

**INTERNATIONAL POLITICS (POSC 140)**  
**MWF 11:00 - 11:50 A.M.**  
Manchester College  
Fall 2006

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Office Hours  
MWF 1-2 p.m. & 3-5 p.m.

1. **Course Content**

This course is an introduction to the central concepts and theories which assist in organizing knowledge about international political phenomena. These concepts and theories are used in consideration of critical issues and controversies facing the global community. Simply stated, the substance of this course is information, concept, theories, and analysis of international issues. More specifically, we will examine the traditional international relations theories — realism, liberalism, and Marxism, and the more contemporary perspectives, such as, constructivism, feminism, green politics, and peace studies that do not fit neatly into any of the traditional approaches – and their application for the understanding of the global political and economic issues.

2. **Course Objective**

This course seeks to foster a heightened understanding of the dynamics of international relations to, identify the salient trends and developments in global politics, examine the principal questions that will confront the international community over the next decade or so, and to foster an informed discussion of war, peace and justice, and a host of other important world politics issues, human rights, environmental challenges, globalization, democratization, economic disparities among and between states and people, and the emerging role of none governmental actors, among other things. More specifically, the course intends to assist students in developing generalizations about and discerning patterns in the conduct of international affairs.

3. **Methodology**

For pedagogical reasons, we will examine the relationship between international relations theory (IR theory) and popular culture. This approach sees IR theory as a cultural site that could be understood better through popular films. Examining international relations theories from this stand point allows us to ask the most critical questions. For example, what makes the stories about international political life told by each of the international relations theories, realism, idealism or liberalism, Marxism, etc, appear to be true? More specifically, “what makes realism’s story about sovereign nation-states locked into a battle for survival or idealism’s story about the possibilities of international cooperation so compelling”?



6. **Films**

1. Lord of the Flies (for realism)
2. Independence Day (for idealism)
3. Wag the Dog (for constructivism)
4. Fatal Attraction (for Feminism)
5. The Truman Show (for globalization)
6. Memento (for Marxism)

7. **Topics and Assignments**

**August** 30. Introduction: Over view of the course.

**September** 1. Issues in World Politics. International Politics. ch.1

**Topic: Change in the World System**

4. International Politics. ch.2

**Topic: Theories and Levels of Analysis**

6. International Politics. ch.3, pages. 62-76 (the Individual level)

8. International Politics. ch.3, pages 76-87 (the State level)

11. International Politics. ch.3, pages 87-96 (the System level)

13. Weber, International Relations Theory, chapter 1

15. International Politics. ch. 4, pages 98-112  
Weber, International Relations Theory, Chapter 2  
**Watch the film: Lord of the Flies**

18. International Politics, ch.4, pages 112-124

**20. NO CLASS (CAMP MACK DAY)**

22. International Politics. ch. 5, pages 126-137

25. International Politics, chapter 5, pages 137-162

27. **Discussion of the film: Lord of the Flies**

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29. **EXAM #1 (This exam will cover all reading assignments, chapters 1-5 of International Politics on the World Stage.)**
- October
2. International Politics, chapter 6  
Weber, International Relations Theory, chapter 3  
**Review of realism and Lord of Flies paper due**
4. Lecture on Idealism/Liberalism  
**(Watch Film: Independence Day)**
6. International Politics, chapter 7
9. International Politics, chapter. 8, pages 231-248
11. **Discussion of film: Independence Day**
13. International Politics, ch. 8, pages 248-267
16. International Politics, ch. 9, pages 269-280
18. International Politics, ch. 9. Pages 281-297
20. **Fall Semester Break (No classes)**
23. Review of chapters
25. Review of chapters  
**Review of liberalism and Independence Day paper due**
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27. **EXAM #2 (will cover all materials in International Politics on the World Stage, chapters 6, 7, 8, and 9)**
- 30, International Politics. ch. 10,  
Weber, International Relations Theory, chapter 7
- November
1. Lecture on Marxist theory
3. International Politics, chapter 11
6. International Politics, chapter 12

- 8. International Politics, chapter 13  
**Watch the films: Memento and Wag the Dog**
- 10. Review of chapters
- 13. Review of chapters
- 15. **Discussion of the films: Memento and Wag the Dog**
- \*\*\* 17. **Exam #3 (This exam will cover all readings from October 30)**
- 20. International Politics. ch.14, pages 447-470  
Weber, International Relations Theory, chapter 6.  
**Review of Marxism and the film Memento paper due**
- 27. Lecture on Globalization  
  
**Watch the film: The Truman Show**
- 29. International Politics, chapter14, pages 471- 485
- December** 1. International Politics, chapter 15, pages 487-508
- 4. International Politics, chapter. 15, pages 509-523
- 6. Review
- 8. Lecture: Conclusion
- \*\*\* 4<sup>th</sup> and final exam - Monday, December 11, 2006, 1.00 - 2.50 p.m. This exam will cover chapters 14, and 15 of International Politics on the World Stage.

**Good luck in your exams, and have a happy holiday season.**