International Relations 101

Spring 2006

Instructor

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Office Hours: 11:30-12:30, Tuesday and Thursday, or by appointment

Teaching Assistants

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Course Blackboard Site

This site will contain basic information that is useful for the course. It will be up and running by the end of January. Questions or comments that are directed t o the web site will be answered promptly. Answers thus will be available to anyone who signs on to have a look at what is being discussed.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the principles of international relations, a subject of general interest that also happens to be an academic discipline. International relations focuses on cooperation and conflict between and among nation-states and other entities. It affects many aspects of our everyday lives, often in ways that are not easy to understand. The course is intended to make international relations more intelligible through a review of basic principles, with significant attention also to the great issues of the day. This experience also should help to develop your critical reasoning and analytical skills.

The main textbook for the course, Bruce Bueno de Mesquita's (BdM) Principles of International Politics, conveys a point of view known as the strategic approach. The strategic approach is based on the idea that participants in international relations act out of self-interest, whether they are fighting wars, negotiating trade deals or doing a great many other things. The lectures in the class are intended to accomplish three goals. First,

difficult points from BdM's text will be singled out for further explanation. Second, constructive criticism of the strategic approach will be offered as needed. Third, and finally, the lectures will cover subjects that are not addressed sufficiently by BdM, as might be expected for any single text.

The other textbook, John T. Rourke's Taking Sides, is designed to link the more theoretical concerns in our course to debates in the real world. (I would invite you to check out the web sites listed before each of the six parts of the book prior to reading the debates in a given part; this is suggested rather than required.) Thus the textbooks by BdM and Rourke are intended to complement each other.

We will use Taking Sides to complement the main text. The selections from the book are designed to stimulate debate in your discussion sections.

The web site contain the overheads that are put up during lectures so you can print them out. The site also includes a file in which the main headings for each lecture appear, along with a list of keywords that may be unfamiliar t o you.

The mid-term examination will take place on March 21 and have an essay format. The final examination, on May 9, also will have an essay format. Study guides will be provided so you can prepare effectively for each respective exam. All of the material from the lectures, assigned readings and discussion sections will be tested on the exams. The final exam will have a primary emphasis on material covered after the midterm.

The class also will include a series of shorter quizzes. The quizzes will take place on February 9, March 2 and April 13. Each quiz will be 15 minutes in duration and have an essay format. The quizzes will focus on material from approximately a week or so leading up to when they are administered. A study guide for each quiz will appear on the web site one week before the quiz is held. Examples of quiz answers that have received perfect scores will be posted on the web site to help students in preparing for later quizzes.

The term essay, limited to five double spaced pages, is due in class on April 27. Any late paper will receive a grade of zero. The format is straightforward. I expect you to argue both sides of an issue from the Rourke textbook, using the web sites listed (e.g., just before p. 1 for the issues included under 'Globalization', prior to p. 171 for 'Economic Issues', etc.) to obtain further information that will help your analysis. A paragraph to introduce the issue, plus about two pages on each side, followed by a paragraph conclusion, is what I expect. You should consult with your teaching assistant before going ahead with work on the essay.

A one-page proposal for the essay is due in class on April 4 or there will be a 20% penalty. The proposal should include (a) your name; (b) the issue you will cover; (c) two or three points (in point form) on each side that you have identified from the reading; and (d) the web sites you will need if those listed in Rourke are not sufficient to continue exploring the issue (i.e., you should start checking the listed web sites and others, as

needed, at least a few days before the propos al is due). The basic idea is to use the information from the web sites to (a) elaborate on the basic points identified in your proposal and (b) add new points on each side.

Your teaching assistant will be available to provide guidance as you produce your term essay. The style of citation expected for the essay is the same as Rourke, i.e., cite the web sites as he does. It is essential to provide a citation, in the text of your essay, on each occasion that you use either information or an idea from a web site.

Class participation is very important. I expect everyone to read the assignments that appear for each date prior to class that day. This will allow you to better understand the in-class activities and take notes. According to educational research, students who take notes earn, on average, a half-letter grade better final grade than those who do not.

Class participation will be graded by the teaching assistants on the basis of your performance in the weekly discussion sections. You will have been assigned at registration to one of the discussion sections of this class. Discu ssion in each week will focus on the material covered in the preceding week. We will provide themes for discussion of that material one week ahead of time on Blackboard.

All assignments are subject to change as noted in class, although none is expected at this time.

Be sure to back up all of your computer files. Do not turn in your only copy of any requirement.

The grading scale is as follows: A (93-100); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D+ (67-69); D (63-66) D- (60-62); F (< 60).

Make-up Requirements

There will be no make-up assignments or tests for unexcused absences. Acceptable excuses, meaning medical or family emergencies and official university-related business, must be provided either to me or the teaching assistant in person, in writing, or by phone before an absence and in writing afterwards in order to be considered. Students who are unable to complete a requirement for legitimate reasons that do not quality as excused under university guidelines, and who notify me ahead of time may, at my discretion, complete a requirement belatedly.

Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to observe all rules of proper classroom conduct. In order to insure an appropriate environment conducive to learning by all:

1. Please refrain from talking, eating or other disruptive activity during class; even one or two conversations quickly create distractions for other students and the instructor.
2. No cell phone calls, incoming or outgoing, are allowed in this class; please turn off your cell phone.
3. If you want to use your computer to take notes, that is fine. But it must not be used for any other purpose during the class.
4. Please do not come to class late. Also, please do not leave class early; if you must do so, tell me beforehand and arrange to sit near the door so your exit will be less disruptive.

Policy on Academic Ethics and Honesty

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, consult your teaching assistant.

Americans With Disabilities Act

Students requesting accommodations based on disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00. The office is in Student Union 301 and their phone number is 213-740-0776. Students must make their request in the stipulated period prior to an exam.

Required Textbooks

Please buy the following books. Previous editions of the books are not acceptable as substitutes. These are available at the bookstore:

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. 2006. Principles of International Politics: People's Power, Preferences, and Perceptions. 3rd ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

John T. Rourke. 2002. Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in World Politics. 12th ed. Dubuque, IA: Dushkin/McGraw Hill.

Course Requirements

Mid-term Examination (March 23)	20%
Final Examination (May 9, 8-10 a.m.)	25%
Quizzes (February 9, March 2, April 13)	15%
Term Essay (five double spaced pages, due in class, April 27)	25%
Class Participation	15%
Extra-Credit Assignments (February 5 and 7, 2.5% each	
March 7 and April 9)	

Schedule

January	10	An Overview of the Course
	12	States and International Politics, I
		Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 1-21
		Rourke, pp. 31-49
	17	States and International Politics, II
		Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 22-83
	19	The Nature of Foreign Policy
		Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 84-116
		Rourke, pp. 2-29
	24	Political Realism and Structural Realism, I
		Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 117-156

26 Political Realism and Structural Realism, II

Rourke, pp. 52-68

31 The Foreign Policy Process

February 2 Perspectives on Foreign Policy

Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 157-197

26 Describing Foreign Policy Behavior, I

Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 133-152

Rourke, pp. 78-101

28 Describing Foreign Policy Behavior, II

Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 152-166

Rourke, pp. 102-127

March 5 The Evolution of Force

Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 167-183

7 Video Presentation: 'The Bay of Pigs'

Extra-Credit Assignment #3

12 The Exercise of Power

Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 183-195

Rourke, pp. 206-227

14 Interstate Bargaining and Terrorism, I

Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 196-208

Rourke, pp. 228-257

Note: review sheet for mid-term examination available on web site

19 Interstate Bargaining and Terrorism, II

Rourke, pp. 334-345

21 **Midterm Examination**

1. Class Cancelled

Spring Break

April 2 International Organizations, I

Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 211-217, 225-235

Rourke, pp. 184-203

4 International Organizations, II

Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 236-266

Rourke, pp. 260-279

9 Video Presentation: 'Nuremburg: Tyranny on Trial'

Extra-Credit Assignment #4

11 Class Cancelled

Note: This is an open day to work on the proposal for your term essay

16 International Organizations, III

Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 267-289

Rourke, pp. 296-311

Note: one-page proposal for term essay is due in class

18 Preferences in International Politics, I

Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 290-306

Rourke, pp. 152-169

23 Preferences in International Politics, II

Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 320-371

25 Weapons of Mass Destruction., I

Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 372-400

Rourke, pp. 314-333

30 Weapons of Mass Destruction, II

May 2 Democracy and Peace, I

Bueno de Mesquita, pp. 434-445, 448-470, 488-500

Rourke, pp. 280-295

7 Democracy and Peace, II

Rourke, pp. 22-35

9 Review Session for Final Examination

Term Essay Due In Class