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**PolSci.103.01 - Introduction to International Politics**

**Fall 2013**

University College Division  
Washington University  
**Department of Political Science**  
Fully Online via Blackboard

Please use your WUSTL KEY to log into Washington University’s “Blackboard” system. If you have not yet created your WUSTL KEY you may still use your current SIS ID and Password. You will be redirected to the Create WUSTL KEY page. Call (314) 935-5000 for the computer help desk, if you experience restrictions or obstacles.

How many countries exist in the world today? What thoughts come to mind when you see the names of certain nations? Go online and learn something about these and other countries in our world.

- **Afghanistan** – Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- **Chile** – Republic of Chile
- **Chad** – Republic of Chad
- **France** – French Republic
- **Georgia**
- **Japan** – State of Japan
- **Kiribati** – Republic of Kiribati
- **Korea, South** – Republic of Korea
- **Iraq** – Republic of Iraq
- **Israel** – State of Israel
- **Kosovo** – Republic of Kosovo
- **Nagorno-Karabakh** – Nagorno-Karabakh Republic
- **Yemen** – Republic of Yemen
- **Vietnam** – Socialist Republic of Vietnam
- **Trinidad and Tobago** – Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
- **Thailand** – Kingdom of Thailand
- **Spain** – Kingdom of Spain
- **Rwanda** – Republic of Rwanda
- **Saint Kitts and Nevis** – Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis
- **United States of America**

Why do some nations have more power than others? What countries belong to the G20 and why?
Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the study of international politics, with an emphasis on the many factors and processes which tend to produce cooperation and conflict within the international arena. You will become familiar with and learn about the various contributions from key experts in the field of study called international politics. These contributions are generally understood and categorized as mainstream theories such as realism, neoliberal institutionalism, or as the lesser known theories such as globalism, constructivism and critical theory. This exposure will provide you with an opportunity for a wide range of understanding from diverse perspectives. This will enable you to evolve into your own understanding of how international politics works – how it really works. You will also develop an understanding of how international law is impacted by power and international politics. You will ultimately apply all of these insights to a real life topic which interests you. This exercise will be achieved by writing a research paper.

We will also apply these exercises to real life political scenarios. We will also critically analyze the text along with various interpretations of world events. After all, different actors view the world differently, therefore, we will study these different views, and attempt to discover for ourselves the best way to understand and explain world politics. There are many issues to be explored in world politics. For example, the current war against Iraq is viewed differently by people in the U.S. than it is by people in Iran, Iraq, France or Germany. But, why is this? In addition, Americans are split on issues concerning war. Why is this? Protests exist in many countries along with repression and democracy. But why? How many countries are there in the world? Why do numbers differ and change over time? There are 192 United Nations member countries, however this does not include all countries in the world. What is happening here? How is a “country” defined? What is “an independent country? What are the internationally recognized sovereign states? Why are these issues important? Why do some countries have more power than other countries? Why did the G7 turn into the G8 and then the G20? What accounts for shifts in power? Who were the great powers in 1400? What about in 1700? As part of our journey, we will examine key theories on international relations, we will study international affairs, and world politics. Together we will quicken our ability to see beyond what is in print, in the news and presented ideologies, and develop ways of increasing our level of understanding.

In this course, students will:

- understand, reflect and think critically on issues and topics concerning world politics and international politics;
- have an expanded appreciation of the diverse components which make up the international system;
- develop an appreciation of the diversity of worldviews related to explaining world politics;
- explain the meaning of various theoretical approaches to international politics and to critically read information and to effectively write about issues posed
- use political-analytical thinking to interpret, analyze and explain various world events
- become acquainted with key fundamental theoretical frameworks used by scholars, who study international politics, and some of the dominant issues within international politics in both the current era and in historical perspective
- learn about basic methods, approaches, and problems in the analysis of international politics
- get familiarized with political patterns and issues in the contemporary international system
- learn to think critically and analytically about politics in the contemporary international system
- focus on key issues of our times including war, international law, globalization, cooperation and conflict, and human rights and
- develop a greater appreciation for ethical and moral reasoning
Course Objectives/Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course the students will be expected to:

- understand the key concepts in international politics and the various theoretical perspectives (realism, liberalism and critical approaches to international relations) and use them to analyze and evaluate issues in international politics.
- understand the three levels of analysis (the international system, the state and the individual level) to evaluate and analyze international events and issues.
- understand key concepts and terms used in international politics
- have a level of comfort when analyzing, evaluating and discussing international politics, international relations and international affairs
- understand and explain links between power, politics and law
- define, analyze and evaluate how power affects the relations between international actors and structures and their interactions and decision-making processes
- understand links between military, political and economic power politics and industry growth or decline in the international arena
- conduct basic research using online journals and books and write a research paper

Course Structure

The class will be online. Students will read and review information each week, outlined on the Syllabus, post Discussions each week via Blackboard and write papers which will involve student’s demonstrating their understanding of the course readings, materials and their own ability to perform research and to report of issues related to international politics/international relations/world politics. The readings the PowerPoint lectures will introduce and explain key concepts, ideas, and arguments. Discussions will address critical questions, problems, and issues highlighted in the readings each week.

All students are expected to be active participants in class discussions, and to contribute meaningfully to the explanation, evaluation, and applications of the concepts and issues covered throughout the course. Therefore, it is imperative that students read the assigned material, and post their Discussions and engage with the others in the class via Blackboard.

Students with Disabilities

Students with learning disabilities or physical impairments should make arrangements and inform with the instructor as soon as possible, at the beginning of the semester and make necessary arrangements with the disability support team.

Grading

Coursework and participation assessment will be graded by the instructor, or designated agent, based upon the point scale contained in this syllabus. Grades will be based on how well the student demonstrates their understanding of the course materials, lectures and discussions on issues posed. Students should focus on demonstrating that they have read the materials, attended class and thought independently about issues and questions presented.

Policies on Late Assignments

- Instructions will be handed out in class and each item will contain the due date, please submit your work by the due date.
Feedback Schedule

- My goal is to help you learn. I am open to providing opportunities for students to redo their class assignments if your work does not meet minimum requirements.
- The instructor will provide timely feedback on assignments, papers, and presentations.

Academic Integrity

Washington University strives to be a center of academic excellence. As part of our Statement of Ethics, the University strives to preserve academic honor and integrity by repudiating all forms of academic and intellectual dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty. Students at Washington University are expected to practice academic honesty. A determination that a student has violated this policy could result in the student receiving a failing grade for the course, or a "0" on the specific assignment, paper or other work.

You have committed plagiarism if:

- You intentionally submitted any written or oral work done by someone else and represented that work as your own
- Any portion of your work does not have proper citation
- You asked someone else to write your paper
- You should not copy whole portions of text from another source as a major component of your papers or projects.
- When you quote an author you need to put it in quotation marks and provide full citation (name of author, name of book or article, place of publication, publisher, and year of publication, page number, and web page address).
- You can paraphrase someone else’s ideas and writings but you still need to cite the original source. You need to use footnotes or endnotes, and a full bibliographic reference. See style manual for proper citation.

Learn about Citation Styles at:

- MLA Citation Style
- Chicago Style
- Online citation styles

Course Requirements

Readings (*There is no textbook.*)

Note: In addition to these readings, you are being asked to view videos and to perform research and to review various other informative works and pieces of information to enhance your learning experience.

• Viotti, Paul R. & Mark V. Kauppi (2007) Chapter 1, “Theory, Images, and International Relations: An Introduction” in International Relations and World Politics: Security, Economy and Identity (Allyn and Bacon) by Paul R. Viotti and Mark V. Kauppi

Web Resources

Here are a few examples of online resources:

http://www.stwr.org/global-conflicts-militarization/why-we-fight.html
http://www.youtube.com/videos/
http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=iraq+and+injuries&search_type=&aq=f
http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=iraq+and+children+injuries&search_type=&aq=f
http://www.icj-cij.org

Course Objectives/Expected Learning Outcomes

Discussions-Class Participation - 10 (100 points possible)

Each is worth 10 points for a total of 100 points. You are required to actively participate online for this course and this will be a critical component of your final grade. Everyone is expected to participate and to respond to the Discussion posts of the other students in the class and/or for making meaningful well thought out contributions during course discussions. I expect students to bring to the course a wide variety of philosophies and views, and to express them openly, but with respect and tact. This way we can learn from each other.

Assignments - 4 (100 points possible): Instructions will be uploaded soon.

• The course requires that each student submit four (4) (worth 25 points each) assignments.
• The purpose of these assignments is to check your understanding of the key topics of this course as we progress.
• The instructions for each will be passed out in Blackboard soon.
• Your response should be based on your understanding of the weekly assigned readings. The instructions will set forth the readings that are relevant for that particular assignment
• Use Microsoft Word. Papers should approximately three (3) pages in length (longer papers always work for me), double spaced with a 12 point font.
• Be sure to provide references when referring to points made by authors other than yourself, including the textbooks, articles, websites and other materials.
• Please remember to type your name, the topic, and the assignment number (i.e. Assignment #1, #2, #3, #4) as part of the document/file name for the paper.

Research Papers - Initial Research Paper (100) and Final Research Paper (100) (for a total of 200 points possible on each Research Paper)

Each student will complete a research paper based on a topic that you will select and then relate to the course material. Narrow your paper topic to a question. You will not be penalized if your paper is longer than 10 pages. Please do not submit papers shorter than 10 pages.

Guidelines for Research Papers

1. Paper layout:
   • Papers must have your name, your topic and page numbers
   • 10 pages in length, double spaced, 12 point font
   • Bibliography is a must and any citation style is acceptable (APA etc.).
   • Here is a helpful website http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citation.htm
   • If this one disappears, there are many others. Just do a web search using the key word search of “bibliographies”, or “how to write a bibliography”.

2. Your Initial Research Paper (100 points), which is due by Thursday of Week 5

Your Initial Research Paper will not be perfect. Interpret these instructions however you see fit and create an initial draft. To encourage you, grading will be very lenient on the initial draft.

If you have questions, feel free to ask me regarding these instructions. I suggest that when writing your Initial Research Paper that you take the following steps. They can be taken in any order that you feel is best. I would suggest that you complete the following activities which should ultimately result in the completion of your Initial and Final Research Papers. These steps are:

First, select an international politics topic that interests you. Write it out and reflect on it (5 points).

Second, review your 4 completed assignments and their instructions, books that you have located and referred to help you understand international politics, and articles that were uploaded into the Blackboard classroom as “files”/“shared files”. Choose 7 themes (topics, issues, concepts and/or terms) that interest you. Take the international politics topic that interests you and weave that topic into a framework made up of the 7 themes that you choose (10 points).

Third, the Viotti & Kauppi Chapter that you read, reviewed and used for several of the assignments. Pull insights from this reading and weave those insights into your research paper (10 points).

Fourth, review the supplemental articles that will be made available to you several weeks prior to the due date of the Initial Research Paper. Select 7 that are interesting to you. Print them out, review them and highlight insights that you find engaging. Write notes to yourself about these insights and provide yourself with references in order to remember where you read the information and ideas. In class we will discuss how to apply references and citations within the body of your paper, and how to prepare a bibliography. This will help you latter when you are ready to use these insights as references. These insights taken from the 7 articles will be woven in the various points, arguments and topics that you will discuss in the body of your Initial and Final Research Papers (10 points).

Fifth, create a research question/a hypothesis for your research paper (5 points). If you are not sure about how to do this, look up “research questions” and “hypothesis” on google.com, yahoo.com, or wikipedia.com. We will discuss this during class on several occasions.
Sixth, create an introduction (1-3 pages) which contains an explanation of why you are interested in the topic that you will discuss in your Initial and Final Research Papers (5 points).

Seven, create a body (9-14 pages) and a conclusion (1-3 pages)(5 points).

3. Your Final Research Paper is due towards the end of the semester. It will be a revised and expanded version of your Initial Research Paper (100 points).

Wisdom Tips

Tip: Remember To Add Insights from Your Readings
Your readings, research and audio lectures and articles have a lot of useful information, so remember to take notes so that you can refer to them.

Tip: Don’t be Afraid to Start Training Your Mind as a Research Scholar
You will be asked to also do research to located additional academic resources - books, academic journals, magazines and newspapers from academic and scholars who have researched and thought deeply on this topics/issues/concepts that you are attempting to understand. Apply pieces of knowledge, things that you read from reading the work of other scholars, and use them in your own paper, without plagiarizing. I will demonstrate how you mention contributions, thoughts and ideas taken from books, articles and other sources.

Tip: How to Locate On-Line Articles
We will discuss this in class. Also, visit, email and/or call Washington University’s library (on various occasions) and ask someone (reference librarian) to help you become aware of print and online journals, eBooks, databases, laws, policies, films, articles, policies, treaties, websites, scholarly and academic resources. Tell them you are getting prepared to write a research paper for your course. Also visit the website for Washington University Library and explore the many resources and references available to you as a student of Wash U.

For example, check for “Academic Search Premier” or EBSCO Host, when you click on it you will later see a box with the word “Find:”

You will be given many articles from various academic journals, magazines, newspapers and book sources. Read through or scan all of these titles. See which one seems to suit your purposes. Most of them are right there, available at the click of a button for you to read, print and to use in order to deep your understanding of the various key issues relevant to your position and the positions of the other actors, on all sides of this issue.

Tip: Research Major Websites
I usually start a search by going to yahoo.com typing in the key word and exploring various links to see how my topic of interest is being discussed by people. Then, I do the same on youtube.com and wikipedia.com for key words relating to the issue that you are writing about. You never know what you might find. Videos, news clips, reports. These data ports are not considered scholarly or academic, so please do not cite yahoo.com, wikipedia.com or youtube.com. Instead, use these resources to develop your understanding of key issues and topics related to your topic of interest, in order to locate more resources and references (scholarly/academic ones) to use in your research paper.

Summary of Course Grading and Due Dates:

Discussion-Class Participation 100 points 25%
This includes Discussion posts and responses to class Discussions of other students. There are no set due dates, at this time. So long as everyone posts discussions on a regular basis, this will remain the case. If I feel the need to post due dates on Discussions because of slow or lack of class participation, this may happen.

**Written Assignments** – 4 @ 25 points each

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<th>Written Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>#2</td>
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<td>#3</td>
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<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>#4</td>
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<td>25%</td>
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**Research Papers** – 2 @ 100 points each

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<th>Research Papers</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>50%</td>
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Initial Research Paper due Thursday of Week 8

Final Research Paper due Thursday of Week 14

**Class Final Grading Scale**

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<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 400</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>361- 400</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>360- 380</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>348 - 359</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>332- 344</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>320 -331</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>308 -319</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>292- 307</td>
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In the unlikely situation where a student has earned less than 292 points, the student will earn the following: 260 - 291 will result in a "D" below 260 points will result in an "F" grade.

If a student fails to submit assignments and other work the student will receive a "0" grade on those missing assignments, papers and other work.

**Schedule of Coursework**

**Week 1**

Introduction & Overview: Understanding International Politics?

Research: “International Affairs”, “World Politics”, “International Politics” and “International Relations”. Come to understand what these terms mean, and whether there is really any difference between the terms.

Discussion 1: Introduce yourself by posting a comment inside of our Blackboard online classroom Discussions area. Tell the class a little about yourself, your major, what you would like to do in life and why you decided to take this class. Post something brilliant about “International Politics”.

Links:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3muzELM1_uw&feature=related
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9eV5gP1zg&feature=related
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5foxGF6Xi-s&feature=relmfu
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMkJT_01KUw
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5OhBYq49uk

Week 2 Theories and Concepts of International Politics: Diverse Perspectives

Discussion 2: Post a discussion which demonstrates your knowledge of the reading by Viotti & Kauppi. Also, try to make your Discussion relate to the prior Discussions posted by your classmates. If your Discussion is the first one, you will not have to make it relate to other posts. If your post is last, you will have a more challenging job ahead of you.

Week 3 Historical Factors
Commanding Heights (2002) is a PBS documentary based on the book by Daniel Yergin and Joseph Stanislaw (1998). You are being asked to learn about this work by viewing films Part One, Two and Three. Contact the computer help desk if your computer has problems playing These online videos (314) 935-5000. If this link fails to work for you, go to yahoo.com and Search “Commanding Heights and PBS” and locate the videos directly from the PBS website. If all else fails, secure a copy of the DVD or video and view it, or locate a copy of the book. Check with Wash U’s library.

Links:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commanding_Heights:_The_Battle_for_the_World_Economy

Discussion 3: Post a discussion which demonstrates your knowledge of Commanding Heights. Discuss something that you learned after viewing the videos. What stands out most in your mind? Also, try to make your Discussion relate to the prior Discussions posted by your classmates. If your Discussion is the first one, you will not have to make it relate to other posts. If your post is last, you will have a more challenging job ahead of you.

Assignment #1 is due.

Week 4 The US Rise to Power
Go online and research the following terms: Bretton Woods Conference, Potsdam Conference, Yalta Conference and Tehran Conference. Understand the political decisions which were made during these conferences and how this impacted US power on the international stage.
Discussion 4: Post a discussion which demonstrates your knowledge of how these conferences shaped US power. Also, try to make your Discussion relate to the prior Discussions posted by your classmates. If your Discussion is the first one, you will not have to make it relate to other posts. If your post is last, you will have a more challenging job ahead of you.

Assignment #2 is due.

Week 5 Why Have Nations Gone to War?

Discussion 5: Post a discussion which demonstrates your knowledge of the readings by Stoessinger and Byers. Also, try to make your Discussion relate to the prior Discussions posted by your classmates. If your Discussion is the first one, you will not have to make it relate to other posts. If your post is last, you will have a more challenging job ahead of you.

Assignment #3 is due.

Week 6 The Case of the War in Iraq
Go online and research the following terms: “the end of the war in Iraq”, “reasons for going to war in Iraq”, “reasons against going to war in Iraq”, “the US invasion of Iraq”. Locate information from Youtube.com, googlescholar.com, googlebooks.com and the US White House website. Review and reflect various pieces of data and information. Come to a deeper understanding of various factors related to the war in Iraq.

Assignment #4 is due.

Week 7 Why We Fight
View: http://www.stwr.org/global-conflicts-militarization/why-we-fight.html
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Why_We_Fight

Countering the Argument(s) Made in Why We Fight
Go online and research the various terms (on the U.S. White House website, google.com, yahoo.com, googlescholar.com, googlebooks.com and YouTube.com) to locate data and information to allow you to make the argument that the US invasion of Iraq was necessary and legitimate in order to protect the US and for national security reasons.

Week 8 Human Rights
Go online and research the United Nations “Universal Declaration on Human Rights”. Understand it.
Review: 
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuFM7SpU-4&feature=fvsr
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1K7Qj95-4&feature=related
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbDb5-0wAl4&feature=related
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBBO_DXNLRs
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlUgIqzL4o&feature=related
http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=iraq+and+injuries&search_type=&aq=f
http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=iraq+and+children+injuries&search_type=&aq=f
Very Graphic:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zSbtvkEXCA

IRP is due.
**Discussion 6:** Post a comment that will grapple with the information that you used to learn from during Weeks 6, 7 and 8.

**Week 9**

**Week 10**

**Globalization**

Go online and locate information that you will find by searching the following terms: “Globalism and Free Market Ideology”, “Stiglitz and globalization”, “Manfred Steger and Globalism”, “in defense of globalization”, “globalization report card” and “pros and cons of globalization”, “benefits and detriments of globalization”. Be able to write out a definition of “globalization” informed by a combination of scholars, writers and authors.

Go online to this Databank of resources at:
http://www.stwr.org/videos/.

Review and analyze various data and literature that is of interest to you.

**Discussion 7:** Post a comment that includes a working definition of globalization. Also provide factors demonstrating why globalization is good and factors demonstrating why globalization of bad.

**Week 11**

**Critical Analytical Approaches to Study International Issues**


**Discussion 8:** Post a summary of each of the four readings listed under Week 11. Also research the term “methods for International Relations” and post two sentencing explaining this term, in addition to your summary of the 4 readings. Use all of this information for your Initial and Final Research Papers.

**Week 12**

**Regimes and Nonstate Actors**


**Discussion 9:** Post a discussion demonstrating your understanding of “international regimes”.

**Week 13**

**International Law**


**Week 14**

**Law of the Sea**


*FRP is due.*

**Week 15**

**Review**

**Discussion 10:** Post a mini lecture on International Politics for the class. You will be instructed to send your Final Research Paper out for publication.
Congratulations! You made it.

Thanks for taking the course.