

Political Science 2223

Fall 2017

Steve Chan

Farrand 205, x8862 or x7904

office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10.00am-11.00am, Wednesdays 12.00pm-1.30pm (Farrand 205) and by appointment

This course serves as the gateway to more advanced classes in international relations. As an introductory course, it seeks to survey the major concepts, theories, and problems of the field. It also presents some illustrative examples of policy challenges facing officials although its basic intent is not to address current events. By the end of the semester, you should have gained a reasonable idea about what the study of international relations and foreign policy is all about and a basic competency to pursue further inquiries in this field.

There is only one text for this course. It is *World Politics: The Menu for Choice* (10th edition) written by David Kinsella, Bruce Russett, and Harvey Starr (Boston: Wadsworth, 2013). This book should be available at the UMC Bookstore for your purchase.

While the text provides a general framework for the course and some background information for the research traditions and problems to be discussed in the class, my lectures will present additional material that seeks to expand, elaborate, and explore in further depth some of the analytic, substantive and/or policy concerns raised in the readings (and other topics not covered in the book). You will be responsible for this material in any quiz and test even though it has not been covered in the readings. Therefore, it is important that you attend classes regularly and take good notes.

You should also know that I will not be able to cover and explain everything discussed in the text, as there is not enough time to do so in the lectures. Indeed, as you can see from the glossary of terms I have provided below for the lectures, there will surely be times when I will not be able to go over all of them. You should therefore take the opportunity of recitation sections to inquire about these terms and related topics when just attending the lectures and reading the text are not enough.

Finally, there are occasions when I will lecture on material that is covered in a later chapter (that is, I will sometimes change the order in which the reading material will be introduced in the lectures). When this happens, the pertinent concepts or topics will be highlighted in bold face in the glossary, so that you will be able to look them up in the book's index and read about them before I lecture on them. Again, you will be responsible for these terms or concepts in any quiz and test.

Because many of you are likely to be freshmen starting your first semester at CU, do please contact your teaching assistant or me if there is anything that is unclear. You should seek clarification or help early in the semester rather than wait until the last minute.

Evaluation of your course performance will be based on the following considerations. There will be an in-class mid-term exam and also an in-class final exam. It is mandatory for you to take these two exams. The mid-term exam will constitute 30% and the final exam another 35% of your course grade. Unless otherwise provided for by university policy *and* with my prior approval, students are required to take these exams at the scheduled times. You will not be able to make up for a missed exam except for reasons qualifying for university-approved excuses --

namely, for genuine emergencies beyond a student's control. The specific format for each exam will be explained in class. The midterm exam will take place during **class time (that is, from 9.00am to 9.50am) Monday, October 9**. The university has scheduled the final exam on **Sunday, December 17**. You will take your final exam in our regular classroom **from 7.30pm to 9.00pm**.

Your course evaluation will also include a required term paper. You must write on the topic assigned at the end of this syllabus. This topic will have a critical thinking component, requiring you to apply your analytic skills to address a theoretical and/or policy problem germane to international relations. This term paper will constitute 25% of your course grade. This paper is limited to 10 pages (double-spaced, 12-point font size, Times New Roman). I do not have a required minimum number of pages for this paper but as you can see from the paper topic, there is no way you can adequately answer the questions contained in this assignment without approaching the 10-page limit.

The deadline for turning in this paper assignment is **9.00am, Monday, October 23** – that is, at the start of class on that day. In addition to turning in a hard copy of this paper to your teaching assistant, you must email it as a MS-WORD attachment to him/her any time before the above deadline. In so doing, we can confirm that you have submitted your paper on time and verify electronically that you have not committed plagiarism. For every day that your paper is tardy, a penalty of 10% will be assessed on its grade (weekend days will count in assessing this penalty for tardiness).

In order to successfully complete this paper assignment, you are encouraged to make a 10-minute appointment with your teaching assistant to go over an outline of your paper (so please bring this outline with you when you come to this appointment). Please don't wait until it is too late to schedule this appointment (when many students want to see their teaching assistants at the same time and it becomes therefore impossible to accommodate everyone given the limited amount of time available).

The remaining 10% of your course grade will be based on your attendance of and participation in your recitation and other germane considerations such as your performance on any impromptu quizzes. I will ask the teaching assistants to take regular roll call. Naturally, it is not possible for you to participate in the recitation sessions if you do not attend them. The recitation sessions are an integral part of the course. Unless you have documentation for a valid excuse to miss a recitation session, each absence will mean that 0.5% will be deducted from the 10% allocated to the recitation part of your course assessment.

If you have an issue with a grade you have received for an assignment such as your paper or midterm exam, please submit a written statement to your teaching assistant explaining why you believe this grade is wrong and you must do so within one week after the pertinent grades have been issued to the class. You will no longer be able to contest your grade after this deadline has passed.

Academic dishonesty in fulfilling any assignment will be grounds for failing the course. Thus, for instance, you must not represent someone else's work as your own in carrying out your paper assignment. And, when presenting another person's ideas or data, you must provide explicit citation to acknowledge your intellectual debt. Quotation marks must be used when you are quoting someone. Minor changes that try to paraphrase someone else's ideas do not relieve you of the responsibility of acknowledging your intellectual debt. When in doubt, you should err

on the conservative side (that is, by citing your sources), or you should at least consult your teaching assistant. Your paper can and will be checked for plagiarism such as by turnitin.com.

You are responsible to learn about the Honor Code adopted by the University. You can find the relevant information at the following websites:

<http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/faculty.html>;

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html>; and

<http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

If you happen to have three final exams scheduled on the same day, you are entitled to request a change in the time designated for the last exam for that day. If this last exam of the day happens to be this course, please provide the relevant documentation to the professor in order to schedule an alternate time for your exam. You must submit this documentation and written request no later than **November 27, 2017**.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, University faculty members are required to make “reasonable and timely accommodations” for students with disabilities. By University policy that obligation only extends to students who have registered with the Office of Disability Services, which makes the determination of whether, for example, students have real learning disorders. If you are a student with a disability, please notify the professor in writing within the first two weeks of the semester what accommodations are needed. Please provide the necessary documentation from Disability Services (303-4928671, Willard 322, www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices).

If a student has religious obligations that may conflict with this course, please notify the professor in writing within the first two weeks of semester in order to seek a reasonable and fair arrangement. The campus policy regarding religious observance is available at http://www.colorado.edu/policies.fac_relig.html.

To do well in this class, you must attend lectures and recitations regularly. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your teaching assistant.

The lecture plan and reading assignments below are intended to give you an approximate timeline. We may occasionally get ahead of or fall behind this rough schedule. It is important for you to keep up with the reading assignments. As you can see, the course schedule is very tight, and there is very little room for slippage. I strongly urge you to do the readings before you attend the lectures for the relevant chapters. The lectures are not a substitute for the readings because as already mentioned, I will not be able to discuss everything covered in the readings in my lectures. At the same time, you are responsible for the material introduced in my lectures even though it is not in your readings or has not yet been covered in your readings. You should not hesitate to ask questions in class or visit me during my office hours or seeking appointments outside of these hours.

One final note and reminder: you must not allow your work to fall behind schedule. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your teaching assistant or me early on, not after the fact.

Course Plan (subject to change)

August 28

1. Introduction and Organization

Glossary: three examples (atomic bomb, Asian financial flu, and 9/11 terrorist attack), menu for choices, opportunity and willingness, joint necessity

Read chapter 1

August 30

2. More on the Organization Concepts for the Course

Glossary: circumstances and choices, structure and agency, constrained choice, environmental probabilism, levels of analysis

Read chapter 2

September 4

Labor Day, no class

September 6

3. On the Scientific Study of International Relations

Glossary: scientific inquiry, pattern recognition, theory, hypothesis, concept, generalization, falsifiability, evidence, empirical versus normative analysis

September 11

4. The Genesis of Modern States

Glossary: Thirty Years' War, Treaty of Westphalia, sovereignty (non-interference and legal equality), French Revolution, nationalism, monopoly of force, territoriality, nonstate actors

Read chapter 3

September 13

5. On Realism, Polarity, and Power Balances

Glossary: realism, structural anarchy, relative gain, positional competition, self-help, security imperative, national power, soft power, **security dilemma**, balance of power and balance of threat, balancing and bandwagoning, chain-ganging and buckpassing, offensive versus defensive realism, Triple Alliances and Triple Entente, polarity (unipolar, bipolar, multipolar), American primacy, **hegemonic stability**

Read chapter 4

September 18

6. Continuation on Realism, Polarity, and Power Balances

September 20

7. Completion on Realism, Polarity, and Power Balances and starting on Domestic Sources of Foreign policy

Glossary: political and strategic culture, power elites, pluralism, military-industrial complex, public opinion, permissive public, mobilizables, attentive public, mass public, gender gap, rally 'round the flag, decay factor, diversionary war, democratic peace (norms and institutions), Immanuel Kant (republicanism, cosmopolitanism, pacific union)

Read chapter 5

September 25

8. Continuation on Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy

September 27

9. Decision Making: Rationality, Psychology and Organizations

Glossary: humans as information processors, rationality as cost-benefit analysis, satisfice, bounded rationality, muddling through, incrementalism, wishful thinking, signals and noise, cognitive consistency, mirror images, groupthink, risky shift, operational code, personality traits, prospect theory, loss aversion, attribution theory: dispositional vs. circumstantial explanation, Allison's models: rational actor, organizational processes, and governmental politics, principal-agent dilemma

Read chapter 6

October 2

10. Continuation on Decision Making: Rationality, Psychology and Organizations

October 4

11. Completion on Decision Making and Review for Midterm Test

October 9

Midterm Exam today (during class, 9.00-9.50am)!

October 11

12. On the Causes of Conflict

Glossary: three images of war, human nature, war as a social institution, slavery and dueling as examples of value changes pointing to obsolescence of war, relative deprivation, capitalism and imperialism, balance-of-power theory, power-transition theory, long-cycle theory, imperial overstretch, failed states, ethnic wars, lootable resources, terrorism, cyber warfare

Read chapter 7

October 16

13. Continuation on the Causes of Conflict

October 18

14. Armament and Disarmament

Glossary: security dilemma (again), Richardson's arms race model, nuclear deterrence, nuclear proliferation, mutual assured destruction, first- versus second-strike capability, counter-value versus counter-force strikes, national missile defense, guns versus butter, opportunity cost, counter-cyclical tool, prisoners' dilemma, tit-for-tat, shadow of the future, evolution of cooperation

Read chapter 8

October 23

15. Continuation on Armament and Disarmament
Term Paper due no later than 9.00am today!

October 25

16. Completion on Armament and Disarmament and starting on the Ethics and Laws on War
 Glossary: just war doctrine, *jus ad bellum*, *jus ad bello*, self-defense, double-effect rule, Catholic bishops on morality of nuclear deterrence, preventive war (Caroline standard), reprisal (last resort, proportionality, discrimination, just cause, legitimate authority), Geneva Law, Nuremberg trials, reason of state, superior order, domestic versus universal jurisdiction, retrospective law, military necessity, *tu quoque*, people as reasoning agents, natural law, superintendent principle, communitarian (statist) vs. cosmopolitan (universal) conceptions of human rights, positive and negative rights, International Court of Justice, international regimes, torture and mistreatment of POWs, humanitarian intervention

Read chapter 9

October 30

17. Continuation on the Ethics and Laws on War

November 1

18. Completion on the Ethics and Laws on War and starting on Global Order and International Organizations

Glossary: functionalism, **security community, collective action, collective goods (or public goods), joint supply and non-exclusiveness, free ride**, United Nations, International Criminal Court, responsibility to protect

Read chapter 10

November 6

19. Completion on Global Order and International Organizations

November 8

20. Economic Competition and Interdependence

Glossary: Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Friedrich List, free trade, laissez-faire, comparative advantage, autarky, protectionism, mercantilism, strategic trade, embedded liberalism, sensitivity and vulnerability, relative versus absolute gain, Bretton Woods regime, World Trade Organization, **complex interdependence**, hegemonic stability

Read chapter 11

November 13

21. Continuation on Economic Competition and Interdependence

November 15

22. Regional Integration and Globalization

Glossary: integration, amalgamation, European Coal and Steel Community, the Common Market, European Union, Single European Act (Maastricht Treaty), supranationalism, pooled

sovereignty, North American Free Trade Area, complex interdependence (again), nationalist backlash on immigration and free trade, Brexit

Read chapter 12

November 20-24

Fall Break, no classes

November 27

23. Development and Underdevelopment: The North-South Gap

Glossary: best of times and worst of times, North-South gap, multiple Souths, BRIC, human-development index (life expectancy, literacy, parity purchasing power), New International Economic Order, commodity concentration, debt burden, terms of trade, demographic pressure, structural violence, structural adjustment, human capital, development aid, dependent development, world system, import-substitution industrialization, export-oriented industrialization, newly-industrializing countries, democracy and development (roving versus stationary bandit)

Read chapter 13

November 29

24. Continuation on Development and Underdevelopment

December 4

25. Global Commons (the Environment)

Glossary: forced ride, public bad, externality, global warming, tragedy of the commons, intrinsic responsibility, carrying capacity, triage, lifeboat ethics, demographic transition, doubling time, age structure, replacement rate, the “greying” of advanced industrial countries, sustainable development, common-pool resources, overpopulation or overconsumption, spaceship earth, ecological footprint, distributive justice, interdependence

Read chapter 14

December 6

26. Continuation on Global Commons (the Environment)

December 11

27. Alternative Futures

Glossary: end of history, triumphalism, clash of civilizations, secularism, primordialism, west versus rest, jihad versus McWorld

Read chapter 15

December 13

Review of Course Material

December 17

Final exam today, 7.30-9.00pm!

Paper Topic

One of the key concepts in international relations theorizing is *balance of power*.

1. What is the meaning of this concept? What do proponents of this approach to understanding international relations suggest that states must do?
2. What have states actually done in the past? That is, do you think states have followed or are following this approach in their actual conduct? Alternatively, have states acted or are acting differently? Be clear and introduce evidence to support your view.
3. Is there a balance of power in today's international system? That is, do you think power in today's international system is distributed relatively equally among several major powers, or do you think it is concentrated in the hands of one country? Again, support your view with evidence (a hint: you need to define what constitutes national power and look up different indicators of national power from data sources such as the World Bank and Central Intelligence Agency).
4. How do you think states ought to behave in today's world? Do you think they should follow the advice to balance against power, or not? Why?

Your paper must include a discussion and explanation of at least three theoretical ideas or concepts such as those mentioned in the glossary for September 11, September 13, and October 11. A hint: ideas and concepts such as those just alluded to can be easily looked up in the glossary and index sections of your textbook (and of course, they are also discussed in the text and/or taken up in the lectures).

You paper will be evaluated on the basis of the coherence, clarity, consistency, and completeness of your answer to the above questions. As well, the extent to which you can introduce compelling evidence and present cogent arguments to support your conclusions would be a basis of evaluation. Naturally, historical accuracy will be another consideration for evaluation.

The best thing you can do to help yourself is to start preparing for your paper assignment early, and to avoid turning in your paper late. In addition, I have asked you to see your teaching assistant to get feedback and advice on your paper's draft outline. So sign up for this appointment early rather than wait till the last minute (when her/his schedule is already taken up by other students' appointments and can no longer accommodate your request)! And bring your outline to the meeting and be prepared to discuss your paper when you go to this appointment. Contact your teaching assistant about any questions you have about your paper assignment.

Finally, be mindful of the deadline for you to turn in your finished paper (**9.00am, Monday, October 23**), the penalty for tardiness, and the Honor Code's stipulations against cheating and plagiarism. Always identify the sources of your ideas, arguments and evidence! Put direct quotes between quotation marks. Even when you are just paraphrasing someone, give this person credit by citing him/her.