

Thomas Jay Nisley, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Southern Polytechnic State University
Summer 2007
TR 1 pm to 2:55am

Phone: 4995
Email: tnisley@spsu.edu
Office: J302
Office hours: MTWR Noon to 1pm
and by appointment

Global Issues – POLS 2401

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 constant 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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe some major political, economic, social and environmental issues confronting the global community.
2. Evaluate major threats to peace and stability in the world today, and be able to discuss the underlying reasons for a lack of resolutions.
3. Understand the role of power and military force in global affairs and limitations to the use of force.

4. Evaluate the demographic, economic, and ethno-national dimensions to issues of development.

TEXTBOOKS

Kegley, Charles W. Jr. and Eugene R. Wittkoft. 2007. **World Politics: Trend and Transformation**, 11th edition New York: Thomson Wadsworth .

Note – You may use the 10th edition

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

Section 1

Read	Lecture Themes
Chapter 1 in Kegley	Introduction to World Politics
Chapter 2 in Kegley	Thinking Theory
	Levels of Analysis
(Res) "The World Must Be Made Safe. . ."	Idealism v. Realism
(Res) "A Realist Theory. . ."	
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 "

Test One

Section 2

Read

Chapter 4 in Kegley

Great Powers in World Politics

(Res) "The Power Transition"

Chapter 5 in Kegley

(Res) "A Structural Theory of Imperialism"

The South -- Development and Underdevelopment.

Chapter 6 in Kegley

International Organizations

NonState Actors in World Politics

Test Two

Section 3

Read

Chapter 9 in Kegley

(Res) "From After Hegemony"

Hegemonic Stability Theory

Liberal International Econ. Order

Chapter 8 in Kegley

Globalization

Chapter 10 in Kegley

Population

Environmental Problems.

Test Three

Section 4

Chapter 11 in Kegley
(Res) "On the Nature of War"
(Res) "Warfare Is Only an Invention"
(Res) "Dangerous Dyads"

War: Causes of Conflict
Terrorism

Chapter 12 in Kegley

The Security Dilemma
Coercive Diplomacy

Chapter 14 in Kegley
(Res) "Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch"
(Res) "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace"

Democratic Peace

Chapter 15 in Kegley

The Future of World Politics

Test Four