

# Political Science 231

## World Politics

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MWF: 9:00 - 9:50  
WRB 2003

Instructor: Michael Jacobs  
Office: MSS 228  
Office Hours: MW 10-11  
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### Course Description:

This course, *Introduction to World Politics*, is designed to introduce students to the major ideas, theories and concepts that help us understand the central themes of international relations: power, conflict, peace, security, and equality. The fundamental aim of this course is to equip students with the conceptual tools necessary to understand the fundamental forces, processes, and actors at work in the international system. As such, this course will provide the student with a sufficient background to undertake upper-division international relations courses and, more importantly, to develop a broader understanding of international relations, in general.

*This course is not a current events course.* Instead, we focus upon the analysis and explanation of international relations. We will however, discuss events in the world today and use the background we develop in class to better understand what is happening.

### Evaluation:

Exam I	30%
Exam II	30%
Exam III	40%

Note: Makeup exams will not be allowed without prior approval from the instructor or without some form of medical documentation.

### Required Text:

- 1) Spiegal, Steven L., Elizabeth G. Matthews, Jennifer M. Taw, and Kristen P. Williams (2009). *World Politics in a New Era* (Fourth Edition). New York: Oxford University Press, Inc.

## Course Policies

- 1) Academic Honesty: Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in this class. Those caught cheating will fail the course and may be subject to additional disciplinary actions according to the University's policy on academic honesty. For additional information on the University's policy regarding academic honesty please visit the following web address: <http://www.unr.edu/stsv/acdispol.html>. Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by these policies.
- 2) Disability Resources: Those students with a documented disability are encouraged to contact the instructor and the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building, Suite 101, 784-6000) to arrange for appropriate accommodations.
- 3) For all rules regarding classroom etiquette, please refer to Professor Guevara-Mann's syllabus.

Note: This syllabus is subject to revision as the instructor sees fit during the semester.

## Course Schedule

Date	Topic & Reading
August 24-21	Introduction
August 31	Levels of Analysis (Ch 2, 19-34)
September 2	Thinking Theoretically
September 4	Realism & Hegemonic Stability Theory (Ch 2, 34-34)
September 7	Labor Day (no class)
September 9	Neorealism
September 11	Liberalism (Ch 2, 39-44)
September 14	Neoliberalism
September 16	Game Theory

September 18	Democratic Peace Theory
September 21	Constructivism & The English School (Ch 2, 45-46)
September 23	Review
September 25	Exam I
September 28	Historical Perspective (Ch 3)
September 30	Historical Perspective (cont.)
October 2	The Cold War (Ch 4)
October 5	Imperialism (Ch 5)
October 7	Security Theory and Practice (Ch 7)
October 9	Security Theory and Practice (cont.)
October 12	Security Theory and Practice (cont.)
October 14	Contemporary Security Issues, Proliferation (Ch 8)
October 16	Contemporary Security Issues, Terrorism
October 19	Review
October 21	Exam II
October 23	World Economy Film
October 26	World Economy Film
October 28	World Economy Film
October 30	Nevada Day (no class)
November 2	World Trade (Ch 9)
November 4	The WTO (Ch 13, 546)
November 6	Finance (Ch 9)
November 9	Marxism & World Systems Theory (Ch 2, 46-51)

November 11	Veteran's Day (no class)
November 13	Development (Ch 10)
November 16	Development (Ch 10)
November 18	Development (Ch 10)
November 20	Resource Issues (Ch 12)
November 23	Resource Issues (cont.)
November 25	Thanksgiving Break (no class)
November 27	Thanksgiving Break (no class)
November 30	International law (Ch 13)
December 2	International Organizations, UN (Ch 13)
December 4	International Organizations, NGOs (Ch 13)
December 7	Review
December 9	Finals Preparation Day (no class)
December 10	Final Exam 9:45-11:45 a.m.