

*College of William & Mary*  
*Government 204, Spring 2012*

**Introduction to International Politics**  
**Prof. Maurits van der Veen**

**Class**

Tues.&Thurs. 11-12:20 or 12:30-13:50  
Location: 39 Morton Hall  
Office hours: Wed. 2:30-4:30pm.

**Office**

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**Course description**

This course presents an introductory survey of international relations theory and practice. It is assumed that you have a basic exposure to world affairs, and that you keep up with current events by following the international news. This course builds on this basic background by presenting in much more detail the theories and concepts that help us analyze international relations.

One way to think about the study of international relations is to see it as examining the following question: “How do states manage their exposure to the rest of the world in such a way as to make themselves better off?” In terms of security, this question raises issues of war and peace, of international alliances, offensive and defensive strategies, and so on. In economic terms, it prompts us to look at way in which international cooperation and exchange benefits (or hurts) states and actors within those states.

More generally, the question highlights the importance of analyzing how *states* behave in world politics, and thus, by implication, of analyzing how it is that foreign policy decisions are made within states. Simultaneously, it makes it clear that international interaction needs to be *managed* since states cannot decide upon their actions without taking into account the international environment they face and the actions taken by other states *as well as* non-state actors (most notoriously: terrorists).

This is an exciting time to study world affairs, as events over the past few years have made it clear that the future of the world political system is far from settled. We will have occasion to consider the implications of different theoretical models as well as of past historical experiences for our understanding of current issues such as terrorism, superpower unilateralism, nuclear proliferation, etc.

Over the course of the semester, we will follow a two-track approach. The first track will concentrate on providing the theoretical framework and the empirical context for the various topics listed above, while the second track will focus on analyzing contemporary events in each of these areas. You will find that the two tracks reinforce each other and that your ability to analyze current events will grow considerably over the course of the term.

## **Course policies & requirements**

Although you may find some of the reading hard going at first, you will find that doing the reading before class will increase what you get out of the lectures and class discussions immeasurably. Moreover, you should be prepared to ask and answer questions about the reading in lecture (see the participation section below).

Course requirements are two mid-term exams and an 8-10 page paper that will serve as your final exam. Each mid-term exam is worth 25% of your final grade, and the final paper is worth 30%. The remaining 20% of your grade is based on class participation.

The mid-term exams will be given in class on March 20<sup>th</sup> and April 17<sup>th</sup>. They will be identical in set-up, and each will consist of a brief multiple choice section, a short answer section, and an essay question. The final paper will be a critical analysis of United States foreign policy towards a specific country and issue area of your choice (with certain restrictions). More information on the paper will be provided as the time gets closer.

### *Participation*

Your participation grade is constructed from three separate components:

- Participation in class discussions, which will be judged in terms of the quality, not the quantity, of your contributions. Class discussions are crucial opportunities to critically analyze the material covered in the readings and lectures, and to share your own ideas and insights. Your participation will not just improve your own learning; it also helps that of all your fellow students.
  - Quizzes: There will be four unannounced quizzes given in class, based on the reading for that day as well as on major current events
  - Extra credit: you can boost your participation grade one full letter grade by any combination of 8 of the following “assignments”:
    - Online discussion: From time to time I will post recommended readings, along with some comments, on our class discussion board. Make a thoughtful contribution (at least 100 words long) to the ensuing discussion
    - Over the course of the semester, I will identify at least 10 outside speakers or events relevant to our course. Attend such an event and write a brief comment/response on the discussion board for that particular event
- So, attend 8 events, or contribute to 8 discussions, or do 4 of each — any combination is fine. Both of these options are great ways to think about and apply course material beyond the classroom.

## **Additional policies & comments**

You need to let me know ahead of time if you cannot make a class, midterm exam, or due date. Given advance warning I am likely to be quite accommodating. On the other hand, flimsy excuses, especially after the fact, are unlikely to garner you much sympathy. Unapproved late submissions of the paper will be penalized one half of a full grade per day.

Failure to complete any single component of the course (never showing up to class, missing all quizzes, missing a midterm, or not submitting a final paper) will result in failing the course — in other words, you cannot make up for it by excelling in all other components.

I take violations of academic honesty very seriously. All academic work must meet the standards set out in the Honor Code. In particular, if you cheat on a test or commit plagiarism on your paper and I discover it, I will report the violation to the Dean's office, with all the potential repercussions that implies. The key point is that the work you submit must be your own — not that of a fellow student, nor that of someone whose work you found in the library or online.

### **Office hours &c**

My regular office hours are Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30pm. Please do come see me if you have any questions on or problems with the reading material, the writing assignments, or the course in general. If you need to reach me to make an appointment, I am most easily reached by e-mail.

### **Readings**

The following three books are available for purchase at the W&M Bookstore. They can also be purchased online (sometimes rather more cheaply). It is very important that you get the correct edition of the Nye & Welch textbook. You can probably make do with the previous edition of Art & Jervis, but if you do so it is *your responsibility* to figure out a way to get access to the articles that were added in the newest edition.

Art, Robert J., and Robert Jervis. 2011. *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Longman.

Nye, Joseph S. 2011. *The Future of Power*. New York: PublicAffairs.

Nye, Joseph S., and David A. Welch. 2011. *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation*. 8<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Longman.

All additional readings are available online or through the electronic journals feature of the W&M library website (not Blackboard!). There will be also be occasional reading assignments of brief articles on current events, in newspapers such as the *New York Times* and the *Economist*. Links to these will be provided on the course website.

## **Calendar**

### **I. Central Concepts in International Relations**

Thu. Jan. 19 *Introduction; overview of course*

Tue. Jan. 24 *Anarchy I: Conflict in world politics*

- Nye & Welch, ch.1: “Is there an enduring logic of conflict in world politics?” pp. 1-30.
- Thucydides. “The Melian dialogue” pp. 1-6 in Art & Jervis

Thu. Jan. 26 ***Anarchy II: Understanding anarchy***

- Art & Jervis, “Anarchy and its Consequences” pp. 1-6 in Art & Jervis.
- Waltz, Kenneth N. “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics.” pp. 37-58 in A&J.
- Mearsheimer, John J. “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power.” pp. 59-69 in A&J.

Tue. Jan. 31 ***Rationality & Strategy***

- Schelling, Thomas C. “The Diplomacy of Violence.” pp. 171-184 in A&J.
- Pape, Robert A. “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.” pp. 213-230 in A&J.
- Oye, Kenneth. “The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics.” pp. 79-92 in A&J.

Thu. Feb. 2 ***Power & Force***

- Nye, ch. 1 “What is Power in Global Affairs?” pp. 3-24.
  - Art, Robert J. “The Fungibility of Force.” pp. 196-212 in A&J.
  - Jervis, Robert. “Offense, Defense, and the Security Dilemma.” pp. 93-113 in A&J.
- Recommended*
- Art, Robert J. “The Four Functions of Force.” pp. 163-170 in A&J.
  - Kaldor, Mary. “New and Old Wars.” pp. 231-237 in A&J.

Tue. Feb. 7 ***Interdependence & Alliances***

- Doyle, Michael W. “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs.” pp. 114-126 in A&J.
- Walt, Stephen M. “Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning.” pp. 127-134 in A&J.
- Jervis, Robert. “The era of leading power peace.” pp. 373-389 in A&J.

Thu. Feb. 9 ***Institutions & Governance***

- Keohane, Robert O. “International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?” pp. 150-157 in A&J.
  - Hoffmann, Stanley. “The Uses and Limits of International Law.” pp. 145-149 in A&J.
  - Roberts, Adam. “The United Nations and International Security.” pp. 524-532 in A&J.
- Recommended*
- Nye & Welch, pp. 181-194 (on International law and the UN).
  - Slaughter, Anne-Marie. “Government Networks and Global Governance.” pp. 554-563 in A&J.

Tue. Feb. 14 ***Ideas & Beliefs***

- Morgenthau, J. “Six Principles of Political Realism.” pp. 16-23 in A&J.
- Tickner, J. Ann. “A Critique of Morgenthau’s Principles of Political Realism.” pp. 24-36 in A&J.
- Wendt, Alexander. “Anarchy is What States Make of It.” pp. 70-77 in A&J.

Thu. Feb. 16 ***International Relations Theories***

- Nye & Welch, ch. 2: “Explaining Conflict and Cooperation: Tools and Techniques of the Trade.” pp. 33-70.

*Recommended*

- Walt, Stephen M. 1998. “International Relations: One World, Many Theories.” *Foreign Policy* 110:29-46.
- Snyder, Jack. 2004. “One World, Rival Theories.” *Foreign Policy* 145:55-62.

**II. Security Studies: War, Peace, Terrorism, etc.**

=> Read Nye, ch. 2 “Military Power” during the next 4 weeks  
(for example prior to Feb. 28, when there is no required reading).

Tue. Feb. 21 ***World War I & Balance of Power***

- Nye & Welch, ch. 3: “From Westphalia to World War I” pp. 71-102.

Thu. Feb. 23 ***World War II & Collective Security***

- Nye & Welch, ch. 4: “The Failure of Collective Security and World War II” pp. 103-131.

Tue. Feb. 28 ***Movie: Dr. Strangelove***

*Recommended*

- Maland, Charles. “Dr. Strangelove: Nightmare Comedy and the Ideology of Liberal Consensus.” *American Quarterly* 31(5): 697-717.

Thu. Mar. 1 ***The Cold War & Deterrence***

- Nye & Welch, ch. 5: “The Cold War” pp. 132-180.

*March 6 & 8: Spring Break*

Tue. Mar. 13 ***The Post-Cold War World I: Unipolarity & WMDs***

- Nye & Welch, pp. 205-236: “Interstate conflict”.
- Art, Robert J. “The United States and the Rise of China.” pp. 390-397 in A&J.
- Posen, Barry R. “Emerging Multipolarity: Why Should We Care?” pp. 572-576 in A&J.
- Sokolski, Henry. “Getting Ready for a Nuclear-Ready Iran.” pp. 238-241 in A&J.
- Posen, Barry R. “A Nuclear-Armed Iran: A Difficult but not Impossible Policy Problem.” pp. 242-258 in A&J.

Thu. Mar. 15 ***The Post-Cold War World II: Interventions & non-state actors***

- Nye & Welch, pp. 194-205: “Intrastate conflict”.
  - Kuperman, Alan J. “Humanitarian Intervention.” pp. 412-423 in A&J.
  - Adamson, Fiona. 2005. “Globalization, transnational political mobilization, and networks of violence.” *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 18(1):31-48.
  - Cronin, Audrey Kurth. “Ending Terrorism.” pp. 398-411 in A&J.
- Recommended*
- Kaufmann, Chaim. “Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars.” pp. 496-517 in A&J.

Tue. Mar. 20 **Midterm Exam 1**

**III. Cooperation & Conflict in the International Economy**

=> Read Nye, ch. 3 “Economic Power” during the next 3 weeks  
(for example prior to Mar. 22, when there is no required reading).

Thu. Mar. 22 ***Movie: Darwin’s Nightmare***

Tue. Mar. 27 ***Globalization and Interdependence***

- Nye & Welch, ch. 7: “Globalization and Interdependence.” pp. 239-267.

Thu. Mar. 29 ***International Political Economy***

- Gilpin, Robert. “The Nature of Political Economy.” pp. 281-297 in A&J.
  - Hiscox, Michael J. “The Domestic Sources of Foreign Economic Policies.” pp. 282-291 in A&J.
- Recommended*
- Scott, Bruce R. “The Great Divide in the Global Village.” pp. 292-304 in A&J.

Tue. Apr. 3 ***The Limits of Globalization***

- Frankel, Jeffrey. “Globalization of the International Economy.” pp. 305-321 in A&J.
- Ghemawat, Pankaj. “Why the World Isn’t Flat.” pp. 322-327 in A&J.
- Blinder, Alan S. “Offshoring: The Next Industrial Revolution?” pp. 328-338 in A&J.

Thu. Apr. 5 ***Globalization and its discontents***

- Rodrik, Dani. “Trading in Illusions.” pp. 339-347 in Art & Jervis.
- Micklethwait, John, and Adrian Wooldridge. “Why the Globalization Backlash is Stupid.” pp. 374-380 in A&J.

- Krugman, Paul. 1994. “Competitiveness: A Dangerous Obsession.” *Foreign Affairs* 73(2): 28-44.

*Recommended*

- Drezner, Daniel W. 2000. “Bottom Feeders.” *Foreign Policy* 121: 64-70.

Tue. Apr. 10 ***Transnational actors***

- Nye & Welch, ch. 8. “The Information Revolution and Transnational Actors.” Pp. 268-295.
  - Keck, Margaret E., and Kathryn Sikkink. “Transnational Activist Networks.” pp. 475-481 in A&J.
  - Mallaby, Sebastian. “NGOs: Fighting Poverty, Hurting the Poor.” pp. 482-488 in A&J.
- Recommended*
- Williams, Phil. Transnational Organized Crime and the State.” pp. 489-501 in A&J.

Thu. Apr. 12 ***The Global Commons***

- Hardin, Garrett. “The Tragedy of the Commons.” pp. 502-507 in A&J.
- Schwartz, Barry. “Tyranny for the Commons Man.” pp. 508-516 in A&J.
- Victor, David G. “International Cooperation on Climate Change: Numbers, Interests, and Institutions.” pp. 515-523 in A&J.

Tue. Apr. 17 **Midterm Exam 2**

**IV. The Future of Power in a Globalized World**

Thu. Apr. 19 ***The Future of International Relations***

- Nye & Welch, ch. 9. “What Can We Expect in the Future?” pp. 296-326.
- Nye, ch. 4. “Soft Power” pp. 81-109.

Tue. Apr. 24 ***The Future of U.S. Power***

- Nye, part 2 (chapters 5-6)

Thu. Apr. 26 ***Smart Power***

- Nye, ch. 7. “Smart Power”. pp. 207-234.

=> Final paper due on the day our final exam is scheduled.