

**Political Science 208**  
**Introduction to International Relations**

Winter 2010  
Robert Joustra

**Calendar Description**

A study of contemporary relations among states, including an analysis of basic concepts and issues such as power, sovereignty, nationalism, security, diplomacy, war and peace, international law and organization, trans-nationalism and independence. Attention is also given to different approaches to the study of international relations.

**Course Objectives**

1. To familiarize students with the basic concepts and issues in international relations.
2. To enable students to understand how these concepts and issues interrelate and how they apply to contemporary political practice.
3. To provide an understanding of the institutions and processes which contribute to the present pattern of international relations.
4. To help students acquire and grapple with a sense of their own responsibilities as persons of faith in a globalized world.
5. To help students to develop further their ability to communicate ideas, both in writing and verbally.

**Course Format**

One three hour session per week (Monday, 6:30-9:30 pm) in lecture format, with discussion where appropriate, and oral student presentations. A fifteen minute break will be taken at the midpoint.

**Evaluation**

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|-----------------------|-----|
| Essay #1 (1500 words) | 15% |
| Essay #2 (1500 words) | 15% |
| Participation/Seminar | 20% |
| Mid Term Examination  | 25% |
| Final Examination     | 25% |

You are expected to attend all class sessions. Absences will result in a lower participation grade and repeated absences may require withdrawal from the course.

A midterm and a final exam will be given. The **midterm** will be given on **February 22, 2010**. A final examination will be given on the date determined by the registrar (to be announced). Unless emergency conflicts arise, students will be expected to write examinations on the given dates.

You will write your **first paper** of approximately 1500 words on one of five texts, available at the bookstore and at the library on 2 hr reserve. The paper is due on the date assigned for class discussion. As a result late papers will not be accepted.

No more than four people will be allowed to choose a selected book. Each group will give presentations on the chosen text on the assigned week of at most 20 min in length (total). Presentations should deal with the questions that are asked in the paper, as well as offer critical questions for further discussion and reflection.

You should be familiar with the book presented each week. A copy of each book is on 2 hr reserve at the library for this purpose. Don't read the entire book for each week, but do be familiar enough with it to give comment and interact with the text and its thesis in class. Helpful tools for this can include online summaries, commentary, and articles.

The paper should be organized to answer the following questions:

*What does this book say about the world?*  
*What does it say is the problem?*  
*What does it propose is the solution?*  
*Do you agree or disagree? Why?*

Choose one of five:

1. Niall Ferguson. *The Ascent of Money* (2008).
2. Mike Goheen and Erin Glanville. *The Gospel and Globalization* (2009).
3. Fareed Zakaria. *The Post-American World* (2008).
4. Thomas Farr. *World of Faith and Freedom* (2008).
5. Paul Collier. *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It* (2007).

Your **second paper** will be a critical response to *Caritas in Veritate*. A critical response is not a summary or a review. It is expected by the last day of class, when the paper is due, that students will have cultivated both a working knowledge and a keen insight into the ethical and moral implications of global politics. Responding to this important encyclical, students will demonstrate their capacity to develop and sustain an opinion based on their own thoughts in light of the contemporary discourse.

Please read the Policy on Academic Integrity found in the Academic Calendar. The policy applies to you whether or not you have read it. Any student who violates this policy and commits a breach of academic integrity will be treated in accordance with the policy.



- February 1 a) Marxism and Gramscianism  
b) Social Constructivism and Critical Approaches
- Readings: Baylis and Smith, Ch 8 (142-160); Ch 9 (160-174);  
Ch 10 (174-192)
- February 3 Bob Goudzwaard Lecture, *A New Vision for the Global Economy*  
Respondents: Gideon Strauss (President, CPJ), Jonathan Wellum (Senior Fellow,  
Cardus), Vahagn Asatryan (Professor, Redeemer)
- February 8 a) Gideon Strauss Lecture, Centre for Public Justice  
b) Case Studies
- Readings: Baylis and Smith, Ch 16 (278-296); Ch 17 (296-312)
- February 15 Reading Week
- Feb 19-21 Jubilee (<http://www.jubileeconference.com/>)
- February 22 Snow Day
- Readings: Baylis and Smith, Ch 18 (312-328)
- March 1 **Midterm Examination**
- March 8 a) *Paul Collier Seminars*  
b) Munk Debate (June 1, 2009)
- Be it resolved foreign aid does more harm than good.*
- Pro: Stephen Lewis, Paul Collier  
Con: Hernando de Soto, Dambisa Moyo
- Readings: Baylis and Smith, Ch 27 (pgs 468-490)
- Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion*, Ch 1 (3-17); Ch 11 (175-192)
- Roland Hoksbergen, Janel Curry and Tracy Kuiperus,  
“International Development: Christians Reflections on Today’s  
Competing Theories” in *Christian Scholars Review* (Fall 2009).

- March 15
- a) *Niall Ferguson Seminars*
  - b) International Political Economy, Global Trade and Finance
- Readings: Baylis and Smith, Ch 14 (242-262); Ch 26 (450-468)
- Bob Goudzwaard, “Globalization, Economics and the Modern Worldview” in *The Gospel and Globalization* (111-125)
- Paul Williams, “Globalization and the Logic of Capital” in *The Gospel and Globalization* (125-141)
- March 22
- a) *Zakaria Seminars*
  - b) Global Security, Conflict and Peace Making
- Readings: Baylis and Smith, Ch 12 (226-242)
- Fareed Zakaria, *The Post-American World*, Ch 7 (215-259)
- Bob Goudzwaard, Mark Vander Vennen and David Van Heemst, *Hope in Troubled Times: A New Vision for Confronting Global Crises*, Ch 6 (pgs 99-126)
- Jonathan Chaplin, “God, Globalization and Grace: An Exercise in Public Theology” in *The Gospel and Globalization* (49-69)
- David Koyzis, “Convergence or Clash? The Coming Global Future” in *The Gospel and Globalization* (283-299)
- A.G. Hopkins, “The History of Globalization – and the Globalization of History?” in A.G. Hopkins (ed), *Globalization in World History* (pgs 11-46)

- March 29      a) *Thomas Farr Seminars*  
b) International Relations and the Global Resurgence of Religion
- Readings:      Thomas Farr, *World of Faith and Freedom*, Ch 1 (31-51)
- Amira K. Bennison, “Muslim Universalism and Western Globalization” in A.G. Hopkins, *Globalization in World History* (pgs 74-97)
- Scott Thomas, “Taking Religious and Cultural Pluralism Seriously” in Petito and Hatzopoulos, *Religion in International Relations: The Return from Exile* (21-55)
- Samuel P. Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations” in *Foreign Affairs* Summer 1993
- April 5            No Class
- April 12          a) Discussion: *Caritas in Veritate* (Essay #2 Due)  
b) Review: Final Exam