

UNIVERSITY OF SEOUL

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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COURSE OVERVIEW:

While the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 did not change the global balance of power, it nevertheless, did bring about a dramatic change in American foreign policy. This course assesses both the continuity and change in the international system, and sorts out the broad ranging effects of the war on terrorism in the context of the changing world order that has evolved since the end of the Cold-War.

Specifically, this course critically assesses the competing conceptual/theoretical issues, debates and methodologies in the field of international politics; analyzes the origins and evolution of the post-war global order; the legacy of the cold war; the forces that led to the collapse of the bipolar order and the challenges for global peace and security in the emerging “new world order.” Issues examined in detail include: the prospects for effective multilateral cooperation in this era of American primacy; American foreign policy: from George W. Bush to Barak Obama; unilateralism vs. multilateralism; the roots of global terrorism and how the international community, in particular, the U.S. response?; how are the rules of international politics being rewritten in both large and small ways in the post 11 September world?; the threats posed by weapons of mass-destruction (WMD); terrorism; the North Korean nuclear standoff; the United Nations: its role and effectiveness? International law -- its role, strengths and limits; the evolution of the post-war international economic order; the pros and cons of globalization; the rise of China and India the global environment and challenges in managing the global commons; the nature, origins and ramifications of the North-South divide, among others.

This course is open to all ideas, but also committed to reasoned critical analysis that is the hallmark of education. Our obligation is to seek not what is popular, or conventionally believed, but what in the most rigorous sense advances our understanding of international relations.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Pevehouse, Jon and Joshua Goldstein. 2017. International Relations. (11th Edition), New York: Pearson. ISBN 13:978-0-13-440476-9 (www.pearsonhighered.com).

(There is also a lower cost mobile version of this book – please check with publisher)

REVEL is an online resource that contains book-specific practice tests, chapter summaries, learning objectives, flashcards, weblinks, Research Navigator, and media-related activities that enhance topics covered in your textbook. It is **free** with a **new** textbook.

NOTE: All required readings are marked by an asterisk (*). Required readings that are not from the required text will be placed in a COURSE READER in the Reserve Book Room in Gleeson. The Reader is

accessible electronically – check for details at Gleeson. Other pertinent (brief) readings will be distributed in class (DIC).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Plagiarism will result in an “F” for the course. Regular class attendance and arriving in class on time (a record will be kept) and meaningful class participation (which includes active participation in class discussions) is expected of each student. Students will reduce their grade by at least half a point for each unexcused absence (i.e., from “A” to “A-” or from “A-” to “B+” etc.).

IMPORTANT: Please turn off your cell-phone during class and only use laptops if your activities are course related. Doing e-mail and non-course work during class and electronic recording of any class activity is prohibited. Instructor’s written permission to required record any portion of a class meeting.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

A+	98-100	C+	75-80
A	94-97	C	70-74
A-	91-93	C-	65-69
B+	87-90	D+	59-64
B	84-86	D	54-58
B-	81-83	D-	50-53
		F	under 50

CLASS SCHEDULE AND LECTURE TOPICS:

Introduction to the course: studying international politics

The discipline of political science and the field of international relations (IR): sub-fields of IR, areas of study, key terminologies and concepts; IR theories and methodologies; leading “actors” and levels of analysis; the North-South gap, culture, religion, ethnicity, gender and language; historical background to the evolution of the contemporary international system; Globalization and contemporary IR

ONE: Globalization of international relations and overview of post-war American Foreign policy; *America’s Response in the aftermath of September 11 terrorist attack*: The Paradox of American Primacy: “soft” vs. “hard” power; National Security Strategy (NSS); the “Bush doctrine”, pre-emption; unilateralism vs. multilateralism, Obama’s foreign policy; what is Grand Strategy and Foreign policy?

* Goldstein, International Relations, preface, etc., chapter 1

TWO: The theory and practice of international relations: critical review of political idealism, realism, the behavioral approach, liberalism, the neo-realist approach, realist-liberal debate, hegemonic stability theory, “game theory” (i.e. the pros and cons of formal cost-benefit analysis and mathematical models), psychoanalytic approaches; dependency and world systems theories and transnationalism and interdependence. Normative bias of power politics; pros/cons of Peace studies, feminism, gender and

politics; post-modernism -- how “realistic are they”? Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism

* Goldstein, International Relations, chapters 2 and 3

THREE: Making foreign policy: the role of ideology, political culture, value and belief systems and public opinion; the art of diplomacy and "making foreign policy": the decision making process, leaders, policy-making elites, “think tanks”, bureaucracies, interest groups, lobbyists, the military-industrial complex, the citizenry and the media; regime/government type and implications for foreign policy; foreign policy making during “crisis management”. U.S. foreign policy decision-making systems and processes; the role of the President, Federal Agencies, the Congress; G.W. Bush and Obama’s foreign policy strategies – is there a “Grand Strategy”

* Goldstein, International Relations, chapter 4

FOUR International Conflict: war -- the record; origins and legacy of the cold war; causes of war - theories and their basic weaknesses as tools of explanation; types of conflicts (what explains the intractability of ethno-nationalist and religious conflicts); war and its ramifications on the international system -- will “the clash of civilizations” replace the cold-war; the future of the Atlantic alliance; the rise of China; regional security organizations and conflict management; the art of mediation and strategies of conflict resolution. The Iraq war of 2003 and beyond

* Goldstein, International Relations, chapter 5

FIVE: Military force and Terrorism: configuration of military forces, chain of command, military establishment, governments and society; technological developments and militarization – “smart bombs”/ WMD; the “just war doctrine”; the problem of nuclear proliferation and limits of nuclear non-proliferation regimes (NPT): the **Iranian and North Korean nuclear impasse**; 2010 NPT Review Conference; Pres. Obama and the new “nuclear posture”; the war against terrorism

* Goldstein, International Relations, chapter 6

SIX: International organization and law: examination of the norms, rules, procedures and institutions which guide most relations among international actors; critical study of the United Nations system: its history, functions, structure and strengths and weaknesses – review of UN and the Iraq war; review of the UN "peacekeeping" and "peacemaking"; The evolution and principles of international law since Grotius; the problems of enforcement and compliance; international law and human rights

* Goldstein, International Relations, chapter 7

* see UN web page (www.un.org) – describes the UN’s many activities

SEVEN: From Security to International Political Economy (IPE): contending approaches to IPE, is there a potential conflict between the security-dominated study of IR and the IPE focus of IR? States and Markets: patterns of international trade; trade strategies; “free trade zones”, protectionism, “comparative advantage”, centrally planned and market-oriented economies; international regimes -- what are they and how do they work?; the political economy of trade regimes -- MFN status, OPEC, from GATT to WTO; the Doha Round and global trade – issues that divide the North and South?

Global Finance and Business: the International Monetary System: banks, capital, the currency system, investment patterns; the role and operating procedures of the Bretton Woods Monetary Regime -- the World Bank and The International Monetary Fund (IMF); the G-7; how does negative shifts in national economies affect relations among nations -- for example, U.S. national debt, Japanese trade surpluses and U.S.-Japanese relations? Multinational corporations (MNC's) in the world economy; Globalization of capital: the subprime credit crisis and why it went global; crisis in the euro-zone

* Goldstein, International Relations, chapters 8 and 9

EIGHT: International Integration or national sovereignty: revisit the debate between the neo-realists and the neoliberal institutionalists; what explains the struggle between the contradictory forces of nationalism and supranationalism? regionalism; integration within the European Community (EC), the Single European Act and the Maastricht Treaty; the Euro –current problems in the euro-zone and what it means for the global financial system; Global telecommunications and “the power of information”: global village or domination?

* Goldstein, International Relations, chapter 10

NINE: The global environment and population: challenges to sustainable development: the nature and extent of the environmental crisis; challenges to international cooperation on the environment (case studies on marine pollution, fisheries; ozone layer, acid rain, biodiversity, deforestation etc.); the Kyoto protocol; the role of the United Nations in environmental governance: from Stockholm to the “Earth Summit” -- an assessment; warfare and environmental damage; environmental degradation, conflict, human migration (refugees) and international security; role of environmental movements and NGOs; world hunger and biotechnology.

* Goldstein, International Relations, chapter 11

TEN: The North-South gap and challenges to international development: historical background to the North-South divide; the “south” in international affairs -- strengths and weaknesses; obstacles to Third World development -- is the NICs a model for the rest of the developing world to follow; the rise of China and India; does the north have an obligation to help the south; widening North-South disparities and its implications for global cooperation and stability.

* Goldstein, International Relations, chapters 12 and 13

May 11: Postscript and review

* Goldstein, International Relations, chapter 14