Introduction to World Politics

Course description
This course will introduce you to some of the most important academic arguments in world politics as well as provide a brief survey of historical and more contemporary issues in international politics. The goal of the course is to familiarize you with the relevant arguments you need to better understand current events and to fully participate in the political dialogue.

We begin the course with a survey of the main theoretical approaches to the field of international relations. The second part of the course looks at historical and more recent cases of war and peace to better understand how evidence shapes theory. We can also see that the theories we use to view the world mold our understanding of why and how that event occurred. The third section is devoted to international political economy, the other major aspect of world politics beside war and peace. We end with a look at contemporary issues in world politics and a look ahead to what is in store for the US and the world.

Grading
Your grade will be based on a take-home midterm (35%), an in-class final (45%), and weekly discussion sections (20%). Your discussion grade will be based on attendance, participation, and two short presentations related to questions about the readings. One presentation will be you presenting the readings, the second will be you acting as a “discussant” for the day's presentation where you will pose questions and facilitate the section dialogue. Your TA will discuss the presentations in more depth.

The midterm will be handed out Thursday May 4th and is due at the beginning of class Thursday May 11th. It is open book, open note, but you are expected to do your own work. Answers will be typed, double spaced, and will need to be no longer than 10 pages. No exceptions will be made for late work and deductions will be made accordingly.

The final is Thursday, June 15, 2006, 8:00am-11:00am. It will be in our regular classroom. Because of the class size, there will be no make-ups offered, except in the case of death (yours), or with a health center note.

Course Website
http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/06S/polisci20-1/
Books
The following books are available for purchase at the UCLA bookstore. Readings marked with an asterisk are available from the course website.

The Actual Syllabus...

1. Introduction and Overview (April 4)
Walt, “International Relations: One World, Many Theories,” in Mingst and Snyder.

   I. Theoretical Approaches to the Study of World Politics

In Mingst and Snyder:
   Bald, “Thucydides’ ‘Melian Dialogue’”
   Morgenthau, “A Realist Theory of International Relations” and “Political Power”
   Glennon, “Why the Security Council Failed”
   Luck, Slaughter, and Hurd, “Responses [to Glennon]”

4-5. Liberalism: Institutions, Interdependence, and Democracy (April 11, 13)
In Mingst and Snyder:
   Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics”
   Kant, “To Perpetual Peace”

6-7. Domestic Politics: The Public, Interest Groups, and Bureaucracy (April 13, 18)
II. War and Peace

8. World War I: The Balance of Power and Alliances (April 18)

9. World War I: Organizations and Domestic Politics (April 20)

Wilson, “The Fourteen Points,” in Mingst and Snyder.

11. World War II: Hitler and the War (April 25, 27)

12. The Cold War I: The “Long Peace” (April 27)
In Mingst and Snyder:
   Kennan, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct”
   Gaddis, “The Long Peace”

13. The Cold War II: Vietnam (May 2)

14. The Gulf War (May 2, 4)

15. The Democratic Peace (May 4)
16-17. Movie: *Dr. Strangelove* (May 9, 11)

III. International Political Economy

18-19. The Politics of International Trade (May 11, 16, 18)

20-21. Globalization and Backlash (May 18)
In Mingst and Snyder:
  Held, et al., “Globalization”
  Friedman, “Backlash”

22. Disease (May 23)

IV. Contemporary Problems and Future Prospects

23. Intervention in Civil Conflicts (May 23, 25)
In Mingst and Snyder
  Finnemore, “Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention”
  Power, “Bystanders to Genocide”
  Doyle, “International Intervention”

24-25. Nuclear Proliferation (May 30, June 1)
Schelling, “The Diplomacy of Violence” in Mingst and Snyder.

26. Terrorism (June 1, 6)
In Mingst and Snyder:
  Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?”
  Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism”
In Logevall:
  Walker, “A Brief History of Terrorism”
  Lewis, “The Roots of Muslim Rage”
  Rashid, “Osama bin Laden: How the U.S. Helped Midwife a Terrorist”
  Osama bin Laden, “An Interview”
  Barber, “Jihad vs. McWorld”

27-28. The United States, the World, and the Future (June 6, 8)
* Charles Krauthammer, “American Unilateralism.”
* G. John Ikenberry, “America’s Imperial Ambition,” Foreign Affairs (September/October 2002).

    Final—Thursday, June 15, 2006, 8:00am-11:00am