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International Relations 2005

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Syllabus for
International Relations
GOVT 340 – Spring 2005
Dr. Steven Alan Samson
Liberty University
School of Business and Government

I. **Course Description** Techniques for managing and resolving conflict in international relations. Emphasis is on current international issues like U.S. arms policy and U.S. policy in the Middle East. We shall study the relations between sovereign states with special emphasis on the causes of war, security and peace issues, and international political economy.

II. **Rationale** This course directly supports Aims 1-10 of the Liberty University Statement of Purpose.

III. **Prerequisite** GOVT 200 or GOVT 220, preferably both

IV. **Materials List**

Purchase:
Gold, Dore. The Tower of Babel [G]
Kaplan, Robert D. The Coming Anarchy [K] (optional)
Mosher, Steven W. Hegemon [H]
Nye, Joseph S., Jr. Understanding International Conflicts, 5th ed. [N]

Selections on Blackboard:
Letter from George Kennan to John Lukacs
Schall, James V. "When War Must Be the Answer"

Handouts:
Bobbitt, Philip. The Shield of Achilles (selections)
Morgenthau, Hans J. Politics Among Nations, ch. 15
Nash, George. "Slouching toward Catastrophe: 1914-1939"
Ziegler, David W. War, Peace, and International Politics, ch. 1

Reserve Desk:
Bobbitt, Philip. The Shield of Achilles
Massoulié, François. Middle East Conflicts
Thompson, Kenneth W. Fathers of International Thought.

Internet:
www.andaman.org
www.antiwar.com
www.countrywatch.com
www.fpri.org
http://www.ipl.org/reading/news/
http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/index.html (map quizzes)
www.menewsline.com
http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/
www.policyreview.org
www.stratfor.com
www.dir.yahoo.com/regional/countries

V. Course Objectives

1. The student will be exposed to a variety of concepts and social science approaches to the study of international relations.
2. The student will learn how to analyze and compare the history, geography, economies, governing institutions, and political behavior of contemporary nations, states, and international entities.
3. The student will thereby become better equipped to understand, participate in, and evaluate international political processes.

VI. Graded Requirements and Options

1. Each student is responsible for completing reading assignments **prior** to class and should keep a loose leaf notebook of class materials.
2. Participation is an essential part of class. Textbook chapters, collateral readings, and current events will be the subject of class commentary and discussions.
3. Students will be tested on the lecture and reading material through a series of seven tests that are to be taken at the scheduled time. Students who will be absent due to illness, family emergency, or some university sponsored activity must notify the professor by e-mail **before the test** and arrange to take the test from Mrs. Sharon Cohick, the secretary, preferably before class but no later than the period before the next class meeting. Otherwise, all make-up tests must be taken at the time scheduled for the final exam.
4. Two pass/fail (80%) world map tests are scheduled for February 9 and 25. The lowest test score (except for the last test) will be dropped upon satisfactory completion of these tests.
5. **Optional**: Students who miss a regular test may read and take a test on Robert D. Kaplan's The Coming Anarchy. The score will be substituted for the lowest test score (except for the last test) upon completion so long as at least five test scores remain.
6. **Optiona**l: Honors students may fulfill their honors requirement by reading either Kenneth W. Thompson's Fathers of International Thought or François Massoulié's Middle East Conflicts and taking two objective tests over the book you have chosen. The score will be substituted for the lowest test score (except for the last test) upon completion. **Alternatively**, students may read Philip Bobbitt's The Shield of Achilles (Book I, Parts I and III, and Book II, chs. 14-16, 24, 27, epilog, and postscript) or some other work with prior approval and write an 8-10 page summary and evaluation of the major themes.
7. No more than one test score may be dropped. No more than one test substitution may be made. Students may not pass the course with fewer than five of the regular tests.
8. The grading scale is 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59 and below=F.

VII. Attendance Students are expected to arrive **on time** for every class meeting. Students who are absent due to illness or emergency should notify the professor prior to class or soon afterward. Excused absences include participation in university-sponsored events, serious illness (if accompanied by a physician's note), or a family emergency. **Five unexcused absences may result in a failing grade** (F or FN). Persistent tardiness will also have a detrimental effect on grades.

VIII. Dress Code Observe the Liberty Way. Students who are not in appropriate campus attire will **not** be admitted to class. Caps will **not** be worn in class. Other than drinks, there will be **no** eating in the classroom.

IX. Office Location, Phone, E-Mail, Hours

School of Business and Government, DH 1016
Phone: 582-2640
E-Mail: ssamson@liberty.edu
Hours: MWF 12:20-2:10; TR 8-10:40; R 10:50-12:00; and by appointment

CLASS SCHEDULE

January		
Wed.	19	Introduction
Fri.	21	N. 1
Mon.	24	N. 1; **Collateral**: Bobbitt, Prologue and Introduction
Wed.	26	Ziegler, ch. 1
Fri.	28	N. 2, Map Review and Stratfor.com; **Collateral**: Bobbitt, pp. 182-204
Mon.	31	N. 2
February		
Wed.	2	N. 2-3
Fri.	4	N. 3; FIRST TEST: N. 1-2; Ziegler
Mon.	7	N. 3-4; **Collateral**: Bobbitt 2
Wed.	9	N. 4; FIRST MAP TEST: Asia and Africa
Fri.	11	N. 4, Nash; **Collateral**: Bobbitt 3
Mon.	14	N. 5; George Kennan to John Lukacs, March 2, 1995
Wed.	16	N. 5; **Collateral**: Bobbitt 4
Fri.	18	N. 6; SECOND TEST: N. 3-5, Nash, Kennan
Mon.	21	N. 6
Wed.	23	N. 7
Fri.	25	N. 7; SECOND MAP TEST: Europe and the Americas
Mon.	28	N. 8
March		
Wed.	2	N. 8
Fri.	4	H. Introduction; THIRD TEST: N. 6-8
Mon.	7	H. 1
Wed.	9	H. 2
Fri.	11	H. 3
Mon.	14	SPRING BREAK
Wed.	16	SPRING BREAK
Fri.	18	SPRING BREAK
Mon.	21	H. 4
Wed.	23	H. 4
Fri.	25	H. 5
Mon.	28	H. 6
Wed.	30	H. 7
April		
Fri.	1	Morgenthau; FOURTH TEST: H. 1-7
Mon.	4	Morgenthau
Wed.	6	N. 9
Fri.	8	N. 9
Mon.	11	G. Introduction
Wed.	13	G. 1
Fri.	15	G. 2 FIFTH TEST: Morgenthau; N. 9; G. Introduction-1
Mon.	18	G. 3
Wed.	20	G. 4
Fri.	22	G. 5
Mon.	25	G. 6; SIXTH TEST: G. 2-5
Wed.	27	G. 7

Fri.	29	G. 8
May		
Mon.	2	G. 9
Wed.	4	G. Conclusion; James V. Schall: http://www.policyreview.org/dec04/schall.html
Fri.	6	SEVENTH TEST: G. 6-Conclusion