Macquarie University

Department of Politics and International Relations

Master of International Relations
2006
First Semester

Subject: IRPG 840 The International System

Time: Mondays 1-2 p.m. Lecture E7B T4
2-4 Tutorials X5B132 or E8A 188 or
Rooms C5A313 or
4-6 Tutorials X5B 039
   CFC 240
* * *
6-7 Lecture E6A 131
7-9 Tutorials E6A 109 or E8A 386

Lecturer: Tony Palfreeman
tonypalf@tig.com.au
98508659/99557511
Room 430

A Subject objectives and study approach

B Lecture program and seminar themes

C Assessment

D The research paper

E The essay

F The seminar paper

G The seminar program

H Reading
A. Subject objectives and study approach

This subject is a study of global politics as a discrete political system. There are four clearly defined steps in our analysis. The first considers the nature, distribution and exercise of power, in its many contexts; the second is a study of the clash of interests and the nature of conflict between the major global players; the third is an overview of the physical, ethical and institutional restraints on the exercise of power; and the fourth is an analysis of the ideological dimensions of global politics.

There is a theoretical frame of reference to the subject, as well as wide ranging empirical studies of the dynamics of global politics.

Each of our thirteen weekly meetings will consist of an introductory lecture on a prescribed topic, followed by seminar papers on the same general topic prepared by student participants.

Since we will not be able to cover all these topics in any great depth in the time available, we will need to pick and choose according to our particular interests. Each of you will therefore need to do two things. The first is to choose a topic of special interest to you, from the list provided, which can be seriously and competently dealt with in your research paper. The second is to understand the relationship between your chosen question and the other major questions to be discussed. In this way, we may reach some synthesis of the whole as well as an understanding of the component parts. This second objective will be achieved only by active participation in the seminar program and by general reading well beyond the research undertaken for your chosen topic.

Overall objectives of the subject are the development of your capacity for independent thought and judgment, and your analytical and problem solving skills, as well as your ability to communicate your arguments clearly and logically.
### B The Lecture Program and Seminar Topics

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Meeting 6  
3/4  
Power  
-concepts of power  
-components of power  
-power politics  
-measuring power  
-the balance of power  
-implementing power  
-power failures

Meeting 7  
10/4  
Managing power  
-human society and power management  
-national strategies, choices and policies  
-collective power management  
-crisis management  
-the twentyfirst century dimensions

B R E A K

Meeting 8  
1/5  
Force management  
-containing the use of force  
-weapons and the cycles of security/insecurity  
-armaments and arms control  
-armaments and the global economy  
-force and diplomacy  
-collective force management

Meeting 9  
8/5  
Diplomacy  
-classical" and "new age" diplomacy  
-diplomacy as "war by other means"  
-diplomacy and conflict management  
-diplomacy the two-edged sword  
-diplomacy and the global issues  
-the future of diplomacy
Meeting 10  
15/5  
**The politics of economics**  
-the economic dimensions of the international system  
-economics, "realpolitik" and the national interest  
-"development" and "progress"  
-the "development gap"  
- poverty  
-economic rights and obligations  
-globalization  

Meeting 11  
22/5  
**World Order**  
-concepts of social order  
-"international" and "global " order  
-"old", "new" and "newer" world orders  
-world order models  
-world order, international law and "justice"  
-order and ideology  

Meeting 12  
29/5  
**The state of the State**  
-the demise of the nation state?  
-bringing the state back in  
-"nations", "states" and "peoples" - the focus of loyalties  
- concepts of "citizenship"  
- the 'social contract'  
-regime change  

Meeting 13  
5/6  
**The big picture – 2006.**  
- the international stage - evolution or transformation?  
- the globe as battleground  
- the players - drivers, passengers and power  
- diplomacy and order - oil, glue or cement?  
- six billion people - community or dysfunctional tribalism?
C Assessment

The assessment for this subject will be based on:

a. The research paper of about 3500 words, the topic to be based on one of those provided, and to be submitted before the 30th May. It is worth 65% of the total assessment and will be judged on
    - the quality of research
    - your critical evaluation of the material
    - the development of your argument
    - presentation

b. An essay of about 1000 words on the topic set and to be submitted before April 13. The essay is worth 20% of the total

c. A seminar paper of about 500 words, to be submitted before 14 March, and worth 10% of the total

d. Seminar participation, worth 5%.

D The research paper

1. Your research paper should be about 3500 words in length on a topic chosen from those below. In addition to your own research it should incorporate any additional material or argument which might have been thrown up in lectures and seminar discussions and which you consider relevant.

2. The final paper must be completed and submitted for assessment by the 30 May.

3 Topics

1. The balance of power or the distribution of power and the management of relative power between nation states are the dominant characteristics of the international system. Questions of law, morality, humanity or the constraints set by international institutions are of minor significance in any explanation of international politics’

Comment critically on this assertion, paying special attention to a) the nature of state power, b) how power is “managed”, if indeed it is and c) the extent to which raw power is influenced by other factors. And develop your argument with the help of a relevant case study.
3. It is argued that the twentyfirst century will see the end of the nation state as we know it. The state in its classical form is terminally ill.

Develop a critique of this assertion, paying special attention to a) the *raison d’etre* of the state; b) the perceived reasons for its failure; c) the possible *alternatives* to the state in organizing global society; d) the proposition that the state can be *rescued* by appropriate “regime change”

Use case studies to underpin your arguments.

3 *War, in its many forms, is integral to the organization of human society. It may be managed and contained, but never eliminated*

Write a critical assessment of this assertion, using the second half of the twentieth century as the key to your explanation and argument.

4 *If the sources of international conflict are a perceived attack on the national interest or a fundamental misunderstanding of opposing positions, then only the processes of diplomacy, particularly communication and negotiation, can reduce the risk of war; thus all our efforts should be directed at making diplomacy work.*

Develop arguments for and against this proposition, paying particular attention to the strengths and weaknesses of “modern” diplomacy (using relevant examples), the role of the “talk shop” in international relations and the role of the media and the communications revolution

5 *Limiting the use of force in international relations through effective international peacekeeping has little to do with the United Nations, or international law, and everything to do with the management of power, the objectives of foreign policies and the projection of national interests*

Is this a much too harsh a judgment on the effectiveness of the U.N.? Use case studies to support or to modify this assertion

6 *Globalization has become a hackneyed term with so many conflicting connotations that the concept has lost explanatory significance*

Using this assertion as a base, your paper will need to a) define the concept as you understand it; b) discuss the positive and negative factors attributed to it; c) identify the arguments and motivations of the anti-globalization movements; and d) discuss some of the ways in which “sovereign” states deal with its effects
E  The Essay

The purpose of the essay is to give rein to your imagination and to your own ideas and interpretations of the topic set. You may of course make use of other peoples’ ideas (giving full acknowledgment), but your main task is to conduct your own exploration and develop your own arguments. The length of the essay should be between 1000 and 1500 words.

Topic

*In international relations the paramount consideration in decision making is the “national interest”. There is no room for “morality”*

Comment critically on this assertion, paying special attention to

a. the structure of the international system  
b. the distinction between individual and collective behaviour  
c. your understanding of the “national interest”  
d. your understanding of “morality”

Note. When using examples or case studies, ensure they are relevant and explanatory and fit well into your analytical framework

F  The seminar paper

Your seminar paper, of about 500 words, should set out clearly the proposed treatment of the topic you have chosen for your research paper, i.e. – your arguments, your planned structure and, broadly, the research material you propose to use. Your paper must be submitted before March 14

G  The seminar program

1. The second/third hour of each weekly meeting is devoted to student prepared seminars on the topic prescribed for that week. Your seminar paper may be an introduction to your major research paper

2. Make sure you read the prescribed reading for each week provided in the Reader

3. The outline of your presentation (reading, argument, conclusions), should if possible be prepared, copied and available at the meeting prior to presentation (i.e. the week before). This will substantially contribute to a constructive seminar discussion and assist the discussion opener
4 The discussion opener presents a short critique (about five minutes) in which he or she is free to comment upon the content, argument and conclusions of the presentation, as well as on style and source material.

5 Note that your participation in the seminar work is a vital component of your total assessment.

H. The Reader

A selected set of readings covering most of our key topics will be available in hard copy and on the Library web site, E-Reserve. The authors and titles will be found under IRPG 840, and also in the general list

Further Reading

The following list of suggested reading is very basic. It covers most of the major topics raised in this subject. But as well as consulting these you will need to read a good deal further when working on your own research project and developing your arguments. More titles may be added to this list during the semester, as the need arises.

Preliminary Reading

Bull, H., The Anarchical Society, a study of order in world politics 3rd ed Palgrave 2002

Held, D., Global transformations: politics, economics and culture Oxford, Polity, 1999

Reading

Aboulmagd A.K., et al, Crossing the divide: dialogue among civilizations
Seton Hall 2001

Anderson E.W. Economic power in a changing international system
Cassell 2000

Anderson, J., (ed) Transnational democracy: political spaces and border crossings
Routledge, 2002

Art, R.J., &Waltz, K.N.(eds) Use of force: military power and international politics

Arts, B., Noortman, M., Reinalda, B., Non-state actors in international relations
Ashgate 2001

Badie B., Imported state: the westernization of political order
Stanford UP 2000

Baylis, J., & Smith, S., (eds) Globalization of world politics: an introduction to international relations
Oxford UP, 2001

Beck., U. What is globalization?
Polity Press 2000

Bessho,K., Identities and Security in East Asia
Oxford U.P., 1999

Birch, D., Asia. cultural politics in a global age
Allen & Unwin 2001

Bleiker R., Popular dissent, human agency and global politics
Cambridge UP 2000

Brown, C., Sovereignty, rights and justice: international political theory to-day
Blackwell, 2002

Allen & Unwin 1999

Byers., M. (ed) The role of law in international politics
Oxford U.P. 2000

Camilleri J., & Falk, J., The end of sovereignty? Politics in a shrinking and fragmented world,
Edward Elgar, 1991

Carlsnaes, W., Risse, T., & Simmons, B.A., (eds) Handbook of international relations
Sage 2002

Castles S., Ethnicity and globalization; from migrant worker to transnational citizen
Sage 2000

Clements, K., Transcending national security
Syracuse U. 1990

Coates K., (ed) War is peace
Bertrand Russell Fnd. 2001

Cohen, S.B., Geopolitics of the world system
Rowman & Littlefield, 2003

Cohn, T.H., Global political economy; theory and practice
Longman 2000

Colas, A., International civil society: social movements in world politics
Polity 2002

Copeland D., Origins of major war
Cornell UP 2000

Danspeckgruber, W., (ed) Self-determination of peoples : community, nation and state in an interdependent world
L.Rienner 2002

Dicken, P., Global shift. Re-shaping the global economic map in the 21st century

Donnelly, J., Realism and international relations
Cambridge U.P. 2000

Fagan, R.H.,& Webber, M., Global restructuring: the Australian experience
Oxford U.P 1999

Forsythe D.P., Human rights in international relations
Cambridge U.P. 2000

Friedman T., The lexus and the olive tree
Harper Collins, 1999

Friman, H.R., & Andreas, P., The illicit global economy and state power
Rowman & Littlefield 1999
Fullbrook, M. (ed) Europe since 1945
Oxford U.P. 2001

Garthoff, R., A journey through the Cold War
Brookings 2001

Gilpin R., Challenge of global capitalism; the world economy of the 21st
century
Princeton UP 2000

Glover, J. Humanity; a moral history of the 20th century
Pimlico 2001

Gruber, L Ruling the world; power politics and the rise of supranational
institutions
Princeton UP 2000

Halle, L., Society of man
Harper and Row, 1965

Halliday F., Rethinking international relations,
Macmillan 1994

Hanson M., and Tow, W.T., (eds) International relations in the new century:
an Australian perspective
Oxford UP 2001

to the globalization debate
Polity 2000

Herod, A.,& Wright, M.,(eds) Geographies of power :placing scale
Blackwell,2002

Hinsley, F.H., Power and the pursuit of peace
Cambridge U.P. 1963

Hobshawn, E.J., Nations and nationalism since 1780
Cambridge U.P. 1990

Hobson, J.M., The state and international relations
Cambridge U.P. 2000

Hollis, M. & Smith, S., Explaining and understanding international relations
Clarendon 1990

Holton R.J., Globalization and the nation state
Macmillan 1998
Hurrell, A., & Kingsbury, B., International politics of the environment
Oxford U.P. 1992

Hutton, W. (ed) On the edge: living with global capitalism
Vintage 2001

Kamal Pasha, M., & Murphy, C.N., International relations and the new inequality
Blackwell 2002

Kapstein E.B., & Mastanduno, M.m (eds) Unipolar politics: realism and state strategies after the Cold War
Columbia U.P. 1999

Keane, J., Global civil society
Cambridge U.P., 2003

Kellas, J.G., the politics of nationalism and ethnicity
Macmillan 1991

Kerr, D.J.C., Elect the ambassador!; building democracy in a globalised world
Pluto 2001

Kissinger, H., Crisis; the anatomy of two major foreign policy crises.
Simon & Schuster, 2003

Krieger H. (ed) The Kosova conflict and international law; an analytical documentation
Cambridge U.P. 2001

Kutting, G., Environment, society and international relations: towards more effective environmental agreements
Routledge 2000

Lawler, K. International Economics; theories, themes and debates
Prentice Hall 200

Lawton, T.C., Rosenau, J.N., Verdun, A.C., Strange power: shaping the parameters of international relations and international political economy
Ashgate 2000

Linklater A., The transformation of political community: ethical foundations of the post-Westphalian era
Cambridge, Polity 1998

St. Martin’s P. 2000

Matthew, R.A., Dichotomy of power: nation v. state in world politics
Lexington 2002
Mearsheimer, J.J., Tragedy of great power politics
W.W.Norton, 2003

Michie, J. (ed) Handbook of globalization
Edward Elgar 2003

Mingst, K.A. & Karns, M.P., The United Nations in the post-cold war era
Westview 1995

Morgenthau, H., Politics among nations

Navari, C., Internationalism and the state in the twentieth century
Routledge 2000

Nelson, D.N., & Neack, L., (eds) Global society in transition: an international
politics reader Kluwer law, 2002

Oppenheim, F.E., Place of morality in foreign policy
Lexington Books 1991

Papastergiadis, N. The turbulence of migration; globalization,
deterritorialization and hybridity
Polity Press 2000

Razin, A., & Sadka, E., (eds) The economics of globalisation: policy
perspectives from public economics
Cambridge U.P. 1999

Reynolds, C., The politics of war: a study of the rationality of violence
Wheatsheaf, 1987

Risse, T., Ropp, S.C., & Sikkink, K., (eds) The power of human
rights: international norms and domestic change
Cambridge U.P. 1999

Rochester J.M., Between two epochs: what’s ahead for America, the world,
and global politics in the twentyfirst century?
Prentice Hall 2001

Ryan, S., Ethnic conflict and international relations
Dartmouth 1990

Saideman S. M. Ties that divide; ethnic policies, foreign policy and
international conflict
Colombia U.P. 2001

Schafer, D.P., Culture: beacon of the future
Adamantine 1998

Silva, K.M. de % May R.J., Internationalization of ethnic conflict
Pinter 1991

Smith, D.A., & Borocz, J., A new world order? : global transformations in the late 20th century
Greenwood Press 1995

Smouts, M., The new international relations; theory and practice
Palgrave 2001

Stern, G., The structure of international society: an introduction to the study of international relations
2nd ed Pinter 2000

Swanson T., & Johnston S., Global environmental problems and international environmental agreements: the economic of international institution building
E.Elgar Pub. 1999

Sylvester, C., Feminist international relations
Cambridge U.P. 2001

Continuum 2000

Tehranian, M., Global communication and world politics: domination, development and discourse
Lynne Rienner Pub. 1999

Urry, J., Global complexity
Polity, 2003

Waters, M., Globalization
2nd ed. Routledge 2001

Weiss, L., (ed) States in the global economy; bringing domestic institutions back in
Cambridge U.P. 2003

Welsh, J.M., (ed) Humanitarian intervention and international relations
Oxford U.O. 2004

Whittaker, D.J. Conflict and reconciliation in the contemporary world
Routledge 1999

Woods, N., Political economy of globalization
St Martin’s P. 2000

Ziegler D.W., War, peace and international relations
8th ed. Longmans 2000

NOTE To search the Library Catalogue for new titles and acquisitions, consider these key words
Journals

Journal articles are essential to your research. No attempt is made here to list the very wide range of articles which pertain to this subject. You will need to search and consult them in line with your chosen research areas. Of particular relevance are the following journals However, you may have to search further in preparing your research papers and developing your special interests

*Foreign Affairs*
*World Politics*
*The Australian Journal of International Affairs*
*The Economist*
*International Relations*
*Strategic Survey: the Annual of the Institute of Strategic Studies*
*Foreign Policy*
*International Organisation*
*Cooperation and Conflict*
*Millenium*
*Orbis*
*Political Studies*
*Australian Quarterly*
*Adelphi Papers*
*Australian Foreign Affairs Record*

Note that some of these, such as the *Economist*, have internet sites, as, of course, have most leading newspapers

Note also that the Library hold a substantial number of international relations titles as electronic resources