

Introduction to International Politics
Political Science 371
California State University, Long Beach – Spring 2015
Meeting Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30 - 4:45
Classroom: SPA 209

Instructor

Charles Mahoney, Ph.D.

E-mail: Charles.Mahoney@csulb.edu

Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 2:00 - 3:00

Office: SPA 229

Office Phone #: 562.985.8203

Overview

This course presents students with different views about patterns of behavior and cooperation among individuals, organizations, states, and empires that can be characterized as constituting “global orders.” Many scholars contend that a “world order” exists; however, there are numerous interpretations of what features characterize both past and current global orders. For realists, the notion of world order is best understood by examining the concept of “anarchy” in the international system and then determining how the unipolar, bipolar, or multipolar distribution of power influences the behavior of states. Liberals envision an emerging, multilateral world order based on the rule of international law and managed by international institutions. In this type of system, the detrimental effects of anarchy are managed through collective security and intergovernmental organizations. Marxists interpret world order not by analyzing the distribution of military power among states, but rather by looking at varying levels of industrial development in the “world-system” and the transnational distribution of capital among economic classes and countries. Finally, constructivist scholars critique traditional concepts of world order by deconstructing “hegemonic” discourses and widely held intersubjective beliefs that dominate thinking about international politics.

This class will review major theories of international relations and present students with different interpretations and critiques of what constitutes world order. Topics covered include anarchy, “the end of history,” international organizations and international law, realism, globalization, soft power, economic interdependence, the growing power of NGOs and private corporations in the global order, terrorism, and the changing role of the United States in a world of “rising powers.”

Required Books, Readings, and Beach Board

There are two required books for this course:

- Karen A. Mingst and Ivan Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*
- Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

Articles from journals, newspapers, and magazines will be assigned in addition to readings from the course textbook. These articles will be posted either to Beach Board or made available to students through URL links in the syllabus. Students are required to have an e-mail account that receives Beach Board e-mail. In addition, all students are required to regularly check the Beach Board class site for announcements and course information.

Complete all assigned reading before class on each day the class meets. Lectures will help clarify the readings and will be much more useful to students if they have already begun to grapple with concepts presented in the readings.

Assignments and Evaluation

- I. Exams (30%) - There will be two in-class exams, each exam will count for 15% of the final grade
- II. Final Exam (20%) - The cumulative final exam will count for 20% of the final grade
- III. Papers (30%) - Two papers, each will count for 15% of the final grade.
- IV. Group Debate (10%) - one group project/debate will count for 10% of the final grade
- V. Class participation (10%) – class participation consists of well reasoned thoughts or critical questions about course material. Simply attending class is not sufficient to receive full credit for the class participation component of the grade.

Grading Scale

A = 90-100 (student demonstrates outstanding proficiency in relevant course objectives)

B = 80-89.99 (student demonstrates advanced proficiency in relevant course objectives)

C = 70-79.99 (student demonstrates proficiency in relevant course objectives)

D = 60-69.99 (student demonstrates partial proficiency in relevant course objectives)

F = 0-59.99 (student demonstrates little to no proficiency in relevant course objectives)

Class Policies

- I. *Academic Integrity*

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Do not plagiarize the work of others and do not copy the work of your peers. Please read CSULB policies on academic integrity, which can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/academic_information/cheating_plagiarism.html

Confirmed cases of cheating and/or plagiarism will be dealt with through serious disciplinary action that may include a failing grade on an assignment, failing the class, and potential expulsion from the university.

II. Late Assignments / Make-Up Exams

Late assignments and make-up exams will be permitted only in cases of documented medical emergency, religious holidays, or university business.

III. Class Participation and Attendance

Students are required to attend class and demonstrate knowledge of assigned readings.

Late arrivals and early departures will not be allowed. Students arriving more than five minutes after the designated start of class will not be allowed to attend lecture. If a student leaves class without permission prior to the official end of a class session, their overall course average will be reduced by one point.

IV. Policy on Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who need reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations in this course should promptly direct their request to the course instructor. If a student with a disability feels that modifications, special assistance, or accommodations offered are inappropriate or insufficient, s/he should seek the assistance of the Director of Disabled Student Services on campus.

V. Withdrawal Policy

Weeks 1 - 2: Withdrawals may be made without instructor approval. Credit for registration fees may be obtained during this period.

Weeks 3 - 12: Withdrawals require approval from the instructor and the chair of the department. Except in medical emergencies filed by the end of Week 8, credit for registration fees may not be obtained.

Weeks 13 - 15: Withdrawals require approval from the instructor, the Chair of the department, and the Dean of the college. Students also must withdraw from all other classes. Credit for registration fees may not be obtained.

VI. *Computer and Cell Phone Etiquette*

Students are expected to arrive for class on time and to refrain from using cell phones for talking, texting, or surfing the web. Laptops are permitted in the class for taking notes and referencing class readings only. Please refrain from using the internet to check e-mail, surf the web, or access social media.

VII. *Respect for Diverse Opinions*

This class presents an open environment for students to discuss their opinions on some of the most contentious issues in American politics today. Students are encouraged to present their thoughtful and reasoned views on issues related to the class topic. For the class to function properly, students must treat their peers with respect. Dismissive statements or intolerance towards anyone in the class will not be permitted.

VIII. *E-mail Etiquette*

E-mails sent to the professor and to teaching assistants should be written clearly, concisely, and courteously and must come from an e-mail address that clearly indicates student's full name.

IX. *Changes to Syllabus*

Professor Mahoney reserves the right to alter the syllabus over the course of the semester.

Week 1 – Anarchy and Power

Tuesday, January 20 - Course Overview and Expectations

- Course overview and expectations

Thursday, January 22 - Anarchy

- John Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power," in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 37-57
- Thucydides, "Melian Dialogue," in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 11-13

Week 2 – Theoretical Views of the International Relations

Tuesday, January 27 – How to Think About International Relations Theoretically

- Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, "Theory and the Levels of Analysis," pp. 77-79
- Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 2-10
- Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, Ch. 3

Thursday, January 29 – The State

- Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, Ch. 5
- Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, pp. 20-23

Week 3 – The International System

Tuesday, February 3 – The International System

- Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, Ch. 4

Thursday, February 5 - Unipolarity, Bipolarity, and Multipolarity

- Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, pp. 32-58
- John Ikenberry, Michael Mastaduno, and William Wohlforth, “Unipolarity, State Behavior, and Systemic Consequences,” in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 106-127.

Week 4 – War

Tuesday, February 10 – The Causes of War

- Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, Ch. 8
- Clausewitz, “War as an Instrument of Policy,” in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 396-401

Thursday, February 12 – Traditional and Contemporary Views of War

- Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, pp. 23-34
- Andrew Kydd and Barbara Walter, “The Strategies of Terrorism,” pp. 471-495

Week 5 – Test #1 and Film Screening

Tuesday, February 17 - Exam #1

- *Exam #1 in class*

Thursday, February 19 – Film Screening in Class

- *Film Screening*

Week 6 – Intergovernmental Organizations and Nongovernmental Organizations

Tuesday, February 24 - Intergovernmental Organizations

- Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, pp. 202-232
- Woodrow Wilson, "The Fourteen Points," in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 14-17

Thursday, February 26 - Nongovernmental Organizations and Human Rights

- Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, pp. 233-239
- Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, Ch. 10

Week 7 – Globalization

Tuesday, March 3 – Origins of Globalization

- Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 256-262
- Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History." (Article available on Beachboard)

Thursday, March 5 – Globalization and Its Discontents

- Yotam Margalit, "Lost in Globalization: International Economic Integration and the Sources of Popular Discontent," in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 603-630
- Mauro F. Guillén, "Is Globalization Civilizing, Destructive, or Feeble?" Article available on Beachboard

Week 8 – International Political Economy and Economic Development

Tuesday, March 10 – International Political Economy

- PAPER #1 DUE IN CLASS
- Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, Ch. 9

Thursday, March 12 – Economic Development

- Helen V. Milner, "Globalization, Development, and International Institutions: Normative and Positive Perspectives," in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 537-560
- Lloyd Gruber, "Globalization with Growth and Equity: Can We Really Have it All?" in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 581-602

Week 9 – Non-State Actors in International Security

Tuesday, March 17 – Private Military Corporations

- Peter Singer, "Corporate Warriors." Article available on Beachboard

- Allison Stanger and Mark Williams, “Benefits and Costs of Outsourcing Security.” Article available on Beachboard

Thursday, March 19 – Cyber-warfare

- Lucas Kello, “The Meaning of the Cyber Revolution.” Article Available on Beachboard
- Eric Gartzke, “The Myth of Cyberwar.” Article Available on Beachboard

Week 10 – Terrorism, Civil War, and Intervention

Tuesday, March 24 – Terrorism and Intervention

- Max Abrahms, “Why Terrorism Does not Work,” Article available on Beachboard
- Brian C. Schmidt and Michael C. Williams, “The Bush Doctrine and the Iraq War,” Article Available on Beachboard.

Thursday, March 26 – Civil War and Humanitarian Intervention

- Ian Hurd, “Is Humanitarian Intervention Legal? The Rule of Law in an Incoherent World,” in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 367-381
- Samantha Power, “Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen,” in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 317-337

*****Spring Break March 30 – April 5*****

Week 11 – Transnational Challenges

Tuesday, April 7 – The Environment

- Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, pp. 384-406
- Elinor Ostrom “Institutions and the Environment,” in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 718-731

Thursday, April 9 – Epidemics

- Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, pp. 409-416
- Thomas J. Bollyky, “Developing Symptoms: Non-communicable Diseases Go Global,” pp. 754-760

Week 12 – Exam #2

Tuesday, April 14 – Exam # 2

- Exam #2 in class

Thursday, April 16 – Drones and International Security

- Barack Obama, “Speech on Drone Policy at the National War College.” Text and video available at the following link:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/24/us/politics/transcript-of-obamas-speech-on-drone-policy.html?pagewanted=all>
- Glyn Williams, “The CIA’s Covert Predator Drone War in Pakistan.” pp. 871-892. Article available on Beachboard.

Week 13 – Global Challenges in the Middle East

Tuesday, April 21 – Iran and Nuclear Weapons

- Barry R. Posen, “A Nuclear Armed Iran: A Difficult but Not Impossible Policy Problem,” in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 461-466
- Dina Esfandiary and Mark Fitzpatrick, “Sanctions on Iran: Defining and Enabling Success,” Article available on Beachboard.

Thursday, April 23 – The Arab Spring and Its Aftermath

- Oliver Roy, “The Transformation of the Arab World,” in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 245-255
- Frontline, *The Rise of ISIS*. Video documentary available at:
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/rise-of-isis/>

Week 14 – The Rise of China

Tuesday, April 28 - China and Global Order

- Joseph Nye, “Work with China, Don’t Contain It.” Article available at the following link:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/26/opinion/work-with-china-dont-contain-it.html>
- Randall Schweller and Xiaoyu Pu, “After Unipolarity: China’s Visions of International Order in an Era of U.S Decline,” in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 127-152

Thursday, April 30 - Group Debate

- Group Debate in Class

Week 15 – The Next “World Order”

Tuesday, May 5 – New World Order?

- PAPER #2 DUE IN CLASS

- Stephen Brooks, G. John Ikenberry, and William Wohlforth, “Don’t Come Home America: The Case against Retrenchment.” Article available on Beachboard.

Thursday, May 7 - Post-Unipolarity

- Christopher Layne, “The End of *Pax Americana*.” Available at the following link: <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/04/the-end-of-pax-americana-how-western-decline-became-inevitable/256388/#>
- Martha Finnemore, “Legitimacy, Hypocrisy, and the Social Structure of Unipolarity,” in *Essential Readings in World Politics*, pp. 153-172