

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  
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6-7 Lecture E6A 131  
7-9 Tutorials E6A 109 or  
E8A 386

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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

Meeting 1 27/3	General introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- objectives, contents, methodology, reading</li><li>- the study of political systems</li><li>- domestic politics and global politics</li><li>- allocation of research paper topics</li></ul>
Meeting 2 6/3	The International System (1) The stage <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- pictures and metaphors</li><li>- cages, markets and villages</li><li>- key global issues</li><li>- growth, security, order and identity - the four boxes writ large</li><li>- theory, reality and realism</li><li>- the international system , September 11 and terrorism</li><li>- hegemonies and globalism</li></ul>
Meeting 3 13/3	The International System (2) The players <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- sovereignty and "realpolitic"</li><li>- "nation states" as the key players</li><li>- other players of all kinds</li><li>- major players and minor players</li><li>- coping with the system</li><li>- coping with the issues</li><li>- the four boxes writ small</li></ul>
Meeting 4 20/3	Conflict <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- the nature of social conflict</li><li>- approaches to the study of conflict</li><li>- measuring conflict - extent and intensity</li><li>- "creative" conflict, "revolutionary" conflict and destructive conflict</li></ul>
Meeting 5 27/3	War <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-</li><li>- conflict becomes war</li><li>- causes of war</li><li>- war as an institution</li><li>- the "vicious cycles" of war</li><li>- war as an instrument of policy</li><li>- war , morality and law</li><li>- new concepts and the future of war</li></ul>

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'être* 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* .  
3<sup>rd</sup> ed Palgrave 2002

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

White, B., Little, R., and Smith, M., (eds) *Issues in world politics*  
2<sup>nd</sup>. Ed. . Palgrave 2001

## 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  
6<sup>th</sup> ed. Rowman & Littlefield, 2004
- 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
- Bryan, D.,& Rafferty, M., The global economy in Australia: global integration and national economic policy.  
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 21<sup>st</sup>  
century  
4<sup>th</sup> ed. Guilford press, 2003

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 lexis 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 21<sup>st</sup>  
century  
Princeton UP 2000
- Glover., J. Humanity; a moral history of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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
- Held D., and McGrew A., (eds) Global transformations reader: an introduction  
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
- McBride S., and Wiseman J.,(eds) Globalization and its discontents  
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  
6<sup>th</sup> ed. Knopf 1985
- 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 policics, 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Taylor P., & Groom A.J.R. (eds) The United Nations at the millenium  
Continuum 2000

Tehrani, M., Global communication and world politics: domination, development and discourse

Lynne Rienner Pub. 1999

Urry, J., Global complexity

Polity, 2003

Waters, M., Globalization

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Globalization, Power, War/Conflict Peace, International Institutions, International Law, The State, World Order, National Interest

## 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

