Introduction to International Relations
Political Science 205, Summer 2006

Distance Education/Web-Based Independent Study

Draft Syllabus 3.0

Professor: John Davidson
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-4
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SSIL -- Social Sciences Instructional Lab -- Contact Information:
(These are the folks who will administer the midterm and final exam to you.)
e-mail: de@ssil.uoregon.edu
Phone: 346-4642.

Important notice: It is essential for the purposes of this course that you check your UO e-mail account regularly or set it to forward to the account that you regularly use.

Course Description:

This course will expose you to a broad range of information and theories about international relations – the varying ways in which countries interact with each other over a wide variety of issues. You will learn both theory and facts, both history and recent events. The course structure follows that of our text book, International Relations (7th Edition), by Joshua Goldstein and Jon Pevehouse.

Both the text and the course are divided into two main sections. The text begins with an introductory chapter called “Understanding International Relations.” Then, Part I, which focuses on International Security offers chapters on power politics; alternatives to power politics; foreign policy; international conflict; military force; and international organization and law. Part 2, which focuses on International Political Economy, offers chapters on trade; money and business; integration; environment and population; the north-south gap; and international development.

Your grade for the class will be based on the following (more details on each below):

• Chapter quizzes – 13 quizzes at 2 points each, for a total of 26% of your course grade. You will take these quizzes through the class CourseCompass page. (CourseCompass is a Blackboard clone.)

• Online interactive simulations – 13 at 1 point each, which you will access through the CourseCompass web site. (These will be graded on a credit/no credit basis after passing post-simulation assessment quizzes.)

• Participation in CourseCompass discussion boards – five times at one point each (also credit/no credit).

• A midterm (26%) and final (30%) examination, taken at the Social Sciences Instructional Laboratory (SSIL) if you are in or near Eugene, or at an approved, proctored location outside of Eugene (see instructions below).

Technological Requirements

In order to access course materials and complete your internet-based assignments, you will need regular access to a fairly competent computer with web access, with at least 56K dial-up (although faster connections will obviously be better). Lack of such access is not an excuse to request alternative assignments or extensions on deadlines – it is a reason not to take this class. For example, if you lose your connection or crash while you are taking a quiz you will not get a second chance to take it!

Warning:

This is an online course. It has no face-to-face meetings. Contrary to what many anticipate, this makes it harder, not easier. This independent study version of PS 205 is designed for self-motivated students who wish to proceed through the subject material at their own pace. Keep in mind that independent study is not the best option for every
student! The lack of lectures or discussion sections means you have fewer opportunities to learn challenging material. To succeed in this course, you must be motivated and well organized, and your reading, studying, and analytical skills should be strong. Historically, the range of grades in this class has been very large – we have had large numbers of both A-pluses and Fs. Because so much of the course grade is based on the multiple choice quizzes and examinations, please give careful consideration to whether that is a format that will work for you. The quizzes and exams are not easy. Marginal students just taking this class to avoid attending lectures and section meetings, or because they think it will be easy, are strongly encouraged to drop now and enroll in the traditional version of this class: you will learn more and your grade will be higher. Note that PS 205 cannot be repeated for credit – the traditional lecture course PS 205 and the independent study/distance education course PS 205 are the same course.

**Important Notes:**

- The midterm and final examinations must be taken in the SSIL lab or in a proctored environment approved in advance by SSIL Director, Cathleen Leue.

- No incompletes or extensions can be given for this course due to the closure of the SSIL lab at the end of the term. All exams and postings must be completed by the dates listed below:

- NO EXTRA CREDIT WORK OR MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS CAN BE GIVEN.

**Web Sites**

- Distance Education. You can access the examination-related components of the course through the UO Distance Education Web page at [http://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/](http://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/). It has the all information necessary for signing up for taking the examinations.

- Text Book “CourseCompass” Web Site. You will have access to the online version of the text book directly through [http://www.coursecompass.com](http://www.coursecompass.com). Choose “Student Register,” then type in the course ID: davidson87106. **Make sure you don’t sign up for a different course number!** Students who purchased the book at the book store will then type in the access code that comes with your text book. Students who wish to purchase only the e-book and CourseCompass access can do so from that page as well. The CourseCompass site looks and works almost exactly like Blackboard. That’s where you will take your chapter quizzes, do the simulations and post-simulation quizzes, and participate in the required discussion boards. It includes special features such as “lecture” power points, chapter outlines, practice quizzes, study materials and links to all kinds of outside resources.

- Text Book Companion Web Site. For most purposes, this page duplicates CourseCompass. The major exceptions are the practice chapter quizzes, (excellent study guides for the chapter quizzes, and the exams) which you will find at: [http://wps.ablongman.com/long_goldstein_ir_7/0,10728,2296546,-00.html](http://wps.ablongman.com/long_goldstein_ir_7/0,10728,2296546,-00.html).

Important class announcements will periodically be sent out via email to your UO account. It is therefore imperative that all students either use their UO email account, and check it several times a week, or set it to forward to the account you really use. Please take steps immediately to make sure this is taken care of, and also make sure that e-mails I send out to the class via Blackboard will make it past your spam filter. All UO students are now automatically assigned UO e-mail accounts which are automatically used as your e-mail address in all UO directories. If you do not know how to access your UO email account, contact the Computing Center at 346-4412 to find out.

**Required Texts and Assigned Readings**

*International Relations* (7th Edition), by Joshua Goldstein and Jon Pevehouse. The text is available as both a traditional hard copy text book, with accompanying e-book access, and as an e-book alone (at substantial savings). Either way includes interactive features and links to study guides, simulations, outside links and other resources. You may choose to purchase it as e-book only including all the online resources; if you purchase the hard copy, it comes with the e-book and all the online resources as well. Unfortunately, because access to the publisher’s “Course Compass” web site is required, you can’t purchase used copies of the text.

It is available for purchase at the book store, along with an access code and instructions for using the “Course Compass” package. The 7th edition is new – make sure you do not get the 6th edition!

If you would like to purchase the hard copy online rather than at the bookstore, go to:
http://www.ablongman.com/catalog/academic/product/0.1144.0321351983.00.html;
You must be sure to include the course-specific ISBN for this class: 0321354745, or you will not get access CourseCompass.

To purchase only the e-book and CourseCompass Access, go to https://register.pearsoncmg.com/reg/buy/coursebuy.jsp. You’ll be asked for the course ID, which is: davidson87106. Make sure you don’t sign up for a different course number! Another option for out of town students who want the full book package is to e-mail Gina Murray at the bookstore at ginaw@uoregon.edu and have them ship it. Either way you’ll pay around the same amount plus shipping.

Chapter Quizzes (26% total; 2 points for each chapter quiz)

For each of our book’s thirteen substantive chapters (Chapter 14 is only a few pages long) you will take a short multiple choice quiz through the CourseCompass page. These are not to be confused with the practice pre-test/post-test quizzes available on both CourseCompass and the separate book web page. The practice quizzes do not count toward your grade; these do. The practice quizzes are made available just to help you prepare for the quizzes and tests that actually count.

The quizzes are not proctored, but they are closed book. In order to take them you will need to promise that you are not looking things up in the book, sharing questions or answers with classmates, printing out the quiz, or using a quiz or quiz answers provided by a classmate. If you engage in any of these activities even once, your grade for all the quizzes will be a zero, which will make it very difficult to pass the class.

Quiz Deadlines: You must complete the quizzes for chapters 1-4 by the Friday of Week 2, July 7, at 4:00 PM. Quizzes for chapters 5-7 are due the Wednesday of Week 4, July 19. Chapter quizzes 8-10 are due Friday of Week 6, August 4. And, finally, quizzes 11-13 are due Wednesday of Week 8, August 16, also at 4:00 PM. All quizzes are due by 4:00 PM on their due dates. Access to the quizzes will be password-protected after those dates/times, and will only be available to students with approved extensions.

Interactive Simulations (13% total for completion of 13 topical simulations & quizzes, credit/no credit)

As part of the CourseCompass package that comes with the Text, each substantive chapter (1-13) has an interactive simulation that is required. To get credit for a simulation you will need to complete the simulation, then take the “test yourself” quiz for it. Anyone who gets at least 3 of the 5 questions right on the simulation quiz will receive full credit for participation in the simulation. If you do a simulation but still get fewer than 3 of 5 right on the quiz, just send me an e-mail with a paragraph or two describing the simulation and I’ll give you credit for it. In terms of time expenditures, they range from fairly quick (probably 5-10) minutes to very involved (an hour or more to really do them right).

In addition to the required simulations, the site includes a wide variety of additional optional activities that might help you prepare for quizzes and exams, or that might just be fun!

Interactive Simulation Deadlines: The due dates are the same as for the chapter quizzes and are shown in the table below. It is recommended that you do each simulation and post-simulation test prior to taking the chapter quiz, and that you do not put them off until right before the deadline and then try to race through them. If you rush through them too fast you will not be able to pass the quizzes and won’t get credit.

Course Compass Discussion Board Postings (5% total for postings on five discussion boards, credit/no credit)

You will be responsible for posting to five CourseCompass discussion boards during the course of the term: one discussion thread will just involve introducing yourself. There will also be discussion fora for each of the four segments of the class. Your required posts must be at least one paragraph long, you must have something substantive to say, and you must somehow incorporate or refer to ideas from the readings. You may of course respond on more than one topic or respond more than once on each discussion board if you like. You don’t have to start your own discussion thread. Making substantive responses to one another is, arguably, even better. (Hence the term discussion board!)

Discussion Board Due Dates: The four topical posts are due the same dates as the chapter quizzes. The self-introduction post will be due at the same time as the first topical post -- by the end of week 2, Friday, July 7. All postings are due by 4:00 PM of their due date.
Exams (56% divided into a midterm (26%) and final (30%) examination)

You will take two proctored examinations based on the assigned readings in the Text – a midterm exam worth 26% of the course grade and a final exam worth 30%. See below for detailed instructions for taking these exams. Exams are made up of multiple choice questions. The midterm will cover Part 1 of the Text (chapters 1-7) and the final will cover Part 2 (chapters 8-14). The final examination is not cumulative. Tests are closed-book and cannot be taken more than once. Both exams will be in the system at all times, so take extra care when logging in that you are logging in for the correct test! If you take the wrong test there is literally nothing anyone can do to “fix” it.

The exams cover a wide range of material and require knowledge of broad concepts and specific factual details. The main factor that will distinguish the types of questions on the exams from those on the quizzes is that the quiz questions will be more detail-oriented and the exam questions more concept-oriented.

IMPORTANT: You must schedule your exam taking time in advance. Please see “Testing Center Policies,” below.

Special Note: The deadline for the midterm exam is the Thursday, of Week 4, not Friday.

Quiz, simulation, and exam deadlines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text Section</th>
<th>Text Chapter</th>
<th>Simulation</th>
<th>Quiz/Sim. Deadline</th>
<th>Exam Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: International Relations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3: Alternatives to Power Politics</td>
<td>2: Power Politics</td>
<td>You Are a U.S. President Addressing Crisis in the Middle East</td>
<td>July 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4: Foreign Policy</td>
<td>3: Alternatives to Power Politics</td>
<td>Viewing Gender Issues in Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>July 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5: International Conflict</td>
<td>4: Foreign Policy</td>
<td>You Are President Kennedy During the Cuban Missile Crisis</td>
<td>July 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6: Military Force</td>
<td>5: International Conflict</td>
<td>You Are a Prime Minster Facing Nationalistic Conflict</td>
<td>July 19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8: Trade</td>
<td>7: International Organization and Law</td>
<td>You Are a Judge on the International Court of Justice</td>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>Midterm July 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9: Money and Business</td>
<td>8: Trade</td>
<td>You Are a Political Leader in a Developing Country</td>
<td>Aug 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10: Integration</td>
<td>9: Money and Business</td>
<td>You Are the CEO of a Multinational Corporation</td>
<td>Aug 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12: The North-South Gap</td>
<td>11: Environment and Population</td>
<td>You Are the Brazilian President Addressing Environmental and Economic Issues</td>
<td>Aug 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13: International Development</td>
<td>12: The North-South Gap</td>
<td>You Are an Advisor to the Leader of a Developing Country</td>
<td>Aug 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14: Postscript</td>
<td>13: International Development</td>
<td>You Are a Member of the Chinese Communist Government</td>
<td>Aug 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14: Postscript</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Final Aug 18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Testing Center Policies and Procedures

Testing policies can be viewed on-line at [http://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/info.oncampus](http://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/info.oncampus) and [http://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/info.offcampus](http://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/info.offcampus). It is each student’s responsibility to understand and follow the policies outlined in the documents posted there. If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Exam Scheduling and Deadlines: You may schedule an exam at any available time (available test times will be determined by SSIL or your approved remote proctor), up to the deadlines – Thursday, July 20 (week 4) at 4:00 PM for the midterm and Friday, August 18 (week 8) for the final (evening time slots are OK, if they are offered by SSIL). It is
your responsibility to make sure that you take the exam before the deadline. I strongly recommend making an appointment as early as you can, and taking the exams at least a day or two before the deadlines in case something comes up at the last minute. You will take the chapter quizzes on your own through CourseCompass – you do not need to make appointments for those.

On-Campus Students:

If you are taking this course on campus, you will take your exams at the Social Science Instructional Lab (SSIL) located in McKenzie Hall 445. All on-campus exams are given and scheduled by appointment only. Before you can schedule an exam, you must complete the On-Line Introduction to Test taking by going to: http://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/ and clicking anywhere on the paragraph that begins “Be sure to get your test taker I.D. . . .” After you complete the introduction, you will be given a Test Taker ID Number and Password. With these, you can log into your Test Taker Home Page from the above distance education web page. From your Test Taker Home Page you can make appointments to take tests, cancel appointments, see your test scores, e-mail your professor, change your test taker password, and more. You should go through the On-Line introduction the first week of class. Take the time to read the information under the link, “On Campus Students.” If you have additional questions about testing, contact de@ssil.uoregon.edu.

It is strongly recommended that students make appointments in SSIL for taking tests early. You cannot, however, make appointments more than two weeks in advance of your intended test date (not the test deadline). If you want to take tests early you may do so.

Be sure to schedule yourself enough time to finish a test. Budget extra time for possible software complications: Thirty minutes is the average time needed to complete the exams, and appointments are for one hour. The lab fee for this class also entitles you to use the computers in SSIL for word processing, web browsing, etc. Absolutely no food or drink is allowed in the lab. For more information, check the SSIL Web page at: http://ssil.uoregon.edu/.

To ensure that SSIL test times are available for all student schedules, a wide variety of test-taking times is available, which will be posted at http://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/. If your schedule is inflexible it is your responsibility to sign up far enough in advance to get a space in a time slot that fits your schedule. It is not SSIL’s or the instructor’s responsibility to make an additional exam time for you. More slots are likely to be added during the term as the level of demand becomes clear.

Remote Site Testing (other than Eugene) – Off-Campus Students:

If you are taking this course off-campus, go to the web site: http://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/ and click on the “Off Campus Students” tab at the top of the page. Read all the information on the page. Before you can take a test, you must obtain a proctor and have the proctor approved by SSIL. You must do this before the end of the second week of classes. The web page describes how to do this. Once you have found a proctor, fill out the remote site request form on the web page. SSIL will notify you if the proctor you have chosen is approved. If you have further questions, contact de@ssil.uoregon.edu.

All visits to the proctored test sites must be scheduled in advance. You can get all necessary information about your testing site by contacting the testing site proctor or the Continuation Center's Distance Education Program. All Portland-area (Beaverton) test-takers should go to http://de.uoregon.edu/proctoring/exam-ps.php#Portland for specific instructions.

- The deadlines discussed above apply to off-campus students as well as on-campus.
- It is imperative that you get your proctor approved well in advance of the test date.
- No matter how trustworthy she is, your Mom cannot proctor your exams.
- No matter how trustworthy you are, you can’t proctor your own exams.

Testing Center Security:

For security reasons, the following class policies will be strictly enforced at both the Eugene Campus SSIL testing center and remote site testing centers. Students at the remote sites should be aware that each site may have additional policies.

- Bring a picture ID with you to the lab. You will not be allowed to take a test without it.
- When using the lab to take a test, leave any bags, books, papers or computer diskettes with the person administering the quiz.
- While taking a test, you will not be allowed to use any resources such as books, notes, or computer files.

Do not hesitate to ask the person administering the test for help with the testing software. If you experience any problems with the software, notify the person administering the test immediately. The person administering the test will help you restart the software and contact the professor about the problem.
Whom Should You Contact?

For questions concerning administration and scheduling of exams, contact the SSIL lab first; for questions regarding exam content, simulations, quizzes, CourseCompass postings, web sites or grading, contact Professor Davidson.

Final Grade Calculation

Final grades are calculated based on your percentages on the 13 chapter quizzes at 2% each, completion of the 13 simulations at 1% each (credit/no credit), the midterm exam at 26%, the final exam at 30% and the five CourseCompass discussion board postings (credit/no credit) at 1% each. The grade book in the class CourseCompass page will be updated only twice – after the midterm and then again after the final. After the midterm, I will post an item on the grade sheet showing your average so far.

If necessary, I reserve the right to apply a curve at a level which I deem appropriate. While a curve is a possibility, you should not count on it; rather, you should assume your grade will be based on your raw scores and the cutoffs below. If I do apply a curve, no one will receive a grade below where the raw scores would have placed you; but depending where you are in relation to the cutoffs, it is possible that some students’ letter grades would increase while others would not. Cutoffs for letter grades are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade Cutoffs</th>
<th>Minus</th>
<th>Plain</th>
<th>Plus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-93.33</td>
<td>93.34-96.66</td>
<td>96.67 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-83.33</td>
<td>83.34-86.66</td>
<td>86.67-89.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-73.33</td>
<td>73.34-76.66</td>
<td>76.67-79.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-63.33</td>
<td>63.34-66.66</td>
<td>66.67-69.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>