

Spring 2012—Contemporary International Politics and Law (GO 301)—A Research Seminar
Prof. Ginsberg—MW 4:00-5:20 pm—Ladd 207

Office Hours (Ladd 314) M 5:30-7:00 pm, TT 9:00-9:30 am, Tu 11:00 am-noon, W 12:00-2:00 pm,
and by appointment; phone x5245 (rginsber@skidmore.edu)

Student Assistant for the Course: Dominic Green (607-643-9056, dgreen1@skidmore.edu)

Course Objectives

- survey major changes and topics in contemporary international politics with an historical eye
- develop an expertise in a major international political issue
- develop, hone, and improve writing, research, project design, and oral presentation skills
- prepare students for other advanced courses in international politics, graduate work in international affairs and law or political science, and/or careers in international affairs

Course Requirements

- classroom participation (20 percent)
- preparatory work for research project (20 percent)
- presentation of research project (10 percent)
- submission of research paper (50 percent)

Required Text

Goldstein and Pevehouse, *International Relations*, Tenth Edition

Schedule of Readings, Lectures, and Research Project Tutorials

1-23	International Politics Today. pp. 3-25
1-25	International Systems from Westphalia to Vienna and from Versailles to Yalta. pp. 26-41
1-30	Realism and the Origins of the Cold War. Ch. 2
2-1	Liberal and Social Theories and the End of the Cold War. Ch. 3
2-6	Foreign Policy. Ch. 4. Researching International Politics: Getting Started!
2-8	Sources of Conflict. Ch. 5, pp. 152-177
2-13	Types of Conflict. pp. 177-191
2-15	Military Capabilities, Terrorism, and Proliferation. Ch. 6, pp. 192-209
2-20	Arms Control and Disarmament. Ch. 6, pp. 209-231
2-22	Session with Social Science Librarian Barbara Norelli on Finding Sources, Library 128
2-27	Special Exercises
2-29	Conceptualizing Your Paper: Central Questions and Hypothesis
3-5	International Organization. pp. 232-254
3-7	International Organization and Law. pp. 254-281
3-19	International Trade. Ch. 8
3-21	Special Exercises
3-26	International Finance and Business. Ch. 9
3-28	Regional Integration. Ch. 10
4-2	Conceptualizing Your Paper: Theory and Method
4-4	Environment and Population. Ch. 11
4-9	North-South Relations. Ch. 12
4-11	International Development. Ch. 13
4-16	International Politics and Global Challenges in 2030. "Special Section" and pp. 498-500
4-18	Your Thesis Statement, Empirical Chapters, Conclusion. Special Exercises
4-23-4-30	Paper Presentations

Requirements

Participation.--There are three primary ways students participate in GO 301: (1) reporting/coverage/analysis of major international political events; (2) response in class to study questions and key concepts from readings; and (3) class presentation of individual research projects. No unexcused absences are permitted. Missing class before/after Spring break is not an excused absence. Each unexcused absence beyond the first instance will result in a full letter drop in the participation grade. Three or more unexcused absences will result in a full-letter drop in the final grade. Four or more unexcused absences will result in failure in the course. If students cannot make class, for whatever reason, they are required to let Dr. G. know before the start of class by phone. Since late arrivals to class are disruptive, students must arrive on time. For each late arrival beyond the first two, the student will suffer a half-letter grade drop in the participation grade.

Research Project.--In close consultation with Prof. G., select/analyze an issue of international politics of keen interest to you. Skills associated with research design and methodology, writing, research, argumentation, support of a thesis, developing a framework for analysis, and the expertise gathered in a substantive policy area are indispensable no matter where your post-graduate career takes you.

The highly polished, well-documented 25-page paper must have a formal cover page; a table of contents indicating page numbers for each chapter and each heading/subheading; a bibliography; endnotes; flawless spelling, grammar, sentence structure, use of paragraphs, transitions between paragraphs and sections, print-out, and margins; and at least ten sources cited as endnotes, four of which must be primary. See models of excellent research papers by students in past years. The paper features an engaging introduction with central questions, a thesis statement, a framework for analysis, empirical chapters, and a clear conclusion. Students are encouraged to insert graphics and appendices as needed.

Students are evaluated at each stage of the completion of their projects as outlined below. Each submission is due at start of class. No exceptions. Students meet with Prof. Ginsberg in advance of each deadline for consultation/assistance and feedback.

Ten Research Paper Deadlines

First Deadline: 2-8	Consult with Dr. G. on preliminary topic proposal; begin literature search
Second Deadline: 2-15	Submit topic proposal, indicating rationale/significance
Third Deadline: 2-27	Submit preliminary central questions, accompanied by an explanation of why each is significant/worthy of attention. Make appointment and meet with Barbara Norelli, Social Science Librarian, for assistance with literature search.
Fourth Deadline: 3-5	Submit sentence outline depicting how paper will be organized into its component parts; complete literature search
Fifth Deadline: 3-19	Submit hypothesis and final central questions
Sixth Deadline: 3-26	Submit list of ten annotated bibliographic sources. Provide summary of results of meeting with Ms. Norelli.
Seventh Deadline: 4-9	Submit final draft of sentence outline and proposal for framework of analysis after having closely consulted with Dr. G.
Eighth Deadline: 4-16	Submit first (conceptual) chapter. Formal class presentations begin.
Ninth Deadline: 4-23	Submit second (empirical) chapter.
Tenth Deadline: 5-7	Completed manuscript due by noon in Dr. G.'s office

Evaluative Criteria Checklist for Successful Research Paper

Preparation and Style

Met All Ten Deadlines _____

Quality of Deadline Submissions _____

Formal Cover Page _____

Creative Title/Subtitle _____

Bibliography/Correct Format _____

Endnotes/Correct Format _____

Grammar/Sentence Structure _____

Paragraphs and Spelling _____

Clarity of Font/Print Out _____

Margins and Pagination _____

Appendices as Needed _____

Page Length _____

Table of Contents _____

Substance

Thesis/Theme Up Front _____

Clear/Engaging Intro. _____

Central Questions _____

Rationale/Significance _____

Time Frame _____

Structure _____

Framework of Analysis _____

Good Transitions _____

Parts Relate to Whole _____

Substantiation _____

Conclusions/Link Back _____

Sources _____