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Southern Polytechnic State University
Fall 2006
MWF 10 to 10:50
TR 10 to 11:15 and 6 to 7:15

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Global Issues – POLS 2401/001, 002 and 003

The world has become more interdependent. What exactly does that mean? The world has changed dramatically since the end of the Cold War. How has the world changed? Some argue that the events of September 11, 2001 changed the world. Are things different? Does it matter if more countries are democratic? What is the impact of economic development or the lack of it? Can we make sense of the varied and wide ranging events in the world from conflict in the Middle East to development of a single European currency? Are some things constants in world politics or are we living in a novel age? Why should we even care?

This course will introduce concepts and theories to assist you in understanding the actors and issues in the general framework of world politics. In this course, we will look at the contending theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of world politics and apply the various approaches to different empirical situations. We begin the course by looking at the major actors and their relations. This will include: an examination of foreign policy decision making, "great power" politics, international organizations, and the influence of various nonstate actors. We then turn to the international political economy with the globalization of politics and markets and global environmental patterns and problems. Finally, we move to world conflict and its management. We will examine armed conflict between and within states and seek to understand its causes and origins and methods to prevent it.

This course should provide you with an elementary understanding of world politics, and give you sufficient preparation by providing a broad foundation (theoretically and empirically) to continue further studies on issues in world politics. If this is the only course on world politics you take, it should provide you with basic tools necessary to be a responsible member of the informed public on global issues and foreign policy.

TEXTBOOKS

Kegley, Charles W. Jr. and Eugene R. Wittkoft. 2006. **World Politics: Trend and Transformation**, 11th ed. New York: Thomson Wadsworth .

Supplementary reading will also be available through electronic reserve in the library (Res)

Additionally, you need to stay abreast of major happenings in the world. As university students in the United States, we have access to more sources of information than we could possibly consume. I suggest you take a look at the New York Times (nytimes.com), the Christian Science

Monitor (csmonitor.com), and/or the BBC World Service (bbcworldservice.com). The "News Hour" on PBS from 6 pm to 7 pm is another excellent source of in depth coverage.

COURSE EVALUATION

Your final grade in this class will be derived from four examinations of equal weight. The exams will be of a multiple-choice type drawn from the assigned readings and class lectures. Sometimes the readings and the lectures will directly overlap, but not always. It is imperative that you attend all classes and take notes, and read all the assignments. Included in each exam will be questions on current events. There is always something going on in the world so stay informed.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 – Aug 21-25

Read	Lecture Themes
Chapter 1 in Kegley	Introduction to World Politics
Chapter 2 in Kegley	Thinking Theory Science v. Tradition
(Res) "The World Must Be Made Safe. . ." (Res) "A Realist Theory. . ."	Idealism v. Realism
Week 2 – Aug 28-Sept 1	Levels of Analysis
Week 3 – Sept 4-8	
Chapter 3 in Kegley	Models of Decision Making
(Res) "How Decision-Makers Learn from History"	Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy
Video -- " Truth, War, and Consequences "	
Week 4 – Sept 11-15	
Chapter 4 in Kegley	Great Powers in World Politics

(Res) "The Power Transition"

Test One

Week 5 – Sept 18-22

Chapter 5 in Kegley
(Res) "A Structural Theory of Imperialism"

The South -- Development and Underdevelopment.

Week 6 – Sept 25-29
Chapter 6 in Kegley

International Organizations

Week 7 – Oct 2-6
Chapter 6 in Kegley

NonState Actors in World Politics
Clash of Civilizations

Test Two

Week 8 – Oct 9-13
Chapter 9 in Kegley
(Res) "From After Hegemony"

Hegemonic Stability Theory
Liberal International Econ. Order

Week 9 – Oct 16-20
Chapter 8 in Kegley

Globalization

Week 10 – Oct 23-27
Chapter 10 in Kegley

Population
Environmental Problems.

Week 11 – Oct 30-Nov 3
Chapter 11 in Kegley
(Res) "On the Nature of War"
(Res) "Warfare Is Only an Invention"
(Res) "Dangerous Dyads"

War: Causes of Conflict
Terrorism

Test Three

Week 12 – Nov 6-10

Chapter 12 in Kegley

The Security Dilemma
Coercive Diplomacy

Week 13 and 14 – Nov 13-22
Chapter 15 in Kegley

Democratic Peace

(Res) "Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch"
(Res) "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace"

Week 15 – Nov 27-Dec 1
Chapter 16 in Kegley

The Future of World Politics

Week 16 – Dec 4-8
Review

Test four will be given during exam week. The exact date will be announced.