

POLITICAL SCIENCE-103b
INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
Winter 2012

Professor Andy Sobel
Seigle Hall 237
x5-5845, sobel@wustl.edu
Office hours: Tu 4-6 in the DUC

Grad TAs: Noel Pereyra Johnston, Chia-yi Lee and
Mi Jeong Shin (Office hours TBA)
Undergraduate TAs: Robert Kanarek, David Lam, Chantel Miller,
and Jun Yoon

International politics, like all politics, is a struggle for power.....

(Hans J. Morganthau)

Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.

(General Omar Bradley 1952)

Many of the things you can count, don't count. Many of the things you can't count, really count

(Albert Einstein)

Breathtaking changes in political, economic and social relations have taken place over the past several centuries. Some changes advanced the human condition, promoted growth and development, created political liberties, recast bargains between governments and their societies, transformed social welfare, and advanced the boundaries of knowledge and scientific exploration. Other shifts wrenched people from their homes, created massive social upheaval, led to domination, and produced devastating deaths and injuries.

The future promises more of the same as globalization, the expansion of material and cultural ties across boundaries, brings societies into closer contact. For many, globalization holds hopes of advancing development, justice, the distribution of opportunity, and the growth of civil and political liberties. But it also presents pitfalls as people fear loss of identity, worry about economic subordination and loss to those beyond their borders, encounter the export of environmental degradation, and confront a decline in personal and social autonomy.

This course introduces tools that will help us grapple with world affairs. **This is not a course about current events, but about cause and effect in world affairs.** We want to know **what** occurred, but also **why**. Understanding why events occur entails unpacking the mechanisms of social interaction. Political scientists construct causal mechanisms to explain social behavior. These are theories, or models, that link cause and effect. A variety of competing, alternative, explanations exist for most interesting phenomena. Consequently, we need to employ empirical strategies to test our theories and choose among competing explanations, otherwise theory risks becoming ideology or religion.

Guidelines:

- Class attendance is required.
- Please make sure all laptops, tablets, cell phones and other electronic devices are off and stored away.
- I do not accept assignments by email.
- I expect your work to be your own and to contain appropriate citations.
- If you take the course pass/fail you must complete ALL assignments.
- My TAs and I are happy to review work, but your concerns and challenges must be in writing explaining why you think your answers are correct.
- We do not respond to email requests for grades.

Reading: You are responsible for completing the reading at the start of each section. The reading load is fairly light in pages, as I prefer you to spend time thinking deeply about the causal mechanisms raised in the readings and in class.

Most of the reading comes from a text, *Political Economy and Global Affairs*, which is available at the bookstore. Its publisher, CQ Press, supports a website (www.cqpress.com/cs/sobel), which provides helpful materials such as vocabulary flash cards and test questions. Occasionally we will read articles from periodicals. These readings will be available through Telesis. I will also place on Telesis outlines that will help guide you through the readings and lectures for each week.

Please regularly read a good newspaper or news magazine: *The New York Times*, *The Financial Times*, *The Economist*, etc. This course exposes you to abstract frameworks in political science, but we will use events from world affairs to illustrate theory. Your familiarity with world affairs can help. We will try to take 10 minutes at the end of class one day each week to discuss your questions about world affairs.

Participation: Class attendance is required. Woody Allen said, “eighty per cent of success is showing up.” This is actually a pretty low threshold for success and may account for so much mediocrity passing for success in society. Just showing up is not sufficient to excel in life, but it is a necessary condition. The best learning and research is collegial and interactive. I urge you to participate in class, ask questions and engage your colleagues in a discussion. As the years pass, you will likely realize that your best teachers in college were your peers.

Office hours: After class every Thursday, from 4-6, I will be in the DUC, by the coffee shop. Feel free to come by and ask about issues in class, the readings, or just to have a round table discussion about world affairs. You will set the agenda with your questions.

My Graduate TAs--Noel Pereyra Johnston, Chia-yi Lee and Mi Jeong Shin, will have regular office hours. We will post those hours and locations on the course telesis site. Please make use of their expertise and treat them with respect. They are very knowledgeable and can be great resources if you make use of their services. Students who use the TAs' services often do significantly better than those who do not.

Quizzes/exercises/grading: The former Chair of our Psychology Department, Roddy Roediger, is an expert on human memory and learning. His experiments, many with WU undergrads, show that more frequent and cumulative testing leads to the best retention of knowledge over time. Consequently, there will be nine quizzes and each quiz is cumulative. Each quiz will take 20-30 minutes of class time. The dates are listed below. No make-up quizzes will be given. The quizzes will account for approximately 90% of your grade and class participation can influence approximately 10% of your grade. **Please pick-up and save your quizzes. Occasionally bookkeeping errors occur and we need the paperwork to clear up such incidents.**

Quiz 1:	Thursday, January 19
Quiz 2:	Thursday, January 26
Quiz 3:	Thursday, February 9
Quiz 4:	Tuesday, February 21
Quiz 5:	Thursday, March 1
Quiz 6:	Thursday, March 22
Quiz 7:	Tuesday, April 3
Quiz 8:	Tuesday, April 17
Quiz 9:	Thursday, April 26

International Affairs Movie Night: Once a month, on a Monday evening, the TAs will host a movie night in Ursa's starting at 7:00. This is completely voluntary and not required for class, but I guarantee that you will enjoy the movies and learn a great deal at the same time. The movies are significant films about world politics and public policy. You are welcome to bring your friends. We are hoping that free popcorn will be available. I may occasionally put an extra credit question on the quizzes related to these movies, but only extra credit. Here is the schedule;

January 30	<i>Fog of War,</i>
February 27	<i>Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers</i>
March 26	<i>Dr. Strangelove</i>
April 23	<i>Year of the Pig.</i>

Reading Assignments:

I. Introduction

WEEK 1: Concepts and Social Science

Read the syllabi very carefully. You are responsible for knowing its contents.

Preface and Chapter 1

Mary Elise Sarotte, "How it went down: The little accident that toppled history," *Washington Post*, November 1, 2009

John Stoessinger, *Why Nations Go to War*, Chapters 1 & 2

II. Building blocs to examine international political economy and conflict

WEEK 2: Assumptions, Rationality, and Context

Chapter 2

WEEK 3: Structure, Nation-States, Sovereignty and Anarchy

Chapter 3

Paul Starobin, "The Realists," *National Journal*, September 16, 2006

WEEK 4: Power and Hierarchy

Chapter 4

Paul Starobin, "Beyond Hegemony," *National Journal*, December 12, 2006

WEEK 5 and 6: Two Baseline Market Frameworks and Related Problems

Chapter 5, Economic Liberalism and Exchange

Chapter 6, Political Markets and Exchange

Chapter 12, Political and Economic Market Failure and Social Traps

III. Context

WEEK 7: Around the World in Eighty Days: Advent of Globalization

Chapter 7

WEEK 8: The Interwar Years and the Breakdown in Globalization

Chapter 8

WEEK 9: The Bretton Woods System: The Rebuilding of Globalization

Chapter 9

WEEK 10: Globalization Post-Bretton Woods

Chapter 10

WEEK 11: East-West Conflict, Détente, and the End of the Cold War

Chapter 11

IV. Micro tools

WEEK 12: The Dilemma of Collective Goods, Solutions, and Hegemonic Stability

Chapter 13

WEEK 13: Interest Groups and Global Economic Foundations of Cleavage

Chapter 14

WEEK 14: Institutions

Chapter 15