

Politics 15A
Introduction to International Relations
Spring 2009
Tuesday and Friday 10:40-12:00 (Block H)
Olin-Sang 101

Instructor	E-mail	Office Hours/Location
Prof. Kerry A. Chase	chase@brandeis.edu	Friday 12-2pm in Golding 120

Teaching Fellows	E-mail	Office Hours/Location
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Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces students to the study of international relations. Prior coursework in international relations is not required. The course pursues four major objectives:

- 1). The course will cover the factual details of important historical and contemporary events, including the outbreak and aftermath of major wars and violent conflicts, trends and patterns in the evolution of the world economy, and the development and effects of international institutions. While you are not expected to memorize every date or name, you should develop a firm grasp of the empirical information covered in the course.

- 2). The course will provide basic analytical tools necessary to explain the behavior of nation states and non-state actors and understand outcomes in the international system. To accomplish this, we will apply theoretical approaches to illuminate important historical and contemporary events; we are not interested in theory for its own sake.

- 3). The course will encourage and seek to foster critical thinking about the nature and evolution of international life. We will examine contending theoretical perspectives and differing interpretations of major events. Critically evaluate the assumptions, arguments, and conclusions presented in lectures and course readings; do not passively accept them.

- 4). The course will provide a foundation for future study in upper-division international relations courses in the Politics Department (courses numbered POL 160-POL 180).

Latte Course Website

On Latte you will find a copy of this syllabus (with all of its hyperlinks) in on the right-hand side in Latte Course Tools => Get Course Syllabus. Assignments and course policies are posted at the top center, underneath the course title. Displayed in the course modules are links to PowerPoint files for each lecture and the electronic readings assigned for that class. Additional announcements and handouts will be posted on Latte at various times during the semester.

Logging into Latte

Your username is your UNet ID and your password is your UNet password. In order to access course materials on Latte, you must be registered for the course. If you haven't yet enrolled, make sure to do so as soon as possible so you can access the course content.

Technical issues with Latte

Some browsers, including Internet Explorer, cannot display all of Latte's features. LTS recommends using Mozilla Firefox. For a free download, go to mozilla.com. Also, make sure you have Adobe Reader 6.0 or above; if you don't, [download a free copy here](#).

If you are having a problem with Latte, consult the Student Guide to Latte at <http://latte.brandeis.edu/help/latte-student/index.html> or contact the Help Desk at x65883 or latte@brandeis.edu. Most technical issues can be resolved without outside help.

Discussion Sections

A required fourth hour for discussion section will take place every week. Regular attendance and participation in section is critical to successful performance in the course. Sections are a forum for discussing course materials and asking questions about lectures and readings. Sections therefore give you an opportunity to review and critically analyze course materials in a smaller-group setting. You are expected to have completed the assigned course readings prior to section– and you should be ready and prepared to offer your insights!

Sections will begin on the week of January 27. The roster of sections and how to sign up will be announced as soon as we have arranged rooms with the scheduler:

Section	Day	Time	Location	TF
1				
2				
3				
4				

Course Requirements and Grading

The requirements for the course and the calculation of final grades are as follows:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1). Regular attendance and participation in discussion section | 10% |
| 2). An in-class midterm examination on March 6 | 20% |
| 3). A critical essay due in class on April 21 | 35% |
| 4). A final examination on May 1 | 35% |

Section attendance and participation

Your TF will assign section scores based on attendance and the quality and originality of participation. Quality and originality mean that you should be able to demonstrate that you have prepared for section, that you have mastered course readings and lectures, and that you are willing to offer the insights you have learned where they are relevant to the discussion. Students who attend regularly but rarely participate, or who demonstrate high-quality participation but attend irregularly, will receive average (B- or C+) scores.

Midterm examination

The midterm examination will be held in class on March 6. It will cover course material through March 3. The midterm exam will have three sections: 1). Identification, which involves identifying terms and concepts and explaining their significance for the course in about six sentences; 2). Short answer, which involves answering conceptual questions in about a paragraph; 3). Factual questions, which can be completed in four words or less.

Final examination

The [Registrar's Office](#) has scheduled final exams for the H block for Friday, May 1 from 9:15-12:15. The final exam covers the entire course and it will have four sections: 1). Identification; 2). Short answer; 3). Factual questions; and 4). Long answer, which involves answering interpretive conceptual questions in a few paragraphs.

Critical essay

The [critical essay](#) is a 10-12 page paper that applies a theory discussed in the course to explain a case of your choice. Critical essays are due in class on April 21. A prospectus of your critical essay, which will receive comments but no grade, is due on March 17.

Grading

Assignments will be graded out of 100 points based on the following scale: A (93 and above); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D (65-69); F (less than 65). Final scores and grades will be computed in Microsoft Excel using the following formula: $SCORE = 0.1*DISCUSSION + 0.2*MIDTERM + 0.35*ESSAY + 0.35*FINAL$. In cases where the score falls close to two grades on the scale, performance in section will be the deciding factor in assigning the final grade.

Course Policies

There are several course policies that you should keep in mind where relevant.

Cell phones

Please turn off your cell phone when you come to class.

Classroom interaction

Please do not be discouraged from raising your hand to speak during lecture. I believe that the learning experience is always most effective when it is interactive, and I will do my best to answer your questions. Also, during lecture I often will pose questions for the class to consider. If you raise your hand and I do not call on you, attribute this to time constraints and don't be deterred from asking or answering a question in the next class.

E-mail

Frequently I can't respond immediately to e-mail because of the volume of e-mail that I receive. So, please reserve e-mail to inform me of an urgent emergency (such as those described in the next heading). It is best that you ask substantive questions in lecture or discussion sessions— and you are always welcome to visit me during office hours!

Illnesses and family emergencies

If an illness or family emergency prevents you from taking a scheduled exam, you must inform me by e-mail or phone before the exam. You also should contact your [class advisor](#) so that s/he can advise me of the severity of the issue.

Make-up exams require my permission, which I grant only in cases of documented illness or family emergency. Students requiring a make-up exam due to a documented illness or family emergency will not be penalized. Students requesting a make-up exam without a documented illness or family emergency will be penalized 30 points (out of 100).

All make-up exams must be taken at once; the date and time of a make-up exam is not negotiable. Students requesting a make-up final examination should be advised that this will be held in the conflict resolution block on the afternoon of Friday, May 8, as scheduled by the [Registrar's Office](#).

Paper submission

Critical essays must be submitted to your TF in person when they are due. E-mail submissions will not be accepted. Essays submitted after the due date will be penalized 2 points per day, except in cases of a documented illness or family emergency. For more information about late submissions, see the [course policies for late papers](#) on Latte.

Student athletes

If your participation in intercollegiate athletic competition conflicts with any of the requirements for the course, please make sure to provide me with a letter from the Director of Athletics stating the dates of these conflicts no later than February 6.

Disability statement

If you need academic accommodations because of a documented disability, please make sure that I receive your letter of accommodation as soon as possible. For questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, please contact Beth Rodgers-Kay in Academic Services at 6-3470.

Academic integrity

You are expected to adhere to the highest level of academic integrity. This means that any instance of academic dishonesty will result in referral to the [Department of Student Development and Conduct](#).

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: buying papers; borrowing papers; lending papers; using one paper in two classes without the permission of both instructors; plagiarism, either by quoting without including quotation marks or paraphrasing without citation; using any material during an exam that is not explicitly authorized; and buying or selling any lecture notes, exams, papers, or any other assigned material for this class. Please also note that my lectures, handouts, assignments, and all other course content are copyrighted (© Chase 2009) and cannot be used without my permission for any purposes other than fulfilling the requirements for the course.

Before starting your critical essay, please be sure to read the handout [Avoiding Plagiarism](#) on Latte. If you have questions about other academic integrity issues, consult the [Academic Integrity resources on the LTS website](#). If you cannot find answers to your questions there, ask your TF or me.

On a positive note, I absolutely encourage you to share ideas and insights in study groups or simply informal conversation. Any legitimate and academically honest means for you to learn about and gain enthusiasm for the course material has my support.

Readings and Course Materials

Reading assignments average 50-55 pages per lecture. You are expected to complete the course readings before the lecture for which they are assigned. Page numbers for assigned readings appear in **boldface**. Course readings appear in the following sources:

Books

You can purchase books at the Brandeis University Bookstore or online at amazon.com. Books also are on reserve at the Main Library.

1. Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 9th edition (Longman, 2008). ISBN-13: 978-0205642724
2. Joseph S. Nye, Jr., *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History*, 7th edition (Longman, 2008). ISBN-13: 978-0205658879
3. Andrew C. Sobel, *Political Economy and Global Affairs* (Congressional Quarterly Press, 2005). ISBN-13: 978-1568028613

Electronic readings

Electronic readings, which have the symbol (**ER**) and a hyperlink, are uploaded to Latte. Follow the hyperlinks in the syllabus or find them in the lists underneath the relevant course module. While these readings are distributed electronically, I expect you to print all of them in hard copy– for the sake of both your eyesight and your reading comprehension. Many of these readings are challenging; anything that will help you to read (and re-read!) them with care is worth doing.

PowerPoint lecture files

PowerPoint files of all of the lectures are available on Latte. I have uploaded these files to make lecture easier for you to follow, so that you can spend more time listening and less time writing. My advice: do not transcribe my slides during lecture. If you wish, you are certainly encouraged to print a copy of the slides to bring to class, or follow along on your computer.

Study guides

Study guides for each of the course's four sections are available on Latte. Various other study materials, while not assigned, also are available. For example, Art and Jervis, *IP*, has summaries before each of its four sections; Nye, *UIC*, has chronologies at the end of each chapter; and Sobel, *PEGA*, has study questions at the end of each chapter.

Course Schedule

January 13 **Introduction: Origins of the State System**

Historical Background

January 16 **The Century of Peace**

- Nye, *UIC*, Ch. 2: Origins of the Great Twentieth-Century Conflicts, **34-43**.
- Sobel, *PEGA*, Ch. 3: Structure of the International System, **62-73** (start at “Origins of the State System”) and Ch. 7: Around the World in Eighty Days, **160-169** (stop at “Risk and Uncertainty”), **173-188** (start at “The Gold Standard” and stop at “Technology”), **196-203** (start at “The Dark Side of Globalization and Colonialism”).

January 20 **Brandeis Monday (No Class)**

January 23 **World War I**

- Nye, *UIC*, Ch. 3: Balance of Power and World War I, **60-84**.
- (ER) Stephen Van Evera, [Why Cooperation Failed in 1914](#), *World Politics* 38 (October 1985), **80-117**.
- Instructor’s Note: [Why Cooperation Failed in 1914](#).
- [Germany’s “Blank Check” to Austria](#), 6 July 1914; and [Britain’s Indecisiveness](#), 31 July 1914. (**3 pages**)

January 27 **The Interwar Period**

- Nye, *UIC*, Ch. 4: The Failure of Collective Security and World War II, **88-97** (stop at “The Origins of World War II”).
- Sobel, *PEGA*, Ch. 8: The World between the Wars, **205-241**.
- President Woodrow Wilson’s [Fourteen Points](#), 8 January 1918; and [The League of Nations](#), 25 September 1919. (**7 pages**)

January 30 **World War II**

- Nye, *UIC*, Ch. 4: The Failure of Collective Security and World War II, **97-112** (start at “The Origins of World War II”).
- (ER) Alan Alexandroff and Richard Rosecrance, [Deterrence in 1939](#), *World Politics* 29 (April 1977), **404-424**.
- (ER) Barton J. Bernstein, [The Atomic Bombings Reconsidered](#), *Foreign Affairs* 74 (January-February 1995), **135-152**.
- [Munich Pact](#), 29 September 1938; [German-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact](#), 23 August 1939; and [Meeting between President Roosevelt and the Japanese Ambassador on the Japanese Occupation of Indochina](#), 24 July 1941. (**7 pages**)

February 3 **From World War to Cold War**

- Nye, *UIC*, Ch. 5: The Cold War, **116-133** (stop at “The Vietnam War”).
- Sobel, *PEGA*, Ch. 9: The Bretton Woods System, **244-252** and **271-275** (start at “Active Engagement and the Truman Doctrine” and stop at “Breakdown in the Bretton Woods Monetary Arrangements”).
- George F. Kennan’s [Long Telegram](#), 22 February 1946. (**12 pages**)
- [Address by Secretary of State George C. Marshall](#) at Harvard University, 5 June 1947. (**3 pages**) ([external link](#) if page loads slowly)
- [NSC 68](#): United States Objectives and Programs for National Security, 14 April 1950, read [Part I](#), [Part II](#), [Part III](#), and [Conclusions and Recommendations](#). (External Link, **13 pages**)

February 6 **The Cold War and Its End**

- Nye, *UIC*, Ch. 5: The Cold War, **133-145** (start at “The Vietnam War” and stop at “The Role of Nuclear Weapons”).
- Sobel, *PEGA*, Ch. 11: Détente and the End of the Cold War, **327-345**.
- (ER) Richard Ned Lebow, [The Long Peace, the End of the Cold War, and the Failure of Realism](#), *International Organization* 48 (Spring 1994), **249-277**.

Theoretical Perspectives

February 10 **Theory in IR: The International Level**

- Nye, *UIC*, Ch. 1: Is There An Enduring Logic of Conflict in World Politics? **1-12**.
- Sobel, *PEGA*, Ch. 1: Introduction, **12-19** (start at “An Approach to Social Research” and stop at “Plan of the Book”).
- (ER) Stephen M. Walt, [International Relations: One World, Many Theories](#), *Foreign Policy* 110 (Spring 1998), **29-46**.
- Kenneth N. Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **29-49**.

February 13 **Realism**

- Hans J. Morgenthau, “Six Principles of Political Realism,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **7-14**.
- John J. Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **50-60**.
- Stephen M. Walt, “Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **96-103**.
- Robert Jervis, “Offense, Defense, and the Security Dilemma,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **153-173**.
- John Ikenberry, “Rising Powers and Global Institutions,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **560-566**.

February 17-20 **Midterm Recess (No Class)**

February 24 **Interdependence and Institutions**

- Sobel, *PEGA*, Ch. 15: Institutions, **421-439** (stop at “Important Institutional Considerations”).
- Robert O. Keohane, “International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **119-126**.
- Anne-Marie Slaughter, “Government Networks and Global Governance,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **577-586**.
- (ER) Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, [Complex Interdependence and the Role of Force](#), **16 pages**.
- (ER) Richard Rosecrance, [The Trading State— Then and Now](#), **10 pages**.

February 27 **Theory in IR: The Domestic Level**

- Sobel, *PEGA*, Ch. 3: Structure of the International System, **47-62** (stop at “Origins of the State System”).
- (ER) Andrew Moravcsik, [Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics](#), *International Organization* 51 (Autumn 1997), **513-553**.

March 3 **State and Society in World Politics**

- Nye, *UIC*, Ch. 2: Origins of the Great Twentieth-Century Conflicts, **44-55**.
- Sobel, *PEGA*, Ch. 15: Institutions, **439-451** (start at “Important Institutional Considerations”).
- Michael W. Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **83-95**.
- Robert Jervis, “The Era of Leading Power Peace,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **379-394**.

March 6 **Midterm Examination in class**

International Security

March 10 **The Use of Force**

- Robert J. Art, “The Four Functions of Force,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **131-138**.
- Thomas C. Schelling, “The Diplomacy of Violence,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **139-152**.
- (ER) Janice Gross Stein, [Deterrence and Compellence in the Gulf, 1990-91: A Failed or Impossible Task?](#) *International Security* 17 (Fall 1992), **147-179**.

March 13 **Nuclear Weapons**

- Nye, *UIC*, Ch. 5: The Cold War, **145-155** (start at “The Role of Nuclear Weapons”).

- (ER) Nina Tannenwald, [The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use](#), *International Organization* 53 (Summer 1999), **433-468**.
- Scott D. Sagan, “Nuclear Instability in South Asia,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **217-227**.
- Kenneth N. Waltz, “Nuclear Stability in South Asia,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **228-238**.

March 17 **State Failure and Ethnic Conflict**

- Nye, *UIC*, Ch. 6: Conflicts after the Cold War– Intervention and Institutions, **163-173** (stop at “International Law and Organization”).
- Robert I. Rotberg, “Failed States, Collapsed States, Weak States: Causes and Indicators,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **427-434**.
- Chaim Kaufmann, “Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **435-456**.
- Neil J. Kritz, “The Dilemmas of Transitional Justice,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **529-537**.

Prospectus for Critical Essays due March 17

March 20 **International Terrorism**

- Bruce Hoffman, “What Is Terrorism?” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **174-180**.
- Robert A. Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **198-215**.
- Samuel P. Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **395-410**.
- F. Gregory Gause III, “Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **411-418**.
- Philip H. Gordon, “Can the War on Terror Be Won?” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **419-426**.

March 24 **Iraq and Pre-Emption**

- (ER) Robert Jervis, [Understanding the Bush Doctrine](#), *Political Science Quarterly* 118 (Fall 2003), **365-388**.
- James Dobbins, “Nation-Building: UN Surpasses U.S. on Learning Curve,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **457-465**.
- James L. Payne, “Deconstructing Nation Building,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **466-470**.
- [The National Security Strategy of the United States of America](#), 17 September 2002, Part III and Part V, **5-7, 13-16**.
- [Regime Strategic Intent](#), excerpted from *Comprehensive Report of the Special Advisor to the DCI on Iraq’s WMD*, 30 September 2004.

March 27 **The UN and International Conflict**

- Nye, *UIC*, Ch. 6: Conflicts after the Cold War– Intervention and Institutions, **173-195** (start at “International Law and Organization”).
- (ER) John Gerard Ruggie, [The False Premise of Realism](#), *International Security* 20 (Summer 1995), **62-70**.

- Kofi Annan, “Reflections on Intervention,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **517-522**.
- Steven R. Ratner, “International Law: The Trials of Global Norms,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **523-528**.
- Adam Roberts, “The United Nations and International Security,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **539-547**.
- United Nations Charter, [Chapter VI](#) and [Chapter VII](#). (5 pages)

International Political Economy

March 31 **Globalization**

- Nye, *UIC*, Ch. 7: Globalization and Interdependence, **202-221** (stop at “The Politics of Oil”).
- Jeffrey Frankel, “Globalization of the Economy,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **303-318**.
- John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge, “Why the Globalization Backlash is Stupid,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **333-339**.
- Kenneth N. Waltz, “Globalization and Governance,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **548-559**.

April 3 **International Trade**

- Sobel, *PEGA*, Ch. 5: Economic Liberalism and Exchange in the Global Arena, **117-125** (start at “Mechanisms at the Core of Global Liberalism” and stop at “The Balance of Payments”), Ch. 9: The Bretton Woods System, **253-259** (stop at “Monetary Arrangements and the IMF”), and Ch. 14: Interest Groups and International Economic Foundations of Political Cleavage, **396-418**.
- Instructor’s Note: [Trade and Distributional Conflict](#).
- Michael J. Hiscox, “The Domestic Sources of Foreign Economic Policies,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **280-289**.
- (ER) Susan Esserman and Robert Howse, [The WTO on Trial](#), *Foreign Affairs* 82 (January-February 2003), **130-140**.

April 7 **International Monetary Relations**

- Sobel, *PEGA*, Ch. 5: Economic Liberalism and Exchange in the Global Arena, **125-128** (start at “The Balance of Payments” and stop at “Conclusion”) and Ch. 9: The Bretton Woods System, **259-265** (start at “Monetary Arrangements and the IMF”) and **275-284** (start at “Breakdown in the Bretton Woods Monetary Arrangements”).
- (ER) Benjamin J. Cohen, [The International Monetary System: Diffusion and Ambiguity](#), *International Affairs* 84 (May 2008), **455-470**.
- (ER) Jeffry Frieden, [The Euro: Who Wins? Who Loses?](#) *Foreign Policy* 112 (Fall 1998): **25-40**.

April 10-14 **Spring Recess (No Class)**

April 17 **International Finance**

- Sobel, *PEGA*, Ch. 10: The World Post-Bretton Woods, **286-324**.
- (ER) Devesh Kapur, [The IMF: A Cure or a Curse?](#) *Foreign Policy* 111 (Summer 1998): **114-129**.

April 21 **International Development**

- Sobel, *PEGA*, Ch. 9: The Bretton Woods System, **266-271** (stop at “Active Engagement and the Truman Doctrine”).
- Bruce R. Scott, “The Great Divide in the Global Village,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **290-302**.
- Dani Rodrik, “Trading in Illusions,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **325-332**.
- (ER) David Dollar and Aart Kraay, [Spreading the Wealth](#), *Foreign Affairs* 81 (January-February 2002), **120-133**.

Critical Essays due April 21

April 24 **Non-State Actors in IR**

- Nye, *UIC*, Ch. 8: Information Revolution and Transnational Actors, **242-248** (start at “Transnational Actors” and stop at “The Information Revolution and Complex Interdependence”).
- Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, “Transnational Activist Networks,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **477-483**.
- Sebastian Mallaby, “NGOs: Fighting Poverty, Hurting the Poor,” Art and Jervis, *IP*, **484-490**.
- (ER) Jessica T. Mathews, [Power Shift](#), *Foreign Affairs* 76 (January-February 1997), **50-66**.
- (ER) Steve Charnovitz, [Nongovernmental Organizations and International Law](#), *American Journal of International Law* 100 (April 2006), **348-372**.

April 28 **Conclusion: The Past and Future of IR**

- Nye, *UIC*, Ch. 9: A New World Order? **256-285**.

May 1 **Final Examination at 9:15-12:15**