

# Government 360N Fall 2010

#38609 Tuesday & Thursday 8-9:15 in Mezes 2.202

#38610 Tuesday & Thursday 3:30-4:45 in Mezes B0.306

## INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### Prof. David V. Edwards

Office hours in Batts 3.126

Tuesday 9:30-10:30 & 2:15-3:15 and Thursday 9:30-10:30

and by appointment via email ([dedwards@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:dedwards@austin.utexas.edu))

or whenever else you find me in my office

### Teaching Assistant: Loren Rotner

Office Hours in Batts 1.118: Thursday 2-3:30 and Friday 2-3:30

And by appointment via email ([rotnerl@gmail.com](mailto:rotnerl@gmail.com))

### Course Description and Objectives

International relations have enormous impacts on our daily lives, even in the absence of events such as terrorist attacks on the homeland, whether we realize this or not, and whether we play any conscious roles in international relations or not. In fact, as we'll see this semester, many of the things we do in everyday life are influenced by international relations, and things we do in our own lives in turn can have impacts on aspects of international relations.

In this course we'll examine the varying political, military, economic, and cultural phenomena that cross state boundaries in the world today—among them war, diplomatic negotiation, peacekeeping, terrorism, economic relations, ecological problems, cultural exchange, and spiritual movements. Our major interests will be in discovering what actually happens, in examining competing ideas about why things happen as they do, and in considering various ideas about how things could change or be changed.

Our ultimate goal will be to develop the knowledge and analytical skills that can make us better able to understand international relations, and even to act in international relations, either directly or through influencing American foreign policy, in whatever ways we may someday wish.

### Class Sessions

Class sessions will be devoted to a combination of lectures and discussions on the topic assigned for the day and on current events from the daily *New York Times* (which will be required reading Monday through Friday all semester, starting Monday August 30 through Friday December 3), accompanied by occasional videos and audios as they relate valuably to our session topics. Lectures will expand upon or relate to the readings assigned for each session, most of which will be in the course textbook (see below), but **lectures will not summarize these readings**. Instead, **lectures and discussions will be based on the assumption that you have done the reading assignments before class**. **Please also bring your copy of the day's New York Times to class every class day so we can refer to it as appropriate.**

## Contacting Us

You have my office hours and email address above, along with those of your TA. We encourage you to bring questions and problems to us after class or in our office hours in a timely manner, because the earlier we address them, the better for your experience of the course as well as for your course grade. If you cannot see us during our office hours, we can make special arrangements by phone or email.

## The Course Websites

We will make use of the course website on Blackboard for announcements and other class materials, including various lecture outlines and Powerpoints. We will also probably use our other course website on the General Libraries' **E-Res** system (which we will explain in class if we decide to use it) to post supplemental reading, both required and optional, that you can download to a computer.

## Required Reading

Most of your reading assignments will be in the paperback textbook: Kegley & Blanton: *World Politics*, 2010-2011 edition, published in paperback by Wadsworth/Cengage, which should be available new and used in bookstores and on the web. There have been drastic changes in this new edition since the twelfth edition and its 2009-2010 update, so that earlier book won't be an adequate substitute. I'm also placing the book on reserve in PCL. Class session topics and reading assignments, along with scheduled exam dates, are listed at the end of this syllabus.

The other major required reading is *The New York Times*, daily Monday through Friday, from Monday August 30 through the end of the semester, Friday December 3. The attached sheet gives full details on how to order. In brief, this is the information: To subscribe at the special classroom rate, call 1-888-NYT COLL (1-888-698-2655). You can choose Monday through Friday at \$30.00 for the semester, or seven days a week at \$83.50 for the semester. (The newsstand cost is a \$2.00 a day and \$6.00 on Sunday, so the rate you get is a major savings.) You are only required to read it Monday through Friday, but the Sunday paper is full of interesting and valuable sections with many relevant articles, and I encourage you to read it too. In most cases, the paper will be delivered to your home, arriving before 7 am. If you live on campus, or in a large apartment complex, you will have to select a campus lockbox from the options the operator will give you when you call and listed on the attached sheet, at which to get your paper each day Monday through Friday; weekend delivery is not an option with lockbox delivery. You may also read the *Times* online at [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com). However, I recommend that you clip and file important articles so that you will have them at hand when we deal with their topic and to use in preparing for exams. It would be very costly to print all those articles, and hard to manage them online if you don't print them out. **You should call to arrange your subscription immediately, or it won't start on time.** I will explain in more detail how to use the paper and how to clip and organize your clippings in class once your subscription has started.

There may also be various "handouts" posted on our class website on **E-Res** system (see above); if so, you will be responsible for any of those marked "required."

### **Questions about Course Material**

If you have any questions about the reading assignment for a given day, you may raise them with me or your TA before or after class or in our office hours. Please feel free to raise your hand and ask a question in class during lecture or discussion if you believe an answer to it might be helpful to others as well as to you. **If you do not ask questions about course materials, we shall assume that you understand them.**

### **Course Organization, Requirements, and Grading**

There will be two or three occasional quizzes in class, which will together count 10 percent of your grade. There will be three exams in the course, the first two given during class time on the days indicated on the assignment sheet at the end of this syllabus, and the third, a comprehensive final, given on the final exam day and time determined by the Registrar. The first in-class exam will count 20 percent of your semester grade, the second 30 percent, and the final 40 percent, so that you will get additional benefit from whatever improvement you achieve in your performance during the semester. Grading will be on the standard ten-point per grade scale, with final grades converted to letter grades with pluses and minuses. Attendance will not be a part of your grade, but class sessions will include lecture material and video clips for which you will be responsible on exams, so regular attendance is highly recommended. There will be one comprehensive makeup exam, described below, for the entire semester.

The quizzes will consist of multiple choice and perhaps fill-in-the-blank questions. The exams will include such questions too, but will consist primarily of short essay questions, among which you will probably have limited choice. The quizzes and exams will cover the lectures, readings in the textbook, materials from the *New York Times*, videos and audios from class, and any required “handouts” or downloads from the course website on *E-Res*. There are no exams on file for you to examine, because each exam will be tailored to the current readings and other course materials plus this semester’s classroom happenings, and will emphasize using the analytical tools we develop in class to analyze current international developments reported in the *Times*. I will, however, give you sample exam questions from time to time in class, and discuss how to answer them well. We do not curve grades, so you are not competing directly with your fellow students, and your good work will be rewarded on its own merits. There will be a special review session conducted by your TA just before each exam.

It is regrettable but inevitable that in a class this size some of you will be scheduled to take several exams on the same day. Please prepare for these situations in advance, because we cannot reschedule exams.

The University provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities if you contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259. If you are determined to have a learning disability or another disability that requires special arrangements for exam taking, you should consult with your TA well in advance of each exam to work out appropriate arrangements.

**We are unable to make provisions for your submitting extra work for extra credit, so be sure you do your best work on the exams.**

### **Grades and Grade Appeals**

We will post grades on Blackboard. Exams will be returned in class as soon as they have been graded—generally a week or two from the date of the exam. Your TA keeps the records of all your grades, and is therefore the one you should consult first if you have any questions about them.

If you believe an error or an incorrect judgment or assessment has been made in grading your exam, please follow these procedures: Discuss the matter with your TA during your TA's office hours or by appointment. If you are dissatisfied with your TA's decision, you may appeal to me. I will then regrade the entire exam, and you will receive whatever grade I assign to you, whether it is higher or lower than that which you received from your TA. I will, of course, also be glad to discuss our decisions with you personally in office hours. To be considered, you must make any such appeal to your TA or to me no later than a week after that exam has been returned in class.

### **The Comprehensive Makeup Exam**

There will be one makeup exam, given near the end of the semester and covering the entire semester's work up to that point, to substitute for and count the same percentage as any exam you missed with a valid excuse—observing a religious holy day, a death in the immediate family, a serious medical problem, or required absence for participation in a University-sponsored event. If you have such an excuse, you must get it approved by your TA, furnishing appropriate documentation, in advance of the exam or immediately upon your return to campus in the event of an emergency. There will also be one comprehensive makeup quiz.

### **Dropping the Course**

The University requirements for dropping a course are listed in your Course Schedule. Please be aware that I observe those regulations.

### **Evaluations and Suggestions**

We invite your suggestions of ways we can improve the course throughout the semester, and will conduct a midterm evaluation for this purpose as well as our own detailed end-of-semester evaluations. Please feel free to express criticisms and suggestions, either in person or by note (anonymously, if you wish), to me or to your TA at any time during the semester. In my experience, students often have very valuable ideas to offer, and the sooner you let us hear from you, the sooner we can make whatever changes are desirable and feasible.

### **Your recommendations of relevant materials, especially websites**

We will appreciate your suggesting interesting sources of relevant materials—especially websites—you encounter, and of course you can share such suggestions with the class where appropriate by using the group email provisions in Blackboard.

### **A Final Note**

We find international relations fascinating, and hope you will too. We will try to make all aspects of the course as interesting and informative as possible. We depend on you to be attentive to the readings and classroom happenings, and hope you will participate as actively as the size and the structure of the course—over which none of us has any control—allow. Please share your views—and any interesting materials on our subject that you encounter—with us. Your decision to make the course a valuable one for yourself will help to make it valuable for others as well.

## Gov 360N: CLASS SESSION TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

No.	Date	Day	Topic	Reading Assignment
1	Aug 26	Th	Introduction to the course	
	<b>Part I:</b>		<b><i>HOW TO STUDY WORLD AFFAIRS</i></b>	
2	Aug 31	T	How scholars study world affairs	Chapter 1
3	Sept 2	Th	What happens in world affairs, and how we'll use the <i>N.Y. Times</i> in this course	<i>N.Y. Times</i> Aug 30 & 31 and Sept. 1
4	Sept 7	T	Major theories of WA: "Realist" theories	Chapter 2: 31-37
5	Sept 9	Th	Major theories of WA: "Liberal" theories plus feminist and radical critiques	Chapter 2: 37-45 & 51-60
6	Sept 14	T	Major theories of WA: "Constructivisms"	Chapter 2: 46-50
	<b>Part II:</b>		<b><i>ACTORS IN WORLD AFFAIRS</i></b>	
7	Sept 16	Th	How powerful states relate	Chapter 3
8	Sept 21	T	The "Global South"	Chapter 4
9	Sept 23	Th	Nonstate actors	Chapter 5
10	Sept 28	T	Decision making in world affairs	Chapter 6
11	Sept 30	T	<b>FIRST EXAM</b>	Chapter 5
	<b>Part III:</b>		<b><i>CONFLICTS AND THEIR CONTROL</i></b>	
12	Oct 5	T	Violence: war and terrorism	Chapter 7
13	Oct 7	Th	Power and strategy	Chapter 8
14	Oct 12	T	Alliances, power, & nuclear weapons	Chapter 9
15	Oct 14	Th	The real nature of war	TBA
16	Oct 19	T	Negotiation and international law	Chapter 10
17	Oct 21	Th	International organization and global ethics	Chapter 11
18	Oct 26	T	<b>SECOND EXAM</b>	
	<b>Part IV:</b>		<b><i>GLOBAL ECONOMICS AND HUMAN SECURITY</i></b>	
19	Oct 28	Th	Globalization and international finance	Chapter 12
20	Nov 2	T	Globalization and international trade	Chapter 13
21	Nov 4	Th	Population, health, and information	Chapter 14
22	Nov 9	T	Human development and human rights	Chapter 15
23	Nov 11	Th	Ecological issues: land, food & water	TBA
24	Nov 16	T	Ecological issues: global energy	TBA
25	Nov 18	Th	Ecological issues: global environment	Chapter 16
	<b>Part V:</b>		<b><i>CONCLUSIONS</i></b>	
26	Nov 23	T	Global agendas & the future of the world	Chapter 17
	Nov 25	Th	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>	
27	Nov 30	T	Conclusions I: What is being done, and what else can be done?	TBA
28	Dec 3	Th	Conclusions II: What Can <i>We</i> Do?	TBA
Tue	<b>Dec 14</b>	<b>2-5</b>	<b><i>FINAL EXAM</i></b>	<b>38609</b>
Sat	<b>Dec 11</b>	<b>2-5</b>	<b><i>FINAL EXAM</i></b>	<b>38610</b>

