

The International System
PSC 240-01; Fall 2016
Dr. Jerry Pubantz; 317 Curry Building
j_pubant@uncg.edu

Office Hours: Mondays, 3:30 to 4:30pm; Wednesdays, Noon to 1pm.

We live in an era of dramatic international change with global challenges not only to states but also to the human community worldwide. This course introduces the student to the contemporary international system. It addresses new phenomena such as globalization, international civil society, and recent ethnic/religious conflict, as well as the traditional issues of international politics — international organization and law, war, weapons, diplomacy, trade, and relations between nation-states.

Student Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- describe the elements of the international system;
- understand the instruments of state power and international diplomacy;
- explain foreign policy-making;
- discuss international relations theory; and
- use basic research methods in the field of international relations

Assignments

Written work in this course will consist of two midterm tests (September 26 and November 7), a test during the university-assigned final exam period, four brief essay responses to films shown in the Human Rights Film Series, and two analytical research papers in response to topics assigned in class (7 page minimum). The research papers will be due on October 8 and November 19. Each midterm test and each paper will be of equal value (15%) in determining your final grade. The final exam will be worth 20% and each film response will count for 5% of your final grade. **Please note: The final exam will NOT be given individually or collectively at any earlier date and time than the scheduled period set by the Registrar. This semester it is scheduled for December 12 from 8 to 11am.** Please plan all end-of-semester travel or other personal commitments with this knowledge in mind.

An important component of this course will be your **required** attendance at this fall's Human Rights Film Series sponsored by UNCG's Human Rights Research Network, and participation in the discussion that follows each film. You will also submit a brief essay in response to each film based on a question that will be provided in class. The dates and titles of the films are listed below. All four films will be shown in Room 102 in the School of Education Building beginning at 6:30pm.

War and Peace Human Rights Film Series – Fall 2016

The preservation of peace in the twenty-first century depends heavily on the defense of human rights. Following the viewing of each film, a UNCG faculty member will lead a discussion of the film's human rights critique. Refreshments will be available at the close of our discussions.

September 8 - **Watchers of the Sky** (Dir. Edet Belzberg, 2014—120 min.)

Discussant: Instructor Lynda Kellam, University Libraries and International & Global Studies

This Sundance award winner examines examples of genocide and charts Raphael Lemkin's work to establish the Convention Against Genocide.

September 29 - **A Separation** (Dir. Asghar Farhadi, 2011—123 min.)

Discussant: Dr. Jeff Jones, History

Academy Award winning film that tells the story of post-revolutionary Iran through one family's desires and conflicts.

October 20 - **The Look of Silence** (Dir. Joshua Oppenheimer, 2014—103 min.)

Discussant: Dr. Ali Moore, English

This Academy-award nominee provides a survivor's intimate encounter with perpetrators of Indonesia's 1965-66 anti-communist genocide and the legacy of fear that remains.

November 10 - **Pray the Devil Back to Hell** (Dir. Gini Reticker, 2008—72 min.)

Discussant: Professor Bob Griffiths, Political Science

Documentary featuring a coalition of Muslim and Christian women who work for peace and democratic elections in Liberia following its civil war.

Because these film dates are required convocations of our class, we will eliminate 4 regularly scheduled class sessions to compensate for them. There will be no class at our normally scheduled time on **September 12, October 7 and 24, and November 18.**

Considering that attendance at these showings is a requirement of this class, should your personal schedule make that difficult, you should seriously think about taking the other section of PSC 240 or taking this course next semester.

Required Texts

* Jon C.W. Pevehouse and Joshua S. Goldstein. *International Relations*. Eleventh Edition

* Additional assigned readings that will be available on the Canvas site for this course.

Course Outline

- I. Changing World Politics August 22 – 31
 - A. New Forces in International Politics: Globalization, Ethnic/Religious Identity, Terrorism, Non-State Actors, Transnationalism
 - B. The Post Cold War Era
 - C. Realism, Idealism, and Other Theories of International Relations
- Readings: Pevehouse and Goldstein, Chapter 1, pp. 38-43, and Chapter 3
Canvas: Thomas Friedman, *The Post-Post-Cold War*, Op-Ed, 2006
Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations* (selection)

- II. Basic Concepts in International Relations September 2 – 30
- A. World Systems
 - B. The Nation-State and National Power
 - C. Foreign Policy
 - D. Instruments of State Behavior
 - E. Utility of Force and War
- Readings: Pevehouse and Golstein, pp. 43-67, Chapters 4-6
 Canvas: Joseph S. Nye, Jr., *The Paradox of American Power*, Chapter One
 Charles A. Kupchan, *The End of the American Era*, Chapter 2.
- III. International Organization and Law October 3 - 24
- A. United Nations System
 - C. Peacekeeping
 - C. Globalism in a Post-Sovereign World
 - D. The Legal Tradition and New Normative Law
 - E. War Crimes Tribunals
- Readings: Pevehouse and Goldstein, Chapters 7
 Canvas: Pubantz and Moore, *Origins of Modern International Organization*. Selection from *The New United Nations*, 2nd
- IV. International Economic System Oct. 26 – Nov. 4
- A. Bretton Woods
 - B. Economic Integration and Globalization
- Readings: Pevehouse and Goldstein, Chapters 9-10.
 Canvas: Thomas L. Friedman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, pp. ix-xix; Chapters 1-2.
- V. International Trade and Development Nov.9 – Dec. 5
- C. North-South Relations,
 - B. Sustainable Development
 - C. Global Environmental Politics
- Readings: Pevehouse and Goldstein, Chapters 8, 11-13

Some General Notes and Guidelines

Canvas: Please establish access to the Canvas site for this course. You will find there regular announcements, reserve readings, the syllabus, assignments, and other critical information for the class. Check the site daily if possible. You are responsible for knowing all course information on the site.

Tests and other assignments: Except in the cases of a bona fide medical emergency or the sudden death or grave illness of an **immediate** relative with confirming documentation, I do not approve make-up tests or accept assignments late. If you have a

commitment scheduled for the day of a test or assignment, you should contact me well before the date so that we can consider the possibility of taking the test or submitting the assignment early. Given the percentage each test and assignment counts in this class, it should be expected that your final semester grade will be significantly affected if you do not take a test or turn in a required paper. It is absolutely critical that you complete all of the work in the course.

Class rules: This class is wide open for discussion. So please come prepared, be on time, and actively participate. In our exchanges all of us have the right to expect professionalism and courtesy. As part of that courtesy, you are expected to arrive in the classroom by the time the class begins and to remain for the full class period.

If you have a cell phone or pager with you, **BE SURE to turn it off before you enter the room.** If it rings while in class, you will not be allowed to bring it to class again. Please bring old-fashioned paper, pens, and pencils. **I do not want you to use your laptop or tablet during class.** It is far better to be focused on the discussion and materials in the class than on trying to transcribe every aspect of the session. You can transfer your handwritten notes to your computer at a later time, which will prove a very valuable learning exercise.

All students must abide by the University's academic integrity regulations. If you are not familiar with the University's policy, please see <http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>. Plagiarism (presenting the ideas or words of another as if they were one's own) is cheating. **At a minimum, plagiarism on the paper assignments or cheating on the tests will result in a grade of "F" for the course – not for the assignment, but for the course.** The UNCG Honor System and judicial process will be triggered by your misuse of materials, or by your submission of work that was done by others but passed off as your research and writing.

Office hours: This semester I will hold office hours on Mondays from 3:30 to 4:30pm, and on Wednesdays from noon to 1pm. Should you need to make an appointment for another time, you may do so by e-mail or in person and we will set a time to meet. I look forward to talking with you about your work.