives the grade of zero.

7. Books and materials:

• Required:

- Allen, John & Elizabeth Leppman. *Student Atlas of World Affairs*, 8th ed. Dushkin 2008. ISBN 13: 978-0-07-337972-2 paperback
- Kagan, Robert. *The Return of History and the End of Dreams*. Vintage / Random House, 2008. ISBN 978-0-307-38986-6 paperback
- Shimko, Keith L. *International Relations: Perspectives and Controversies*, 3rd ed. Wadsworth 2010. ISBN 13: 978-0-495-79796-8 paperback
 - Note 1: The third edition of Shimko, new this fall, is 90% similar in content to the second edition, which may be available used for a lower price. However, pagination is different, which may cause difficulty in class discussions. Unless money is very tight the third edition, which is new, is recommended.
 - Note 2: An e-book version of Shimko 3rd edition may be available. Be sure the e-book version allows for highlighting and note-taking on screen during class discussion.

• Recommended

- Daily quick perusal of an internet news site, such as
 - www.nytimes.com, including Op-Ed pieces
 - www.cnn.com
- Occasional perusal of an internet analytic site, such as
 - www.foreignpolicy.com
 - www.foreignaffairs.org

8. Attendance

- Class starts promptly at 8:00 am. Excessive lateness will be counted as a cut.
- Cuts: each student is allowed to miss up to three (3) class sessions for any or no reason without penalty. Students should husband these cuts and not use them up all at once or for trivial reasons.
- Excused absences: a student who misses a class for a valid and reasonable cause will not have that absence counted as a cut. Such reasons include, but are not limited to mandatory attendance at other university events, serious illness, religious observance, court appearances, etc. If asked, the student must present some documentation of the reason for missing the class in order to receive an excused absence. The instructor decides whether or not a given excuse is valid. If the instructor decides that the excuse is not valid, the absence counts as a cut. Remember, only three cuts are allowed.
- If the flu strikes you, do not come to class until a medical person says it is safe, both for you and for the rest of the class. No flu absence counts as a cut.
- At the end of the semester, if a student has accumulated more than three cuts, the student's final course grade will be reduced by one mark for each cut more than three. For instance, if a student's final course grade would have been A minus, the grade will be lowered to B plus for four cuts, B for five cuts, and so on.
- Students must sign the attendance sheet each class day. If the sheet is not signed, the day counts as a cut.
- Students must wait for ten minutes if the instructor is late for class.
- Students with disabilities which may affect their classroom attendance, seating, or performance should notify the instructor at the start of the semester.
- Students must sit in assigned seats. Students needing special seating should inform the instructor at the start of the semester.

9. Classroom decorum

- Arrive on time in the classroom; do not come in late ,especially not habitually
- Do not start packing up books to leave until the instructor dismisses the class
- Mute or turn off cell phones / pagers as the class begins
- Do not use cell phones / pagers in class
- As tempting as it may sometimes be, please refrain from playing games on laptops or cell phones during class
- When speaking, disagree with what a person says but not with the person him/herself
- Do not bring instruments of violence into the classroom: guns, knives, chains, paddles, etc.
- Keep all research materials until your final grade is published
- The instructor reserves the right to inspect all research materials

10. Academic integrity

Students' attention is called to the official Statement on Academic Integrity that is found on the Clemson website at http://www.clemson.edu/ugs/academic_integrity/index.html. It reads, in part:

As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson's vision of this institution as a 'high seminary of learning.' Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic

dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form.

Academic cheating consists of passing off as one's own work the work of others, without attribution.

The instructor reserves the right to make a formal written charge of academic dishonesty, should the occasion arise, to appropriate university authorities.

11. Important dates for PO SC 102, Fall 2009 (corrected)

August 20	Thursday	First class meeting
August 25	Tuesday	Last day to add courses
September 1	Tuesday	Last day to drop a course w/o a W grade
September 8	Tuesday	Last day to order diploma for May commencement
September 22	Tuesday	First exam
September 24	Thursday	Discussion of research paper topics, resources, due dates Due dates are assigned on an individual basis
October 2	Friday	Last day for instructors to issue midterm evaluations
October 9	Friday	Last day to drop a class or withdraw from the university w/o final grades
October 27	Tuesday	Second exam
October 12-13	Monday - Tuesday	Fall break, no classes
November 2	Monday	Registration for fall semester starts
Nov 25 – 27	Wed - Friday	Thanksgiving vacation
December 3	Thursday	Last day of class
December 11	Friday	Final exam, 7:00 – 9:30 pm (official exam schedule)

12. Reading assignments and annotated discussion of chapters in Shimko, *International Relations*, 3rd ed and Kagan, *The Return of History*

Week 1 Aug 25, 27

Shimko Chapter 1, “Change and Continuity in International History,” provides a history of international relations from the start of the modern state system in 1648 to the present day. This chapter provides the historical facts and figures that we will need to more fully explore contemporary international relations.

Kagan “Hopes and Dreams” pp 3-10

Week 2 Sept 1, 3

Shimko Chapter 2, “Contenting Perspectives on International Politics,” is about some of the theoretical models of international relations. This chapter, probably the single most difficult chapter in the book, provides the theories we will apply to international relations issues throughout the semester. We will focus on the age-old debate between Realism and Idealism / Liberalism

Week 3 Sept 8, 10

Shimko Chapter 5, “War and ‘Human Nature’,” asks why warfare takes place. Is war due to some kind of inherent aggressiveness in human beings (particularly in male human beings)? Or perhaps human beings are born peaceful but are made warlike by the societies in which they live? Chapter 5 explores this age-old question.

Week 4 Sept 15, 17

Shimko Chapter 4, “War and Democracy,” examines the widespread hope that if a country becomes a democracy it will become less warlike. If this idea is valid than one way of reducing wars would be to make every country in the world a democracy. But does that mean justifying going to war to make them democratic so they will not make war any more? This question is connected directly with one of the (current) rationales for the American war in Iraq.

Week 5 Sept 22, 24

First exam: Tuesday, Sept 22, primarily on Shimko Chapters 1 – 2, 4 – 5 and Kagan pp 3-10
Research paper handout and guidelines discussed: Thursday September 24

Week 6 Sept 29, Oct 1

Shimko Chapter 3, “Power Politics.” describes and analyzes how countries relate to one another on the basis of power considerations. There is no world government so each country is on its own to see to its own survival. The chapter covers various meanings of the phrase “balance of power.”

Week 7 Oct 6, 8

Kagan on the new Great Powers: Russia, China, Japan, India, Iran, USA, pp 10-53 describes and analyzes the “geopolitical” considerations of the Great Powers and would-be great powers of the post-9/11 world. This material complements the Realism discussion in Shimko chapter 3.

Kagan on democracies and autocracies, pp 53-105 recommends a course of action of the Great Power democracies in confronting the Great Power autocracies in the post – 9/11 world. It continues the Realism analysis of international relations.

Week 7.5 Oct 15 and **Week 8** Oct 20, 22

Chapter 9, “International Law,” looks more closely at one important alternative to Power Politics among countries. Should countries pay more attention to international law? To world government? **and**

Chapter 10, “The United Nations and Humanitarian Intervention,” introduces us to the United Nations and then looks at how well that international organization helps people secure their rights if they live in dictatorships, experience genocide, or find themselves in other dire straits. Does the international community have a moral obligation to help them? A political obligation?

These two chapters, based on an Idealism / Liberalism interpretation of international relations, provide a counterpoint to the Power Politics Realism of Kagan.

Week 9 Oct 27, 29

Second exam: Tuesday, October 27, primarily on Shimko Chapters 3, 9-10, and Kagan, entire Current events discussion, Oct 29

Week 10, Nov 3, 5

Chapter 6, “Free Trade,” focuses on the phenomenon of globalization and the ease with which jobs are being transferred from one country to another. Who benefits and who loses from such arrangements? How does free trade affect people in South Carolina? Are South Carolinians winners or losers in this arrangement?

and

Chapter 7, “The IMF, Global Inequality, and Development,” examines the tragic causes and consequences of the discrepancies between the few wealthy and the many poor countries, some of which are desperately poor. Why does this gap exist? How was it created? What can be done about it? Are there any moral obligations of the rich countries to help the poor countries?

Week 11, Nov 10, 12

Chapter 8, “Globalization and Sovereignty,” looks at the political consequences of free trade. If countries continue to become more economically interdependent, can they also retain their political independence? Should they?

Week 12 Nov 17, 19

Week 12.5 Nov 24

Shimko Chapter 11, “Nuclear Proliferation,” examines the problem posed by more and more countries trying to, and succeeding in obtaining, nuclear bombs. There are now nine (?) nuclear weapons states. Should the world (or the U.S.) permit a tenth, eleventh or twelfth nuclear power to emerge? And what about terrorists getting nuclear weapons? This chapter looks at the use, and misuse, of fears about the spread of nuclear weapons.

Shimko Chapter 12, “International Terrorism,” looks at the headline-grabbing international phenomenon of our times. Who are these terrorists and what do they want? What should be done with and/or to them? And by whom?

These two chapters combined examine the major American political nightmares in the post- 9/11 age, epitomized by the phrase “al Qaeda and the American Hiroshima.”

Week 13 Dec 1, 3

Shimko Chapter 13, “The Global Commons,” looks at a basketful of other issues that concern the condition and fate of the planet including environmental affairs, global warming, population and food growth, and energy (oil) resources.

Final exam

The official final exam for this class is Friday, December 11, 7 – 9:30 pm.

How to Profitably Read the Shimko Text

In the Shimko textbook (almost) every chapter contains ten (10) parts. Reading each part greatly assists in learning the material. These ten parts are not identified as such in the text. Therefore use the guide below to identify the ten parts of each chapter.

- 1) Part 1: First two to four pages of each chapter: an introduction to the main theme of the chapter and why that theme is important.
- 2) Part 2: The body of the chapter, usually containing two or three major sub-themes.
- 3) Part 3: Conclusion. A one or two page summary discussion of the chapter's contents.
- 4) Part 4: Points of view: two usually opposing arguments that highlight the main themes of the chapter. If you read the opposing points of view and understand them well, you have read the chapter adequately. If you cannot understand the points of view then you probably have not read the chapter adequately. Note: this material will be the basis of the required research paper. Further discussion to follow.
- 5) Part 5: Chapter Summary: A one-column summary, more concise than the Conclusion (Part 3)
- 6) Part 6: Critical Questions: Four to six questions of the type that college instructors like to ask on essay exams. (hint hint)
- 7) Part 7: Key terms: specialized words or phrases that must be used when discussing the material in the chapter.
- 8) Part 8: Further readings
- 9) Part 9: [The chapter topic] on the Web
- 10) Part 10: Notes: The author's footnotes to document material he presents in the body of the chapter.