Course Title:
International Relations Theory

Course Number:
PSC 5513-222

Course Description:
To understand daily events as they appear in the headlines, it is useful to think more deeply about the underlying forces that operate in international politics. In particular, this fuller understanding is imperative in analyzing the most serious issues in international relations, those of war and peace, and international order. The course, therefore, examines a number of competing theoretical approaches to international politics, beginning by looking at the historical development of theorizing about the international system and continuing with an examination of the most widely employed theories of international politics today.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Dates: October 2 - 7, 2012
Location: Geilenkirchen NATO Base, Germany. Education Center.
Hours: Tue-Fri 6:00-9:30 p.m.; Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: September 3, 2012

Site Director:
Valerie Peterson-Borro. Phone: 02451-63-2208; DSN 458-6098; E-mail: apgeilenkirchen@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: David Clinton, Ph.D.
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Baylor University
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Telephone Number: (254) 710-1879
Fax Number: (254) 710-3122
E-mail Address: David_Clinton@baylor.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-7140 (outside the U.S.).


Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

Course Objectives:

The mission of this course is to examine and understand prominent international relations theories, particularly those relating to war and peace, and to apply them to relevant international events or issue of the day. The primary objectives of the course are to: 1) introduce the assumptions underlying some major international relations theoretical traditions; 2) stimulate thoughtful discussion about the direction of international relations theory; 3) identify the principal global issues that will affect the occurrence of war and peace in the coming years; and 4) provoke analysis that connects these theories with important international issues.

Course Outline:

I. Introduction to International Relations Theory; The Realist Tradition
II. The Pluralist Tradition
III. The Cosmopolitan Tradition
IV. Midterm Exam
V. International Relations Theorizing in the Twentieth Century
VI. International Relations Theorizing in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries; Final Exam

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

1. Students are expected to read:
   a. before the first class meeting: Brown, Nardin, Rengger, pp. 257-69, 335-40
   b. before the second class meeting: BNR, pp. 213-20, 325-34, 307-310
   c. before the third class meeting: BNR, pp. 198-203, 221-30, 428-56
   d. before the fourth class meeting: Review all assignments thus far
   e. before the fifth class meeting: Little and Smith, articles 1.6, 1.9, 1.10
   f. before the sixth class meeting: L and S, articles 1.3, 1.8, 2.5, 2.6, 2.10, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.9; Review all assignments

2. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussion of the material.

3. A mid-term examination will be administered during the fourth session of the course. A cumulative final examination will be administered during the last session of the course. Both examinations will cover material from the assigned readings and class discussion.

Final grades will be calculated as follows: 30% Class Participation, 30% Mid-Term Examination, and 40% Final Examination. Grades will be determined by the quality of written work and class participation. The professor reserves the right to adjust grades in borderline cases depending on the quality of an individual’s in-class participation and discussion.

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Copyright

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INSTRUCTOR VITA

David Clinton, Ph.D.

Education

- 1983  Ph.D., Foreign Affairs, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
- 1978  M.A., Foreign Affairs, University of Virginia
- 1975  B.A., Political Science, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Current Positions

- Advanced Programs professor since 2002
- Associate Professor of Political Science, Tulane University
- Non-Resident Faculty, Strategy and Policy, Naval War College

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

PSC 5513  International Relations Theory

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- International Relations
- United States Foreign Policy
- Diplomacy

Representative Publications and Presentations


Representative Honors and Awards Received

- American Political Science Association
- International Studies Association