Contemporary International Politics and Law (GO 301)—Spring 2006—Professor Ginsberg
Ladd 314—MWF 11:15 am-12:10 pm; Office Hours (Ladd 314)—MW 12:30-2:30 pm and 4:00-5:00 pm
and by appointment (x5245); Course Student Assistant—Joshua Hutchinson (j_hutchi)

Course Objectives

• describe and explain changes in international politics since the end of the Cold War
• learn, apply, and critique different theoretical approaches to the study of international politics
• examine and critique the structure, function, and policies/issues of major international organizations
• engage in global problem-solving exercises at the intersection of theory and practice
• develop, research, write, and present a paper on an issue of international politics
• prepare students for advanced coursework in political science and international affairs, participation in Model United Nations or Model European Union, and/or private and public careers in international affairs

Course Requirements* and Rationale for this Four-Credit Course

• two quizzes (each 15 percent)—capture student learning of key material
• one major research paper (50 percent)—offers advanced research, research design, conceptual, methodological, and writing skills needed for graduate school in political science or international affairs or the workplace**
• participation in class discussion of readings, related current events, and student research projects, written responses to study questions for readings/videos, and individual meetings/tutorials with professor in preparation for papers and exams (20 percent)—make concrete what students learn, maximize student learning, and ensure the opportunity to achieve excellence***

*To assure fairness to all students there can be no late submissions of required work since deadlines are established in this syllabus at the start of the semester

**The Department of Government stresses the importance of good writing skills as part of your overall education as well as your education in the study of government. See attached Government Department “Writing Statement.”

***The Department of Government stresses the importance of mutual respect in the classroom. See attached “Policy on Civility and Comportment in the Classroom.”

Required Text

• Rourke, International Politics on the World Stage

On Reserve

• Seton Hall Law School Lecture Series on International Law

Schedule of Lectures, Reading and Video Assignments, and Student Presentations

Part One: Introduction to the Study of International Politics and Law

1-23 Why Study Contemporary International Politics and Law?
1-25 Evolution of International Politics. Rourke, Chs. 1-2
1-27 Current International Political Events, Global Problem-Solving Exercises, and Discussion of Student Paper Topics. Visit from Barbara Norelli, Social Science Librarian to discuss how to monitor international political events.
1-30 Conceptual Approaches Applied to the Study of International Politics. Rourke, Ch. 3
2-1 Nationalism. Rourke, Ch. 4
Instructions for Assignments and Criteria for Evaluation

Participation

Students are expected to bring the assigned reading text to class each day, arrive on time prepared to discuss reading assignments, and submit responses to study questions as assigned for readings, videos, and current events. Students report to class on current events articles (from *The New York Times* and other major media online and hard copy, e.g., *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times*, and *The*...
Economist). If students cannot make class, for whatever reason, they are required to let the instructor know by phone in advance of the start of class. Students are allowed one unexcused absence. For each additional unexcused absence, a full letter grade is deducted from the participation grade. Since late arrivals to class are disruptive, students are asked to arrive on time. A half-letter grade is deducted from the participation grade for each late arrival beyond the first two. All cell phones must be turned off before entering class. Due dates for all assignments are detailed in the syllabus. In fairness to students who meet deadlines, and to best prepare for the “zero tolerance” of late work in the workplace or in graduate/law school, no late submissions will be accepted. In order to anticipate unexpected hitches, do not wait until the last minute to print out a document.

Each week one student is assigned to make a presentation of current events in international politics, including a critique of the quality of media coverage of those events. Students also make regular presentations on the different phases of their research projects, including a formal year-end presentation to the class. Each student must come to class prepared to respond fully to assigned study questions for Rourke. Dr. Ginsberg may ask to see and review study question responses from time to time.

Quizzes on Key Concepts and Study Questions

Key concepts in the study of international politics are listed at the end of each chapter in Rourke. Understanding the context of the concepts will greatly facilitate learning and remembering. For each concept, you must provide a brief definition, offer a date and an example when appropriate, and explain how the concept is relevant to theory or practice of international politics. Students may wish to reserve a section in their notebooks for a glossary or use note cards. Prof. G. is available to review students’ work on concepts before exams. He also supplies study questions for the Rourke chapters that students answer as they complete the readings to prepare for in-class discussion. Bring responses to class. From time to time, Dr. G. will ask to see and evaluate the quality of your responses. Each quiz has an identification section and a short-answer section. The identification section usually asks students to identify five of 10 key concepts and four of six short-answer questions.

Research Paper

In close consultation with Prof. G., select/analyze an issue of international politics of keen interest to you, ideally one that will put you in the direction you desire for employment or graduate/law/business school. Skills associated with research design and methodology, writing, research, argumentation, support of a thesis, developing a framework for analysis, and the expertise gathered in a substantive policy (or theoretical) area are indispensable skills no matter where your post-graduate career takes you. Consult Skidmore Guide to Writing (found online via English Department homepage). Avoid use of the first person. Visit the Writing Center for assistance. See models of excellent research papers in Dr. G’s office from GO 301 students in past years. The highly polished, well-documented 20-page paper (exclusive of endnotes/bibliography) must have a formal cover page (see sample below); a table of contents indicating page numbers for each chapter and each heading/subheading; a bibliography; endnotes (no footnotes at the bottom of each page and no source or author citations in text); excellent spelling, grammar, sentence structure, use of paragraphs, print-out, and margins (one inch); appendices as needed; and at least ten sources cited as endnotes, four of which must be primary (a roughly even mix of online and in-library sources is the norm; consult with Dr. G. on the mix of sources suitable for your project and the proper format for bibliographic citation of online sources).

The paper must have a useful framework for analysis that allows the writer to embed her/his thesis or central theme/questions in a specific approach and design. The paper revolves around a thesis and a set of central questions. It may be policy-oriented or theoretical. Students work closely with Dr. G. on the framework most suitable to their projects and needs. Students are graded for each stage of the completion of their projects as outlined below. Each submission is due at start of class. No exceptions. Students meet with Prof. Ginsberg in advance of each deadline for consultation/assistance and feedback.
Ten Deadlines for Research Paper

First Deadline: 2-10 Consult with Dr. G. on preliminary topic proposal; begin literature search
Second Deadline: 2-17 Submit one paragraph topic proposal, indicating rationale for project and its significance/importance. Make appointment and meet with Barbara Norelli, Social Science Librarian, for assistance with literature search.
Third Deadline: 2-24 Submit preliminary central questions, accompanied by an explanation of why each is significant/worthy of attention. Complete literature search.
Fourth Deadline: 3-3 Submit hypothesis and preliminary sentence outline depicting how paper will be organized into its component parts (see model below); indicate/justify the framework for analysis chosen after having consulted with Dr. G.
Fifth Deadline: 3-10 Submit list of ten bibliographic sources. Provide summary of results of meeting with Ms. Norelli.
Sixth Deadline: 3-31 Submit final draft of sentence outline and annotated bibliography (see models).
Seventh Deadline: 4-7 In-class presentation of hypotheses, central questions, research design/method.
Eighth Deadline: 4-14 Submit first (conceptual) chapter.
Ninth Deadline: 4-21 Submit second (empirical) chapter. Formal class presentations begin 4-24.
Tenth Deadline: 5-11 Completed manuscript due by start of the final exam period. Students graduating with honors in government or participating in Academic Festival have earlier final paper due dates. See Dr. G.

Evaluative Criteria Checklist for Successful Research Paper

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparation and Style</th>
<th>Substance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Met All Ten Deadlines</td>
<td>Thesis/Theme Up Front</td>
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<td>Quality of Deadline Submissions</td>
<td>Clear/Engaging Intro.</td>
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<td>Formal Cover Page</td>
<td>Central Questions</td>
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<td>Creative Title/Subtitle</td>
<td>Rationale/Significance</td>
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<td>Table of Contents</td>
<td>Lit. Search (honors)</td>
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<td>Bibliography/Correct Format</td>
<td>Time Frame</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endnotes/Correct Format</td>
<td>Structure</td>
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<td>Grammar/Sentence Structure</td>
<td>Framework of Analysis</td>
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<td>Paragraphs and Spelling</td>
<td>Methodology</td>
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<td>Clarity of Font/Print Out</td>
<td>Flow of Chapters</td>
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<td>Margins and Pagination</td>
<td>Substantiation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendices as Needed</td>
<td>Conclusions/Link Back</td>
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<td>Page Length</td>
<td>Sources</td>
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Below is Model of a Proper Cover Page (must be spread out over entire page)

THE KYOTO PROTOCOL:
THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC POLITICS ON INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS

BY ALEXANDER SMITH '02

SUBMITTED TO PROFESSOR ROY H. GINSBERG
IN PARTIAL FULFILLAEMNT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF
CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND LAW (GO 301)

SKIDMORE COLLEGE

DATE OF SUBMISSION
Generic Research Paper Outline (provide paper title and subtitle)

Table of Contents (in draft form, this is your paper outline)

Chapter One (the conceptual chapter—approx. three pages)
A. Thesis Statement and Theme
B. Significance of Topic; Timeliness
C. Time Frame with Rationale
D. Framework for Analysis with Rationale
   (You have to make choices in consultation with Dr. G. The framework may be based on either central questions, key concepts, theories, levels of analysis, historical periods, or case studies.)
E. Structure of Paper

Chapters Two, Three, and (possibly) Four (the empirical chapters)—each approx. 5-6 pages
(You have to make choices in consultation with Dr. G. The empirical chapters may respond to either central questions (one per chapter), levels of analysis (one per chapter), historical periods (one per chapter), or case studies (one per chapter).)

Example No. One    Example No. Two
Chapter Two    Chapter Two
A. Introduction    A. Introduction
B. Case Study or Level of Analysis    B. Central Question or Historical Period
C. Conclusion    C. Conclusion

Chapter Four (or Five)—this is your synthesis chapter that bridges the conceptual and empirical chapters and links the thesis or theme with the conclusions (two pages)
A. relate conceptual and empirical chapters to conclusions
B. reconfirm significance/timeliness
C. justify framework of analysis
D. offer prescriptions/future scenarios
Endnotes
Appendices
Bibliography

Seton Hall Law School Video Series on International Law—Study Questions
Provide examples to back up what you write and avoid generalization

States

1. What is state sovereignty? Why and how does international law restrict it? Give three examples.
2. What are four essential elements/requirements for statehood?
3. State sovereignty is a “relative matter.” What does this mean?
5. Is recognition of a state by other states necessary for statehood? Explain.
6. What is the difference between a state and a government?
7. What are the rights and duties of states according to international law?
8. What is sovereign immunity? How has it been restricted?
9. What is the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations?
10. What are the purposes of diplomatic immunity?
11. Does international law prohibit or allow secession?
12. What are restitutions and when and why are they needed?

International Organization

1. When and why were international organizations (IOs) first formed?
2. What IOs were established in the late 19th century?
3. What is the difference between an international congress/conference and an IO?
4. Define international organization. Give three examples.
5. What was the first universal IO in history? When?
6. How do nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) differ from IGOs? Give two examples of NGOs.
7. What are the rights and obligations of IGOs?
8. What are the main purposes of the UN?
9. What are the primary organs of the UN and their main functions?
10. What are the conditions of membership in the UN?
11. How do countries join the UN?
12. How many Security Council members (permanent and nonpermanent) are there? Who are the permanent members?
13. Why do some question the need to enlarge or change the size/composition of the Security Council?

Use of Force

1. How did the UN Charter change international law regarding the use of force?
2. What powers does the UN Charter give the UN Security Council for maintaining international peace and security (IPS) and dealing with threats to and breaches of IPS?
3. What are the steps the UN Security Council may take to deal with threats to and breaches of IPS?
4. What example is there of a UN Security Council Resolution that authorizes UN member states to use all necessary means to implement Council resolutions dealing with a major breach of IPS?
5. Do UN member states have a right to use force? If so, under what conditions?
6. What is Article 51 of the UN Charter?
7. What are the problems with defining the right of states to “self-defense”?
8. May regional security arrangements use force to defend another state or group of states? If so, under what UN Charter conditions?
9. What is collective self-defense? What forms does it take?
10. What was the Nicaragua case that came to the World Court and why was it significant to our study of international law governing the use of force?
11. What is Article 52 of the UN Charter?
12. The UN Charter forbids the UN and its member states to interfere in the domestic affairs of a member state. Why is this a problem for the UN in dealing with civil wars?
13. Define the doctrine of humanitarian intervention. Does international law provide a framework for such intervention?
14. Why is the doctrine of humanitarian intervention so controversial?
15. Does the Charter provide for rules governing UN peacekeeping?
16. Why didn’t the UN act in the area of collective security during the Cold War?
17. What is peacekeeping and how did it start?

Law of Treaties

1. What is a treaty and what does it do?
2. What is the difference between customary international law and treaty law?
3. What are the Geneva Conventions?
4. What is the major international legal objective of the UN?
5. How many international treaties have been registered with the UN since the end of WWII?
6. Are international organizations created by treaty? Yes or no?
7. What are the four basic steps in the international treaty-making process?
8. What is the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties?
9. What are the obligations of a signatory state to a treaty before ratification occurs?
10. What are three grounds for a signatory state to terminate a treaty under international law?

International Human Rights Law

1. What was the first attempt to comprehensively regulate human rights on a universal level?
2. Why didn’t the UN Charter incorporate a Bill of Rights in 1945?
3. What does the UN Charter say about intervention in domestic affairs of states?
4. How do minority rights differ from human rights?
5. What is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, when was it adopted and by whom, and what are three examples of rights found in the Declaration? Is the Declaration legally binding?
6. What is the European Convention on Human Rights and what does it do?

**Nature and Sources of International Law**

1. Define international law with your own choice of words combined with what you learned from lecture.
2. What are the key elements of sovereign equality under contemporary international law? Give examples of each based on what you know of international politics and on the textbook.
3. Why do most nation-states observe nearly all principles of international law? Give three reasons.
4. Who is the founder of modern international law?
5. What are three major sources of international law, each with an example?
6. Compose and answer a central probing question for this film lecture.

**International Dispute Settlement**

1. What does the UN Charter oblige its members to do when they have a dispute with another state, and why?
2. What are the roles of the UN Security Council, ICJ, Secretary-General, and General Assembly in dispute settlement?
3. What is the ICJ’s main function and on what legal bases does it have jurisdiction to adjudicate?
4. What are the major methods of settling international disputes? Give example of each from lecture or from textbook.
5. What are three major limits to the application of international law in contemporary international politics? Draw on film lecture and text.
6. Compose and answer a central probing question for this film lecture.

**Global Concerns**

1. What are three major principles of international environmental law with examples?
2. What are three impediments to achieving more effectiveness in the application of international environmental treaties and agreements?
3. Define the law of the sea and explain the form it takes. What in your view is the significance of this body of law and the scope for its implementation?
4. Compose and answer a central probing question for this film lecture.

**International Criminal Law**

1. In international law, what are the five bases on which criminal jurisdiction is predicated?
2. What is the principle of *jus in bello*, what form does it take, and why is it important in international law?
3. Why did the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg mark a turning point in efforts to define and institutionalize international criminal law?
4. What three specific crimes were the focus of the Nuremberg Tribunal?
5. What are the objectives of the International Criminal Court?
6. Why is there a need for criminal prosecution of transnational crimes and why is it hard to prosecute such crimes?
7. Compose and answer a central probing question for this film lecture.

**Rourke Study Questions**

7
Chapter One—The Importance of Studying World Politics
1. What does the author mean by his title—*International Politics on the World Stage*?
2. Why should students study international politics? Give three reasons.
3. How do neorealism and neoliberalism differ in their explanations of international politics in terms of human nature, cause of conflict, analytic focus, roles of states and organizations in the international system, and policy prescriptions for the foreign policy of states?
4. Why do you think it is important to have a theory of international politics?
5. What theory do you (so far) think is most compelling?
6. Is there an event or experience in your life that has left an indelible mark on the way you view the world (or more particularly international politics)? If so, identify and explain.

Chapter Two—International Systems
1. What is an “international system” and what is meant by the “westernization of the international system”? Is it weakening?
2. What in your opinion has most changed and most stayed the same in international politics since the Treaty of Westphalia (1648) and why?
3. What were the causes of the rise and fall of the bipolar international system?
4. What is the current international system and why and how is it in such a state of change?

Chapter Three—Levels of Analysis
1. What is an international actor, who are the international actors, and how do they differ from one another? Give examples of each category of actors and explain what influence they have.
2. What are the differences among unipolar, bipolar, and multipolar international systems? Give examples.
3. What are systems-level and state-level of analyses in international politics and why are they each important approaches to the study of international politics? Give examples of how each provide an important focus.
4. What are international norms and how do they help regulate the behavior of states in the international system?
5. What is the individual level of analysis and how does it help us to describe and explain international politics? Provide an example of how this level of analysis helps lend an important focus.
6. What is the importance of bureaucracies—or the bureaucratic level of analysis—in explaining international politics? Give an example to explain your response.
7. How important are perceptions in international politics and foreign policy? Explain.

Chapter Four—Nationalism
1. What are three attributes of a state and three attributes of a nation?
2. What is a nation-state and what is nationalism?
3. What are three beneficial and three adverse effects of nationalism?
4. Why is the lack of fit between nations and states a significant source of international and domestic conflict? Give three examples of where there is a lack of fit.
5. What are three examples of stateless nations in the world today? What are the implications of stateless nations for international politics?

Chapter Five—Globalization and Transnationalism
1. What are globalization and transnationalism and their sources?
2. What are the different types of globalization? Briefly define each and give an example.
3. What are the different types of transnationalism? Briefly define each and give an example.
4. How does transnationalism differ from nationalism and what impact is it having on nationalism?

Chapter Six—Nation-States
1. What is state sovereignty and what are the key purposes of a state?
2. What are five characteristics of sovereignty?
3. What are the differences between states and governments?
4. List two ways San Marino and China are sovereign equals and two ways they are not equals. What does this say about sovereign equality in an international system of states?
5. What are the differences between authoritarian and democratic states in their impact on international politics?
6. Why won’t China do what Tibet wants? What does this tell us about the problem in international politics of matching nations with sovereign states?
7. What are the differences between global interests and national interests? Are they mutually inclusive or exclusive in your view? Explain.

Chapter Seven—International Organizations
1. What is an international organization? What are the origins of IOs? What are the goals of IOs?
2. What are the reasons for the growth of IOs?
3. What are international regimes and how do they differ from IOs?
4. What is the functional theory of IO and how was it revised by neofunctionalism?
5. What are the origins of the EU and who are the members?
6. What are the main organs of the EU and what does each do?
7. What are three strengths and three weaknesses of the EU?
8. What are the principal organs of the UN and what does each do?
9. How does voting occur in the UN and EU? What is significant about the differences?
10. Who is the UN Secretary General, where is he from, what does he do, and what is his reputation?
11. Of all its goals, what is THE most important task of the UN in international politics?

Chapter Eight—National Power and Diplomacy
1. What is power in international politics and what are its characteristics?
2. What are the three elements of power of a nation-state?
3. What is diplomacy, what are three functions of diplomacy, and what are three types of diplomacy? Give examples.

Chapter Nine—International Law
1. Who is the father of international law?
2. Define international law and list its four sources?
3. Why is the degree of compliance with the law lower in the international system than in most domestic systems?
4. What are three examples of international or regional courts of law?
5. What are the ways cases come to the ICJ?
6. What are two problems with the jurisdiction and enforcement of the ICJ?
7. Why does Rourke think it would be wrong to write off the ICJ and other international courts as “having little more than symbolic value”?
8. What are three difficulties of applying international law and morality in a multicultural world?
9. How were the Nuremberg and Tokyo war crimes trials unique in international law? What precedents did they establish in international law?
10. What and where are two international tribunals currently trying people alleged to have committed crimes against humanity and genocide? Do you think such tribunals will deter future crimes?
11. What is the ICC and why did the U.S. decide not to join?

Chapter Ten—National Security
1. How many people have died in wars since the year 1000? What can be said about the frequency and intensity of war over the past millennium? Make four observations.
2. Using data found on pp. 310-311, make four observations about the geographic location and frequency of war since 1945.
3. What are three types of warfare with examples?
4. What are the differences among nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons of mass destruction and the potential for use of each of them?
5. What are three strategies for avoiding, limiting, and responding to the possibility of nuclear war?
Chapter Eleven—International Security
1. What is arms control and how does it differ from disarmament? What are four observations you can make about the data in Table 11.2?
2. Which countries have or are thought to have nuclear weapons at present?
3. What are three reasons why states agree to arms control accords and three reasons why states create barriers to arms control accords? Give examples.
4. What is peacekeeping, what are four examples of peacekeeping operations, and what are four major issues related to peacekeeping operations?

Chapter Twelve—International Political Economy
1. Distinguish among the three major approaches to the study of the IPE in terms of their key concepts, objectives, and prescriptions.
2. Critique each IPE approach for its strengths/weaknesses. Which IPE approach or approaches do you find most and least compelling and why?
3. What in the IPE do you think most changed in the past half-century and why?

Chapter Thirteen—National Political Economy
1. What in your view are the strengths and weaknesses of an economic nationalist (state-centric) approach to IPE?
2. What are four indicators of national economic power? Explain why each is a source of power.
3. Why are NTBs growing in importance as an obstacle to international trade and what is being or can be done about it?
4. What are economic sanctions and the pros and cons of their usage? Are they successful? Give two examples.
5. What are five major differences between the northern and southern IPEs?
6. What are the demands of the LDCs for a more equitable distribution of the world’s wealth? What has come of such demands and why?

Chapter Fourteen—Global Economic Cooperation
1. What is the logic of global economic cooperation?
2. What main institutional forms does global economic cooperation take?
3. Do you see a benefit for or a cost to global economic cooperation, given the rise of regional trade blocs? Explain.
5. What are two major controversies about the IMF and about the World Bank, and why?

Chapter Fifteen—Human Rights
1. What are positive and negative rights and how do universalists and relativists differ in their views on human rights and why?
2. Why are human rights abuses so widespread? Offer four major causes with examples.
3. What groups of human beings do you think suffer the most from abuses of human rights and why?
4. What has been the international response to human rights abuses? What do we know of the effects of the international response?

Chapter Sixteen—Global Environment
1. What are sustainable development and carrying capacity? What is the conundrum of sustainable development and why?
2. What do you see as the four most pressing global environmental issues and why?
3. What are the major international institutions and agreements addressing global environmental issues and how effective are they?
4. What is the role of NGOs in raising global environmental awareness and action?
5. Why is the U.S. not ratifying the Kyoto Protocol? What can be done to actively engage the U.S. in global environmental action?
6. You are an environmental pessimist or optimist? Explain.