The purpose of this class is to introduce basic principles of international relations and comparative politics for continued study within the “global” component of political science. The class is also designed to meet the writing intensive requirement of its “Z” designation. Oral participation and group cooperation on common projects is a further objective of this class.

The intellectual objectives of the class may therefore be stated:

1. An introduction to realism, liberal internationalism, radical political economy, and constructivism as core concepts in international relations; and further introduction to such concepts as development, democracy, authoritarianism, welfare state policies, political parties and ethnic and class conflict as components of the study of comparative and regional politics.

The academic objectives include:

2. Learning to write a basic college level analytic paper, oral participation and group teamwork, satisfactory academic mastery of the topics in #1.

3. The assignments: three papers which will undergo revisions; required readings from two textbooks and additional sources; watching the required movie (Fail Safe, 1964); participation in group activities which will include mock trials of fictional or historical characters; and a one-hour final exam.

The format of the class will usually be: Mondays and Wednesdays, a lecture presentation on the assigned reading. As needed, there will be “breakout” into discussion groups with the TA’s in charge. On Fridays, approaches to the writing assignment and questions about the reading will be discussed. One week is set aside to impeach President Fonda.

Assigned materials for this class include two textbooks (Mingst and Sodaro) for general concepts, and two case studies, one in International Relations (Keynes, Economic Consequences of the Peace) and one in Comparative Politics (Gerschenkron, Bread and Democracy in Germany). One movie is assigned, the 1964 version of Fail Safe.
4. Students who complete this class will have (a) learned basic vocabulary and concepts necessary to understanding international relations and comparative politics; (b) an introduction to basic college level writing requirements including citation, bibliography, and presentation; (c) conceptual linkage of theory to case studies as represented by a fictional international crisis leading to nuclear war, and two real historical cases (the peace settlement of WWI and the social constituency for fascism in Germany).

Paper Format Requirements are on a Separate Sheet at the End of this Syllabus

Summary of work required:

1. FIRST DUTY Library plagiarism training. Go here and choose the plagiarism 101 FOR CREDIT TUTORIAL.

http://library.albany.edu/usered/tutorials.html

This MUST be completed in order to get credit on ANY of your papers. NO PAPER WILL BE ACCEPTED IF THIS HAS NOT BEEN FULFILLED. The library reports to us who has completed the requirement.

2. A one-hour final.
3. One 2 page paper, one draft only, related to the movie Fail Safe.
4. One 5 page paper on IR Theory and Keynes Economic Consequences. This paper must deploy full scholarly citation apparatus. The paper must go through a first draft and a second draft: if only one draft is turned in, the paper fails. Attention to due dates is essential.
5. One five-page paper on Comparative Politics and Gerschenkron’s Bread and Democracy in Germany. This paper must deploy full scholarly citation apparatus. The paper must go through a first draft and a second draft: if only one draft is turned in, the paper fails. Attention to due dates is essential.

Grading: Nominally 35% for the final, and three papers: two analytic formal papers (25% each), and the first two-page paper (15%). TA’s or instructor may adjust final grades up or down by as much as 50% based on participation and attendance.

Plagiarism: SUNY Plagiarism policies are in effect. Final drafts of all papers will be submitted to Blackboard for computerized plagiarism analysis.

Exam format: questions will be handed out in advance, but exams must be written in class. Make-up exams. Make-up exams are administered only on presentation of a valid excused absence from the Dean’s office. At the professor’s discretion an oral exam may be required instead of a written exam.
Late paper policy: Late papers are penalized 1 grade step for each day late. A “B” paper becomes a B-, a B- becomes a C+, etc. After two days a B paper becomes a C+.

**Summary of Due Dates and Things You Have to Do:**

**FINAL EXAM SCHEDULED** 11 May 10:30 to 12:30 whole class

**Must do:** Library tutorial on plagiarism
Paper #1 draft (1 page) due: January 25-29 on your section day
Paper #1 final draft (2 pages) due: February 8-12 on your section day
Paper #2 draft (5 pages) due: March 1-5 on your section day
Paper #2 final draft (5 pages) due: March 15-19, on your section day
Paper #3 draft (5 pages) due: April 12-16, on your section day
Paper #3 final draft (5 pages) due: April 26-30, on your section day

Required group participation: War crimes trial of Pres. Fonda, February 22-26

**First Paper Assignment**

**Research:**
Read Mingst, Chapter 8.
Watch “Fail Safe” in its entirety.

**Paper topic:**

To what extent are “mutually assured destruction” (MAD) and deterrence theory working in this movie? Is the movie’s outcome consistent with these theories?
**Week-by-week summary**

---

**Week 1** General Concepts in International Relations Theory  
Wednesday January 20  
Friday January 22

Reading: Mingst, chapters 8, 1 and 2  

---

**Week 2** Contending Theoretical Perspectives, and the IR “system”  
Monday January 25  
Wednesday January 27  
Friday January 29

Reading: Mingst, Chapters 3 and 4  
Work due: Paper #1 First draft of 2 page paper. 1st paragraph and ½ page outline.

---

**Week 3** The State and Foreign Policy  
Monday February 1  
Wednesday February 3  
Friday February 5

Reading: Mingst, Chapters 5, 6

Work due: Paper #1 returned to you with comments; you revise and finish paper, turn it in the next week.

---

**Week 4** IGOs, NGOs, and political economy  
Monday February 8  
Wednesday February 10  
Friday February 12

Reading: Mingst, chapters 7 and 9

Work due: Paper #1 final draft of your 2 page paper

---

**Week 5** Globalizing stuff  
Monday February 15  NO CLASS  
Wednesday February 17
Friday February 19

Reading: Mingst, Chapter 10
Work due: type up a page of notes about how your group to proceed with impeachment of Pres. Fonda

Week 6 U.S. President on trial for crimes committed in “Fail-Safe.”

Monday February 22
Wednesday February 24
Friday February 26

Reading: Reading: get started on Keynes, *Economic Consequences of the Peace*, pp. 1st half

Sodaro: Chapter 18

Work due: Participation in war crimes trial.

Case study: making the world safe for democracy
Week 7
Monday March 1
Wednesday March 3
Friday March 5

Reading: Keynes, *Economic Consequences*, 1st half

Work due: Paper #2 First draft of five page paper on *Economic Consequences*

Case Study: Making the World Safe for Democracy

Week 8
Monday March 8 mid-semester point
Wednesday March 10
Friday March 12

Reading: Keynes *Economic Consequences of the Peace*, 2nd half

Work due: Paper #2 Revised five-page paper handed back with comments, by March 12

Week 9 Hypothesis testing
Monday March 15
Wednesday March 17
Friday March 19

Reading: Sodaro Chapter 3
Work due: Paper #2 Revised second draft of 1st five-page paper due, March 19

Week 10 The State
Monday March 22
Wednesday March 24
Friday March 26

Reading: Sodaro chapters 5, 6

Week 11 SPRING BREAK
Monday March 29 NO CLASS
Wednesday March 31 NO CLASS
Friday April 2 NO CLASS

Week 12 Democracy
Monday April 5 NO CLASS
Wednesday April 7
Friday April 9

Reading: Sodaro chapters 9, 10, 19
Work due: reading, section participation

Week 13 Political Economy
Monday April 12
Wednesday April 14
Friday April 16

Reading: Gerschenkron, Bread and Democracy, pp. 1-89, Sodaro chapter 14
Work due: Paper #3. First draft of Gerschenkron paper, Friday April 16

Week 14 Development
Monday April 19
Wednesday April 21
Friday April 23
Reading: Gerschenkron, Bread and Democracy, pp. 91-163; Sodaro Chapter 15
Work due: Paper #3 Draft of Gerschenkron paper returned, April 23

Week 15

Monday April 26
Wednesday April 28
Friday May April 30

Reading: Gerschenkron, pp. 163-224 Sodaro Chapter 20

Work due: Paper #3. Final copy of Gerschenkron paper due, Friday April 30

Week 16

Monday May 3 LAST DAY OF CLASS. Discussion of exam.

Course Books


Check Off List for Paper Requirements for All Courses for Prof. Nowell. Papers not adhering to these requirements are subject to grade penalties. Additional copies of this form may be printed from class web site.

1. This page stapled on cover of paper, and signed by you. Reason: Too many students ignore requirements otherwise. Check here ______

2. Title page, including your name, my name, my department, course number, date. Reasons: This information, often omitted, allows me to see what paper I’m grading for what course. If the paper is misplaced by you or me, it increases the chances that someone will return it to me or you. Check here ______

3. Title of paper. Titles, often omitted, are required. Check here ______

4. Text double-spaced. So I can make comments and notations between lines. Check ______

5. Margins 1" on all sides. Use 11 or 12 point type. Standardizes assigned length, gives me room for comments. Check here ______

6. Every page has a page number. So they can be put back when out of sequence, so comments can be made referring to specific pages. ______

7. Every page has your last name on it. Allows scattered sheets to be reunited with the right paper. Check here ______

8. No binders or plastic covers for papers less than 30 pages. They’re heavy, they fall apart, they tear other papers. Check here ______

9. No paper clips. They don’t work in a large mass of similar papers. Check here ______

10. All papers STAPLED in upper left corner. It’s cheap, it’s easy, it’s light weight, it works. Check here ______

11. No use of contractions. No “don’t” “isn’t” and similar forms. 1) They do not belong in formal presentations. 2) It eliminates, in theory, the possibility of confusing “it’s” (=it is) and “its” (belonging to it). ______

12. Citations mandatory. Footnotes or endnotes. Hacker’s Writer’s Reference required. ______

13. Bibliography mandatory. Even if it contains only one book. ______

14. Proofread manuscript. For content, grammar, spelling. ______

15. Back-up copy mandatory. Electronic or hard copy. If for any reason papers in my possession are lost or stolen you must be able to produce another copy. ______

Your signature here _________________________________