

PO SC 361
FALL 2009
COURSE SYLLABUS

Classes: 2:00-3:15 TTh
233 Brackett Hall

VLADIMIR MATIC
Office: 230 Brackett Hall
Hours: 12:30-2:00 TTh or by
appointment
Tel. 864 656-6125
Email vmatic@clermson.edu

DESCRIPTION:

The course INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN CRISIS will review briefly history of the international relations as well as development of the theories of international relations. It will then examine the conflicts after the end of the Cold War era and the world today still in flux. Factors contributing to continued tensions will be identified and analyzed with an emphasis on political, social and economic roots of conflicts between nations and within the states. The review of these issues will focus on the position and strategies of those directly involved as well as major powers. The issue of international terrorism will be highlighted from that perspective as an element threatening the “new world order” as well as one enhancing cooperation across many old and new division lines. The United States policy in this new international environment will be assessed in the process.

The Korean War and problems still unresolved half a century later, and the impact of 9/11 and the Iraq war on trans-Atlantic relations will be used as case studies to highlight the elements of international politics leading to conflicts and the influence of such events on the relations among major powers and on the “world order”.

Major developments in the world and events currently transpiring like the crisis in the Middle East, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Korea, civil and other conflicts in Africa and other international problems will be covered from different perspectives using a seminar format. These presentations and discussions will supplement political analysis of the case studies and provide examples which will help the students attain better understanding of both dynamics in world affairs and theories of international relations.

REQUIRED READINGS:

World Politics: Trend and Transformation (ninth edition) by Kegley and Wittkopf, International Relations by Karen Mingst (2008) and a collection of articles and other texts. In addition copies of newly published articles on the topics to be discussed may be handed out.

Since the subject of the course are current events and ongoing processes will be examined and analyzed students will be required to follow the developments and to read related articles in The New York Times and The Washington Post. Subscription to The Economist is required.

SUPPLEMENTARY SUGGESTED READINGS:

Use of the Clemson library is highly recommended. A list of reference books and electronic resources with useful links is attached.

Articles related to major course themes in Foreign Affairs, Current History, Foreign Policy, National Interest and Woodrow Wilson Quarterly. Also papers and reports published by the United States Institute of Peace, International Crisis Group, Foreign Affairs Council, Brookings Institution, Heritage Foundation and Carnegie Endowment (a list of their and other useful websites is attached).

A list of books which are recommended is also attached.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

A mid-term examination – a test and an essay (Thursday, September 24) will be evaluated on the basis of demonstrated comprehensive knowledge of the related chapters in the text book, lectures and articles in the course packet.

There will be tests/quizzes.

Research and presentation of the “topic of the week” will be assigned. This oral presentation complemented by a three page paper with a list of sources used, and participation in the discussions in the class will constitute components to evaluate understanding of topics and in particular deeper causes of developments requiring integration of information from articles and assigned texts and lectures.

An independent research of a major topic will be conducted by each student and the results presented in a paper and in class.

The final exam will consist of two parts: a test and an essay.

The final grade will be based on the following formula:

Mid-term exam 20%

Tests/quizzes 20%

Oral presentation 10%

Research paper & presentation 20%

Final exam 30%

Regular attendance and participation in all class activities will be required. Unexcused or excessive absence (more than two) may adversely affect the final grade (one point deduction for each missed class after the first two excused). All excuses should be communicated (email) in advance. Students may be allowed to make up the work missed only after the reason of absence has been reviewed.

First class attendance policy will be strictly enforced.

COURSE OUTLINE:

SECTION ONE

Introduction (August 25 & 27 and September 1):

1. History and Political Science
2. Principles of International Relations
3. National Interest
4. Power (hard and soft)
5. Statecraft, Foreign Policy and Diplomacy
6. International Organizations (intergovernmental and nongovernmental)

- World Politics chapter 1

Theories (September 3):

1. Realism and Neo-Realism
2. Liberalism
3. Constructivism, Structuralism and Radicalism

- Jack Snyder: One world, Rival Theories

Formation of Today's World (September 8, 10, 15 & 17):

1. Treaty of Westphalia 1648
2. Industrial Revolution XVIII & XIX century
3. Congress of Vienna 1814/15
4. World War One and the Versailles System
5. World War Two and Establishment of the Bipolar World
6. Cold War
7. Post Cold War Era

- Karen Mingst: The Historical Context of Contemporary International Relations
- C. Maynes: Squandering Triumph

Impact of the Korean War on Global Relations (September 22 & 29 and October 1 & 6):

1. Sino-American Relations
2. Sino-Soviet Relations
3. U.S.-Soviet and East-West Relations
4. Relations among Western Allies (NATO, U.S.-Western Europe, Western Europe)
5. Relations in Asia (new alliances)
6. Position of Japan and Germany
7. Global Position and Policy of the U.S.

- D. Oberdorfer: The Two Koreas (chapter one)
- K. Weathersby: The Korean War Revisited
- B. Cumings: North Korea: The Sequel

Middle East and Iraq (October 20 & 27):

1. History and context
 2. Interests and involvement of major powers
 3. U.S. position and policy
- D. Kinsella: Regime Change
 - Z. Brzezinski: A Tale of Two Wars
 - Additional readings to be assigned
 - Tape "Palestine 1890-1990"

Trans-Atlantic Relations After 9/11 (November 3 & 10):

1. War on Terrorism
 2. Afghanistan and Pakistan
 3. Iraq
 4. Iran
- M. Glennon: Why the Security Council Failed
 - C. Layne: America as European Hegemon
 - D. Calleo Power: Wealth and Wisdom
 - R. Rosecrance: Croesus and Caesar
 - D. Moisi: Reinventing the West
 - J. Rubin: Building a New Atlantic Alliance

New "World Order" and the United States (November 17):

- Readings to be assigned

SECTION TWO

Topic of the Week: Presentations by students

(Thursdays, October 8 – November 20):

Each student will prepare an oral presentation (10 minutes) of a topic of his/her choice related to major course themes. This topic will have to be approved and the presentation scheduled in advance so the class can prepare for the discussion. It will have to be well structured and delivered and include analysis with arguments and interpretation

as well as references and a written summary (3 pages) with a list of sources used. Use of power point, handouts and transparencies is recommended as well as prepared talking points but not reading. Following the presentation the student will answer questions and should be prepared to defend the analysis and justify conclusions.

Suggested topics are new developments in or related to the Middle East, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kashmir, Central Asia, Russia, China and Taiwan, Korea, Balkans, Africa etc. as well as international terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, economic problems and other global issues.

Research paper and presentation on a key theme of the course
(Presentations: April November 24 and December 1 & 3):

The topic will be selected by the student and a proposal submitted along with a research plan by September 29. During the following five weeks each student will conduct an independent research and submit a draft of about two thousand words (by October 29). The deadline for turning in the papers is Tuesday, November 17. The progress will have to be consistent with the schedule of the research. The final paper will be graded based on use of the resources, facts and arguments, quality of the analysis and overall presentation of the topic.