

Heidelberg University

Fall 2009

POL 121-1
Global Politics
T, TH 2-3:15 PM
Bareis, Room 204

Instructor: Dr. Marc O'Reilly
Office Hours: M-W-F 1-2 PM, T-Th 4-5 PM, and on Appointment
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Course Content:

This class serves as an introduction to international politics. It strives to make you, the student, aware of contemporary issues and should heighten your concern for social responsibility. This course seeks to explain how our world works, why that is so, and what one should expect to see occur worldwide in the 21st century. Throughout the semester, we will analyze international systems and their structures, discuss how and why state policies vary from country to country, and underscore the important roles that individuals play. We will spotlight transnational phenomena (such as military conflict, terrorism, globalization, HIV/AIDS, environmental degradation) and their impact upon the so-called Information Age. Current events will be discussed, and many key theories, concepts, and issues will be examined, such as power, national interest, polarity, realism, liberalism, interdependence, sustainable development, diplomacy, human rights, nationalism, war, international organization, democracy, transnationalism, ideology, culture, bureaucracy, and discourse. To enrich your experience in this course and improve your knowledge, you should voice your opinions regarding any and all class material.

Required Readings:

- John T. Rourke and Mark A. Boyer, *International Politics on the World Stage, Brief*, 8th edition (Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2010). Available in the Heidelberg University Bookstore.
- The International section of *The New York Times*. You should read the on-line version at <http://www.nytimes.com>.
- Additional readings will be accessed via the Internet or distributed in class.

Since we will be talking about numerous countries scattered across the globe, I suggest that you always have a copy of a world map with you

Course Requirements:

Exams: You will write a Mid-Term and a Take-Home Final. Exams will be of the essay kind. We will review material before the Mid-Term. **OBJECTIVES:** Exams test your knowledge and understanding of class material. They also sharpen your analytical skills. **MID-TERM EXAM: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8. TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE IN CLASS: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 12 PM.**

Quizzes: You will be quizzed typically once a week (on Thursdays, starting on September 10) on your knowledge of current international events. There will be eight (8) quizzes as well as an initial practice quiz. To prepare for each quiz, you will read eight (8) articles from Monday's and Tuesday's New York Times International section (the exception will be Quiz 8, when you will read from Tuesday's and Wednesday's *NY Times*). I will e-mail you the URL (i.e., Internet address) for each article I want you to read. Every quiz, I will ask seven (7) questions. You will answer five (5) -- whichever five you can answer best. Each answer will be worth two points. A partially correct answer will earn zero points. I will drop your two (2) worst grades (out of eight) at the end of the semester. **OBJECTIVES:** Quizzes enable you to follow and understand current world events. This information will help you better grasp the class material, provide examples that you can use in your exams, journal, and paper, and facilitate your participation in class discussion. **QUIZ DATES: SEPT. 3 (Practice), 10, 17, 24, OCT. 1, 15, 29, NOV. 5, 12.**

Journal: You must keep a journal, which you will turn in at the end of the semester. You must select one (1) international relations issue that you will study throughout the semester. You will write your semester paper on that topic. Please let me know ASAP what issue you will examine. **You must collect articles in your journal that pertain to your issue.** You can focus on daily events or you can be content with a weekly review. Use the Internet as well as any source you deem appropriate (newspapers, newsmagazines, etc.) when working on your journal. **You must show that you have read the information you have collected by highlighting or underlining important sentences, phrases, and words in the articles you have selected.** You should also type up or take notes as you read. Include a section in your journal where you ask yourself questions about the articles you have selected (for example, "Can peacekeeping prevent a renewed outbreak of hostilities in war-torn countries such as the Sudan or Lebanon?"). If you prefer, you can write comments and questions in the margins of articles. Insert notes, comments, and questions, as well as articles, political cartoons, and anything you consider important in your **BINDER. Pay attention to presentation.** Do not simply stuff sheets into a folder. Use labels to orient the reader (for example, Week 1, Article 1: "American missile defense system in Poland will strain U.S.-Russian relations"). You can show me your journal at any point during the semester so that I can verify that you are proceeding correctly. **OBJECTIVES:** The journal prods you to start early on your semester paper instead of procrastinating until a week or a few days before the due date. Also, by following events over a three-month period, you should have an excellent understanding of your issue and the problems associated with it. **JOURNAL DEADLINE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 at 2 PM.**

A useful web site to visit as you start your research would be: <http://www.mhhe.com/boyer8e>. You may consult any web site that you deem appropriate. Make sure you note the bias of any particular site, as it may promote one kind of political ideology or economic/military doctrine over another.

Paper: You must submit a 5-8 page (double-spaced) term paper at the end of the semester. You can turn in a draft of your paper at any point during the term and can meet with me to discuss your draft. **As for the assignment itself, you will write up an analysis of the issue that you have chronicled throughout the semester. The contents of your journal will serve as the research for your paper.** You can supplement your journal entries with additional research (books and articles, for example), but you must rely first and foremost on your journal. You should therefore strive to keep as meticulous a journal as possible. You will hand in your journal with your paper. Term paper guidelines, complete with writing tips and evaluation criteria, can be found on the instructor's web site. If you have questions regarding the journal and the paper assignment, please raise them in class, speak to me during office hours, or e-mail me. OBJECTIVES: The paper allows you to improve your analytical and writing skills. If you turn in a draft, you will have an opportunity to revise your work using instructor comments to guide you. By rewriting your paper, you should be able to ameliorate it and thus earn a better grade than you would have otherwise. PAPER DEADLINE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 at 2 PM.

See the following web site for writing assistance:
http://courses.heidelberg.edu/dkimmel/writing/help_web.html.

Remember that the Academic Success Center can assist you as you prepare for quizzes and exams, work on your journal, and write your semester paper.

Participation: You must attend class regularly (I will keep track of your attendance), provide input (in the form of questions and answers) during lectures and class/group discussion, respect classmates and the instructor, and conduct yourself in a mature and responsible way. You must also participate in the class Forum, which is on Moodle. To enter the Forum, access <http://numu.heidelberg.edu/moodle/>, click on POL 121-1, and type in the following enrollment key: 20468. OBJECTIVES: Improve your oratorical, persuasion, and listening skills and recognize the importance of proper comportment and etiquette in the classroom. The Forum allows you to ask questions, seek clarification, tackle material not otherwise discussed in class, and engage each other in intellectual conversation. The Forum also allows you to post articles relevant to course material and respond to such articles, whether posted by me or your classmates.

Distribution of Grades

Mid-Term Exam	20% (Will Count for 10% if Paper Grade Higher, 30% if MT Higher)
Final Exam	20%
Quizzes	20%
Journal	10%
Paper	20% (Will Count for 30% if Grade Higher than MT, 10% if MT Higher)
Participation	10%

Make-up exams will be authorized only if a student can offer a compelling reason as to why he or she could not take the test. Late papers and journals will be docked one grade (A to A-, for example) for every day past the deadline. Also note that any student guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive an F for the assignment and can be dismissed from Heidelberg University.

Class Outline and Reading Assignments

WEEK 1: World Politics Past, Present, & Future. Reading: Rourke/Boyer chs. 1 (pp. 1-14) & 2.

WEEK 2: Power, the State, & Levels of Analysis. Reading: Rourke/Boyer chs. 6 (pp. 131-146, 158-167) & 3.

WEEK 3: Theories of International Relations. Readings: Rourke/Boyer ch. 1 (pp. 14-30); Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," *Foreign Policy*. Access at: http://www.columbia.edu/cu/siwps/publication_files/snyder/One%20World,%20Rival%20Theories%20-%20Snyder.pdf); and Thucydides, "The Melian Dialogue," in *The Peloponnesian War*. Access at: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm>.

WEEK 4: Nationalism. Reading: Rourke/Boyer ch. 4. Video: "The Triumph of Evil" (PBS).

WEEK 5: Transnationalism. Reading: Rourke/Boyer ch. 5.

WEEK 6: What If Women Governed the World? Reading: Swanee Hunt, "Let Women Rule," *Foreign Affairs* (http://www.huntalternatives.org/download/488_5_07_let_women_rule.pdf).

Discussion in Groups: "Would the world be more peaceful if women, as opposed to men, led it?"

Tuesday: No class (Faculty Development Day).

WEEK 7:

Tuesday: **Review for Mid-Term.**

MID-TERM EXAM: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

WEEK 8: **International Organization.** Reading: Rourke/Boyer ch. 7.

Thursday: Model UN Simulation.

October 16 is the last day to drop the course.

FALL BREAK: OCTOBER 17-20

WEEK 9: **International Security & U.S. Foreign Policy.** Readings: Rourke/Boyer ch. 9; and Michael Scherer, "The Five Pillars of Obama's Foreign Policy," *Time* (<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1910057,00.html>). Videos: "The War Briefing" (PBS); and "Pakistan: Children of the Taliban" (PBS).

WEEK 10: **Human Rights.** Readings: Rourke/Boyer ch. 8 (pp. 226-237); and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Access at: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>. Also peruse the respective web sites of Amnesty International (<http://www.amnesty.org>) and Human Rights Watch (<http://www.hrw.org>). Videos: "The Tank Man" (PBS); and "The Torture Question" (PBS).

WEEK 11: **Diplomacy.** Reading: Rourke/Boyer ch. 6 (pp. 146-158). Also peruse the U.S. Department of State web site (<http://www.state.gov/>).

WEEK 12: **International Law.** Reading: Rourke/Boyer ch. 8 (pp. 207-226, 237-239).

WEEK 13: **Global Economics.** Reading: Rourke/Boyer chs. 10 & 11. Videos: "Inside the Meltdown"; and "The Tank Man: China's Rise" (PBS).

Thursday: No class (Dr. O'Reilly out of town).

WEEK 14: **Sustainable Development.** Reading: Rourke/Boyer ch. 12.

JOURNAL & PAPER: DUE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 AT 2 PM

THANKSGIVING BREAK: NOVEMBER 25-29

WEEK 15: **The Future of Global Politics?**

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM: DUE IN CLASS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 12 PM