



Contemporary Issues in International Relations

Syllabus for POL 370 (Spring 2007)

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Office Location:	McClung Tower 1013	Class Time:	10:10 – 11:00am MWF
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Office Hours:	1:30 – 3:00pm MWF		
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Course Description

What is happening in the world? What caused it? What can we do to solve the problems? This class strives to answer these three questions, while strengthening your knowledge of world affairs and the theoretical underpinnings of International Relations.

By the end of the semester, you should be able to intelligently discuss the causes of many of the current world issues with anyone you meet in the street. Here, we make two assumptions: First, there is a possible solution to these problems. Second, we want a solution and are willing to sacrifice to achieve those solutions.

Primary Texts

There is no *required* book for this course. All research you do for this course will be done using both physical and virtual sources. One of the first skills you will learn is how to differentiate between high quality and low quality sources. Not all sources are created equal. This is as true of books and periodicals as it is of online materials.

The *recommended* books are:

American Political Science Association. 2001. *Style Manual for Political Science*. Washington, DC: American Political Science Association.

Strunk, William, and E. B. White. 2000. *The Elements of Style*, 4th edn. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon– Longman.

University of Chicago. 2003. *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th edn. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

The Style Manual is completely optional. It appears as though the APSA is (still) readying itself to publish an updated edition. As such, the bookstore has limited copies of the second edition. In lieu of having you purchase the entire style manual, I have distilled the necessary portions into a document called *APSA References*, accessible from the course website. This document provides examples of reference lists so that you format them correctly.

The other two recommended books are important if you plan to learn to write properly.

Other readings will be assigned as necessary and available by link on the class web site, in the eReserve section of the library's website, or in the reserve section of the library. If you are unable to access any of the readings, please alert me as soon as possible. In general, notifying me the day before the reading is due is too late.

Class Policies and Expectations

Taking Notes

Note taking is an essential part of any college course, especially any course that is introductory in nature. Not only does the act of taking notes reinforce the material in question (it is not merely read and heard, but physically reproduced), it creates a record essential to preparation for quizzes and exams. If you are forced by circumstance to miss class, you will be expected to catch up on all missed notes. Make friends in the class; they will be there for you if you miss a day.

Attendance

Attendance will be checked daily at the beginning of class. Tardiness counts as absence. Since participation is such a large component of your grade, it is very important that you show up for class on time and participate fully. Your participation indicates that you have read the assignment, applied it, and have grappled with some of the more obvious themes. I strongly urge you to come to class with deep questions on the readings, especially when you are to lead the discussion for the day.

Conduct

All students are at all times expected to be attentive, to take part in class discussions, and to be courteous and sensitive towards their fellow students. Impropriety will not be tolerated. Further, emotionally charged subject material may be dealt with in this course (ethical, religious, political, etc.); such material requires maturity and openness to views which may conflict with one's own.

Writing

All assignments need to follow the style sheet for this class. All writings reflect you and your ability (thus, plagiarism will be strongly punished). Make sure that *you* are satisfied with your finished product. Your grade depends upon how well you write.

The University of Tennessee does have a Writing Center located in the Humanities building. If you are unsure about your abilities, please make extensive use of it.

Disabilities

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability, contact the Office of Disability Services in 2227 Dunford Hall. Their phone number is (865) 974-6087. Also, as soon as is reasonable, inform me of their response.

Athletics

Notify me as soon as possible if there is a conflict between an athletic performance and a class requirement. If notice is not made in a timely manner, no adjustments will be made. As an athletic

calendar already exists, such notice should be forthcoming within the first week of classes. In any case, last-minute notification will not be accepted. It is your responsibility. Club athletics do not count as excused absences.

Cheating, Plagiarism, & Academic Dishonesty

Any instance of cheating, plagiarism, and/or academic dishonesty will *at least* result in an automatic failure of the course (if not expulsion from the university) and will be dealt with according to those rules outlined in Hilltopics (pages 11, 12, 14, and 41 in the 2006/07 version). If you have yet to read the relevant sections on plagiarism, I strongly urge you to read them now. In part, the relevant section on page 11 reads:

Plagiarism is using the intellectual property or product of someone else without giving proper credit. The undocumented use of someone else's words or ideas in any medium of communication (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge) is a serious offense, subject to disciplinary action that may include failure in a course and/or dismissal from the University.

Making-up Quizzes and Exams

Quizzes and in-class activities cannot be made up under any circumstances. If you miss the exam, you must speak to me on the day of return to arrange for a time and place to take the make-up test. If you fail to do this, you may receive a zero for the test. The make-up test may be different than the original test.

Preparation and Participation

This is an upper-level course. You are expected to have not only done the assignments and all of the readings, but you are to have thought about the readings and their implications.

Evaluation

Your work grade is calculated as:

Assignments	300	60%
Module Briefs (4 × 25)	100	
Module Guide (2 × 50)	100	
Course Paper	100	
Quizzes	100	20%
Current Events, Module, Oral, Geography, and Unscheduled Quizzes		
The best grade and the worst quiz grade will be dropped. The remaining grades will be averaged for the total quiz grade.		
Exam	100	20%
Written Exam	100	

Your attendance grade is the percent of the days you show up to class on time.

Your semester grade will be the lower of your attendance grade and your work grade. Thus, if you get 100% on all assignments and the exam, but only show up to class on time 55% of the

time, your percent for the course will be 55%—an F. If you get a 70% on all assignments and the exam, yet have a perfect attendance record, you will get a 70% in the course—a C.

Grades

Grade reports will be emailed to your school email account at intervals throughout the semester. Your final letter grade will be based on the following percentage scale:

90 – 100%	A		
80 – 88%	B	88 – 90%	B+
70 – 78%	C	78 – 80%	C+
60 – 70%	D		

You are responsible for keeping track of your grades and ensuring that what I have emailed is correct. I do not round.

Assignments

Besides the quizzes and written exam, there are three assignments due in this class: Module Brief, Module Leading, and Course Paper.

Module Brief

Each module comes with a wide variety of topics. It also comes with both required readings and suggested readings. The module brief has you summarize one of the additional readings with respect to the topics covered in the module. There are five modules in this course; I will count your four best briefs. Each brief is due on the first day of the module.

There are three parts to the briefs. The first part is a brief summary of the reading. This section should take approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ pages. The second part is a discussion of the reading in terms of the topics. Here, you will want to focus on how the reading illuminates the topic. This section should take approximately 1 – 2 pages. The third part is the reference list, on a separate page. Make sure you use appropriate headings throughout.

Module Guide

Each module comes with both required readings and recommended readings. For two of the five modules, you will need to read both the required and the recommended readings. For the entire module, you (and the others who have chosen that module) will be the experts on the topics and the focal points of the class discussions. There is no written aspect of this assignment; I will grade it based on how well you are able to answer questions.

The leaders for the first module will be chosen on the first day of classes. For the remainder of the modules, you need to email your request before January 24. Module leadership will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If you fail to send your request in time, I will choose for you and deduct 10% from the grade.

Course Paper

This course requires a research paper of at least ten pages, due on April 16. You can find full details of the research paper on the appropriate handout.

Brief Course Outline

Module 1: International Relations Theories: A Basis and a Common Language

Topics:

Classical Realism; Structural Realism (Neorealism); Neoclassical Realism; Liberal Realism (English School); Liberalism; Classical Liberalism; Neoliberalism; Wilsonianism (Wilsonian Idealism; Wilsonian Internationalism; Internationalism; Soft Wilsonianism); Neoconservatism (Hard Wilsonianism).

Required Reading:

Module 2: Cyprus: The Persistence of Memory

Topics:

History; Causes; Actors; Internal efforts at solution; External efforts at solution; Effects of external actions; Proposed Solutions; Analyses of proposed solutions.

Module 3: The IRA and the ETA: Sleeping with the Enemy

Topics:

History of the Irish under British rule; History of the IRA; Leaders of the IRA; Other terrorist groups and actors in the conflict; British-Irish-IRA actions; The course to peace; History of the Basques; History of the ETA; Leaders of the ETA; Spanish government actions; Ceasefires; Why did the 2005 ceasefire fail?

Module 4: Globalization: Money for Nothing and Your Checks for Free

Topics:

What is globalization? What causes it to increase? What are its positive effects? What are its negative effects? Who supports it? What do they support? Who opposes it? What do they oppose? What is the future of it?

Module 5: Terrorism: One World, One Love

Topics:

Types of terrorism; History of terrorism; Definition of terrorism; Tools of terrorism; Correlates of terrorism; Causes of terrorism; How to stop it; Can we stop it? Should we stop it?

End Matter

Changes and Supremacy

Should it become necessary to change the syllabus, an announcement in class will be made that the new syllabus is posted on the class web site. In the event of a discrepancy between this printed syllabus and the website's syllabus, the website will take precedence.

Class Website

All classroom documents can be found at the classroom website. This website will also contain supplemental notes and documents. Anything posted to the website will be assumed read by every member of the class. Its address is: <http://web.utk.edu/~oforsber/>.