

Power and Governance in International Relations  
Binghamton University

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PLSC 486U  
Spring 2008  
Days: Thurs 6pm-9pm

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*General Note: The syllabus is a living document that can and will be altered throughout the duration of the course based both on need and design. All changes will be listed on Blackboard, so make sure to check announcements for any such change. Additionally, I maintain the right to all of my own intellectual property presented in this course, whether it is the course lectures or this syllabus and ought not to be reproduced without my express permission.*

### **Course Description**

The vast majority of theory on International Relations has argued that major powers both act differently than other states and set the rules for other states to behave by, we examine these assertions on both levels: how do major powers act differently and how do they influence the rules - if at all. The course will explore both theoretical content as well as quantitative analysis in answering these questions and foster an environment where we can study these questions both systematically and scientifically on a broad range of questions of international concern (conflict, trade, environment, etc.). Students will be expected to hand in a final research/term paper that fits within the framework of this class. Simply: does power matter and, if it does, how much does it matter?

### **Course Format**

The primary motivators for this course are the students. Each student is expected to come to class prepared to discuss the relevant readings and be able to dissect them in a way that enriches the classroom. Ideally, students are best equipped to discuss the material as see relevant and are only guided by the teacher, not lectured at for 3 hours. A liberal arts education is intended to give students the ability to analyze, critique, and intelligently discuss the world around them, this class is no different.

Additionally, this course will utilize some of the features of blackboard. Updates and new information will be posted there – though new announcements will be posted

### **Course Requirements**

The students will be assessed upon the following requirements:

1. Attendance and Participation: 20%

Given that this is a 400-level Political Science seminar, students are primarily responsible for their own learning and will be expected to play a primary part in discussing the materials in the class. Failure to participate will reflect upon your grade as a student. I will evaluate participation and attendance daily. This is a University and students are treated like adults, as such, you are responsible for your own education and input into the classroom.

2. Article Presentation: 10%

Each student will be required to write a one-page hand out and present an article that we read in class. The one page handout is primarily a summary, with major points illustrated and any reflections a student has on the piece he or she is reviewing. Each student is expected to bring enough copies for the entire class. Additionally, students should provide discussion questions for the topic and will be expected to present the article at the beginning of the discussion. Sign-ups for particular articles will be done on the second day of class, so come prepared with two articles in mind and some alternative choices as doubling up will not be allowed.

3. Critical Review 1 and 2 (10% each)

Students are expected to submit two (2) short (3-5 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman or equivalent font and 1" margins) critical reviews for the course. These can be done at the participant's discretion but at least one (1) of the reviews must be done on one of the five books read for the class. The other review can be done on any article or another book prior to the midterm. Each review must contain very little summary and spend more time expanding on or critiquing the piece covered. The primary focus is on unique insight and discussion. Each review must (1) have a hard copy turned in on the day of the class and (2) **be posted on blackboard by 24 hours or more prior to the day before the reading is assigned. Late Reviews will not be accepted**; they are expected to facilitate discussion and the class should read them before posting on the discussion board. **All citations must be done in the American Political Science Association Style.**

4. Midterm: 20%

Midterm: After two weeks, there will be an online midterm in the course. This will be a timed midterm that you should expect to take 3 hours to complete. I plan on making this test available throughout all of Thursday for students to take to allow some flexibility in taking the test; however, you must take it that day. Failure to do so will result in a failure on the exam. Obviously I cannot prevent the midterm from being open note, so it is. However, the midterm is also timed and you may have to make a tradeoff between answering the question and searching your notes/the readings. The format of the midterm will be posted later. There will not be a study sheet for the midterm.

5. Paper Proposal: 5%

Students must write a one-page proposal describing a proposed topic of inquiry related to the course material.

6. Final Paper: 25%

At the end of the class you will have to submit a final research or analysis paper. The exact assignment will be posted later in the class. The final paper is expected to be at least 10 pages in length (though longer papers will be accepted and encouraged). The final paper will be worth the remainder of your grade for 25%. All citations must be done in the American Political Science Association Style. The paper is due on the last day of class and I will not accept late papers.

**Grade Calculation**

<b>Participation and Discussion</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Discussion Handout</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Critical Review One</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Critical Review Two</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Midterm</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Paper Proposal</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Final Paper</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Plagiarism**

All written work is subject to being run through turnitin via blackboard and will be required for the final paper. Any cases of plagiarism will receive an automatic failure on the assignment, possible failure in the course, and will be pursued further through the university for additional punishment.

## Required Texts

These are the books that ought to be in your possession and read at the appropriate times listed on the syllabus.

Bacevich, Andrew J. 2002. *American Empire: The Realities and Consequences of US Diplomacy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Gilpin, Robert. 2001. *Global Political Economy: Understanding the International Economic Order*. Princeton University Press.

Kagan, Robert. 2003. *Of Paradise and Power*. London: Atlantic Books.

Karns, Margaret P., and Karen A. Mingst. 2004. *International Organizations: The Politics and Process of Global Governance*. London: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Pape, Robert A. 2005. *Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*. New York: Random House.

*Recommended:*

American Political Science Association (APSA) Style Manual.

## Reading Schedule

This is the reading you are expected to have done by the day it is assigned. The books are going to be the longest part and you should start reading them well in advance of the due date for discussion. Initially, this will be a skeleton of what we are going to be doing and will be filled in as time goes on or class interest suggest a change in a topic or two. Suggestions for readings will also be welcomed if they are offered early enough.

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008

Introductions

Discussion of the Syllabus

Theory Test

### Kinds of Relationships

February 7<sup>th</sup>

*Background and Problems*

- Karns and Mingst, Chapters 1 and 2.
- Gilpin, Chapters 1 and 2.
- Gourevitch, Peter. 1978. "The Second Image Reversed: The International Sources of Domestic Politics." *International Organization* 32 (4):881-912.
- Waltz, 1954 – *Man, State, and War*. Introduction. *Available via blackboard*.

February 14<sup>th</sup>

*Foreign Policy, Diplomacy, and neo-imperialism*

- Karns and Mingst. Chapters 3 and 7.
- Gilpin Chapter 3
- Bacevich, Andrew J. 2002. *American Empire: The Realities and Consequences of US Diplomacy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

### February 21<sup>st</sup>

#### *Coercion and Hegemony*

- Rumsfeld, Donald. "Transforming the Military." *Foreign Affairs* 81(3): 20-32.
- Karns and Mingst Chapter 8
- Wallerstein. 2000. "The Three Instances of Hegemony in the History of the Capitalist World-Economy."
- Drezner, Daniel. 2003. "The Hidden Hand of Economic Coercion." *International Organization* 57 (3):643-59.
- Gowa, Joanne. 1989. "Rational Hegemons, Excludable Goods, and Small Groups: An Epitaph for Hegemonic Stability Theory?" *World Politics* 41 (3):307-24.

### February 28<sup>th</sup>

#### *Hierarchy*

- Karns and Mingst Chapter 4.
- Gilpin Chapters 4-7
- Davis, Lance , and Robert A. Huttenback. 1982. "The Political Economy of British Imperialism." *The Journal of Economic History* 42 (1):119-30.
- Nye, Joseph S., Jr. 1990. "The Changing Nature of World Power." *Political Science Quarterly* 105 (2):177-92.
- Lake, David A. 1996. "Anarchy, Hierarchy, and the Variety of International Relations." *International Organization* 50 (1): 1-33.

### March 6<sup>th</sup>

#### *Globalization and Economics*

- Gilpin Chapters 9-15
- Keshk, Omar M. G., Brian M. Pollins, and Rafael Reuveny. 2004. "Trade Still Follows the Flag: The Primacy of Politics in a Simultaneous Model of Interdependence and Armed Conflict." *The Journal of Politics* 66 (4):1155-79.

### March 13<sup>th</sup>

#### *Trade*

- Karns and Mingst Chapter 9
- Gilpin Chapter 8
- Krasner, Stephen D. 1976. "State Power and the Structure of International Trade." *World Politics* 28 (3):317-47.
- Gallagher, John, and Ronald Robinson. 1953. "The Imperialism of Free Trade." *The Economic History of Review* VI (1):1-15.
- Irwin, Douglas A. 2002. *Free Trade under Fire*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Posted on Blackboard.

### March 20<sup>th</sup>

#### *Midterm administered via blackboard*

*Office Hours are cancelled this week, but I am available via E-mail.*

March 27<sup>th</sup>

*No classes, Spring Recess*

April 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Class Canceled – MPSA*

Specific Topics

April 10<sup>th</sup>

*Paper Proposal is due*

*The Environment*

- Karns and Mingst Chapter 11
- Keohane, Haas, and Levy 1993 "The Effectiveness of International Environmental Institutions" Posted on Blackboard.
- Mitchel, 1993. "Intentional Oil Pollution of the Oceans." Posted on Blackboard.

April 17<sup>th</sup>

*Paper Proposal is returned*

*Human Rights*

- Karns and Mingst Chapter 10
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, Feryal Marie Cherif, George W. Downs, and Alastair Smith. 2005. "Thinking Inside the Box: A Closer Look at Democracy and Human Rights." *International Studies Quarterly* 49 (3):439-58.
- Cortell, Andrew P., and James W. Davis Jr. 1996. "How do International Institutions Matter? The Domestic Impact of International Rules and Norms." *International Studies Quarterly* 40 (4):451-78.

April 24<sup>th</sup>

*Europe, Collective Security, and Alliances*

- Kagan, Robert. 2003. *Paradise and Power*. London: Atlantic Books.
- Keohane, Robert O. 1971. "The Big Influence of Small Allies." *Foreign Policy* 2:161-82.

May 1<sup>st</sup>

*Weapons of Mass Destruction*

- Sagan, 1995: posted on blackboard.
- Waltz, 1979, posted on Blackboard
- Waltz. 1995., posted on blackboard

May 8<sup>th</sup>

*Final Paper is due*

*Terrorism*

- Crenshaw, Martha. 1981. "The Causes of Terrorism." *Comparative Politics* 13 (4):379-99.
- Pape, Robert A. 2005. *Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*. New York: Random House.
- Shapiro, J. N., and D. A. Siegel. 2007. "Underfunding in Terrorist Organizations." *International Studies Quarterly* 51 (2):405-29.

### **Contacting the Instructor**

The best way to get in touch with me is either through email or through blackboard. I tend to be a person extremely connected to the internet and will often be able to reply promptly if it is a question with a simple answer – more complicated answers take more time. Additionally, I am in my office (LNG 279) daily and am available on campus outside of my stated office hours. If you want to catch me, email me first and there is a high likelihood I can meet with you.