

# **POL 365: Contemporary International Politics**

Summer II 2009      July 13 – August 12

M-F 11:00-12:45

EDUC 349

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## **SYLLABUS**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Although the course title indicates that this course is about contemporary international politics, that title should not lead you to think that the course is only about today's current events. While current events will be used to illustrate the general trends in the course, the major goal here is to develop our abilities to think critically about international politics through the development of a number of important, **general principles** of international politics, through which we can understand both "contemporary" and future international politics.

### **APPROACHES TO THIS COURSE:**

There are two general approaches used for understanding the contents of this course. One is traditional: trying to focus on the subject by virtue of the common readings, class discussions and class lectures. The second approach will have us utilize these materials in a more concrete way by applying them to more specific situations. This second approach is based on a method called **role playing** and it involves a **simulation** component.

### **Role playing will involve the following steps:**

- Each student is asked to choose a specific "role" to play. On the basis of these choices, students will be placed into groups (usually countries) and into specific roles within these groups.
- Each group in the class will be asked to do some research on the group, and to present the research in writing.
- Groups will be asked to play out their roles in two fundamental ways. First, as we move through the course, and each group develops expertise about itself, members of the group will be called upon in class to blend their expertise with the generalizations we are discussing during a particular week. For example, when we discuss nationalism, we may ask the French group to respond to the question of how French nationalism affects French foreign policy. Second, we will have an actual **simulation**, starting on Week 3. During the simulation, students will be asked to step into the shoes of their real-life counterparts. A set of simulation rules is available on the web page (<http://www.d2l.arizona.edu>) and we will discuss these assignments and the nature of the simulation more thoroughly as we progress through the course.

## Course Information

### REQUIRED TEXT

Joseph S. Nye Jr., *The Paradox of American Power*, Oxford University Press. (2002)

The text is available at the campus book store, or can be purchased on-line from your preferred retailer. Additional readings are provided on the course homepage: <http://www.d2l.arizona.edu> or can be accessed via the library (SABIO, JStor, etc). **Readings should be done prior to the class. Thus, if readings are listed under the class on a Monday, I expect you to be prepared to discuss those readings in Monday's class.**

### GRADING:

Grades will be based on the following:

**Exam:** there will be a midterm (at the end of the third week of class). The midterm will be over all of the readings. It will be worth 30% of the course grade;

**Role performance and simulation:** the combination of your research and role performance in class and in the simulation will be worth 20% of the course grade;

**Final Presentation:** you will be required to make a final presentation. This will be worth 20% of the course grade;

**Final Paper:** your group final paper will be worth 20% of the course grade;

**Class participation:** the quality of your class participation will be worth 10% of the course grade. In order to assist you with your class participation, the weekly course focus on the syllabus includes a number of questions to think about in the context of the readings. You should be ready to discuss your answers to those questions in class.

### EXPECTATIONS:

**Examination policy:** There will be one exam in the course and its time and date is listed in the syllabus. Therefore, it is assumed that you will plan your schedule accordingly, and will take this exam when it is scheduled. I will not give make-up exams.

**Attendance policy:** I consider discussion in this class, and the occasional lectures you will hear to be a crucial component of this course. Furthermore, the parts of the class focusing on role playing and simulation are essential to your grade. Missing class will mean that it will be virtually impossible for you to do well in the course. Therefore it is assumed that you will come to every class, **and your attendance during the simulation and role playing is mandatory.** I do honor any religious holiday or special event providing you clear it with me **prior to** missing class. I also will honor absences pre-approved by the Dean of Students providing you clear your absence with me prior to missing class. In either exception, I require you to complete the assignments that are due prior to missing class. For those students who have an excused absence on a Friday, the assignment that was due on Friday becomes due on Thursday.

***Simulation involvement:*** Every person in this course will be assigned a role, and will be part of a group. Both the preparation for the simulation and the simulation itself will require you to work with others in collaboration. That is also how international politics and foreign policies are developed and conducted. Sometimes, however, this leads some students to think that they can slack off and let the other members of the group take up the extra work. ***Warning: it won't work.*** You will be doing a tremendous disservice to yourself, to other members of the group, and ultimately, it will be reflected in your grade. In this class you will have to work with others; learn to depend on others, and allow them to depend on you as well.

***Missed/late assignments:*** assignments are due in class on the due date. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade for each day late.

***Paper Guidelines:*** all papers submitted for this course should be typed, 1-inch margins, and double-spaced. Hard copies are required for all papers. Email submissions will not be accepted. Specific assignment details will be forthcoming.

### ***Policy on Academic Integrity***

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action consistent with University rules and regulations. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with University regulations regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty. If you have any doubt as to what is expected, please ask or consult the University Code of Academic Integrity.

<http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies/cai1.html>

Any student caught plagiarizing or otherwise committing academic misconduct will receive a zero for that assignment and additional action as warranted.

### ***Proper Conduct***

Please keep disruptions to a minimum. Be on time and turn off your cell phone.

Because this is a discussion oriented course, I expect and encourage all students to voice their opinions. Realize, however, that some topics may be controversial and some discussions heated. It is imperative to maintain a respectful and open atmosphere during all class discussions. Please extend to your classmates the courtesy of a civil and reasoned discourse.

Threatening behavior of any sort will not be tolerated. Please familiarize yourself with the University's policies. Instances of threatening behavior will be addressed in accordance with University policy.

<http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml>

### ***Students with Disabilities***

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me. I would like us to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Resources (621-3268; [drc.arizona.edu](http://drc.arizona.edu)) and notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

**I, as the instructor, reserve the right to modify the syllabus, with reasonable, advanced notice, if needed.**

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

All readings should be completed *before* you come to class. Readings marked with the @ symbol are available online at our D2L course website, the rest can be found in the course text (See Course Information). Schedule and reading assignments may be subject to change with advanced notice.

*Week 1* (July 13 – July 17)

### **POWER**

- 7/13 M Introduction, syllabus, etc.
- 7/14 T What is power? What is hard power vs. soft power?  
**READINGS: Nye ch. 1, @Easterbrook (2003)**
- 7/15 W Which country has the most power? #2? Bring the Appendices with you to class.  
**READINGS: @Appendices 1A, 1B, @Walt (2005)**
- 7/16 TH Technology as power. Is technology power, or does it diffuse power?  
**READINGS: Nye ch. 2, @Gelbspan (1997)**
- 7/17 F Globalization  
**READINGS: Nye ch. 3, @Naim (2003)**  
**ASSIGNMENT: Fill out @Role Choices under Simulation in D2L. Bring to class.**

*Week 2* (July 20 – July 24)

### **FOREIGN POLICY**

- 7/20 M Does domestic politics matter? Complete and bring Appendix 2 to class with you.  
**READINGS: Nye ch. 4, @Siegman (2000), @Appendix 2.**
- 7/21 T Creating foreign policy  
**READINGS: @Sources of Soviet Conduct**
- 7/22 W Creating foreign policy (cont.)  
**READINGS: Nye ch. 5, @Maynes (2000)**
- 7/23 TH Defense Policy  
**READINGS: @Lewis (1999)@A Survey of Defence Technology, @Johnston (1995/96)**

7/24 F Defense Policy (Cont)  
**READINGS: @Allison (2004), @Rosen (2006), @Waltz**

*Week 3 (July 27 – July 31)*                      **NATIONALISM AND IDEOLOGY**

7/27 M Nationalism  
**READINGS: @Leiken (2005), @Etzioni (1992/1993)**

7/28 T Nationalism and Ideology  
**READINGS: @Barber (1992), @Light (2003)**

7/29 W Review for Midterm. You come up with questions to discuss.  
**ASSIGNMENT: Read @Directions for Group Paper and @Directions for Group Presentation and begin writing paper and prepare for presentation. Read @Directions for simulation. Fill out @Role Assignments (type) and bring to class.**

7/30 TH **Midterm Exam, Introduction to simulation**

7/31 F No formal class. Meet in your groups. Discuss your roles. Prepare for the simulation. Use this time for research for your research papers.  
**READINGS: @Directions for simulation**

*Week 4 (August 3 – August 7)*                      **SIMULATION**

8/3 M Simulation

8/4 T Simulation

8/5 W Simulation

8/6 TH Simulation

8/7 F Simulation/Debrief

*Week 5 (August 10 – August 12)*

8/10 M **Presentations**

8/11 T **Presentations**

8/12 W Wrap-up  
**ASSIGNMENT: Paper Due**