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IR 230 FUNDAMENTALS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

One cannot make sense of international politics without first acquiring a minimal store of factual information about the world. This course is designed to give students the basic knowledge that is required to understand and analyze political life in the roughly 200 countries of the world. Rather than concentrate on the issues themselves, it provides a conceptual and factual framework for understanding them.

The course is divided into thematic modules of unequal length. The first module explains the birth of the current state system. The second focuses on the states and describes the varieties of states. The third module provides the outlines of the basic ideologies that have inspired political leaders and their followers around the world. The fourth module looks at some important issues in international politics, and the fifth and final module concentrates on political regions in order to acquaint students with the regional dynamics and specificities of the world.

Readings will consist of mainly of three textbooks: John Baylis and Steve Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), Andrew Heywood, *Political Ideologies* (New York: Palgrave, 1998), and Wayne C. McWilliams and Harry Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945: A History of International Relations* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2001), which are available for purchase at the Boston University Co-op. Maps will be used throughout the lectures. Students are required to attend the lectures regularly, and attendance will be taken into account for calculating the final grade. If a student misses more than three lectures, the course grade will be taken down one level (i.e., from A to A-, or from B+ to B) for every lecture missed without a valid excuse. There will be two midterm and a final exam. The grade will be determined by the following key: midterm exams 30% each, final exam 40%, the final grade being adjusted for missed lectures. All students are required to familiarize themselves with the Boston University Academic Code of Conduct, which shall be applied to the fullest in all cases of academic misconduct, including plagiarism. Office hours will be announced in class and they take place at 154 Bay State Road.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1: The Genesis of the International System of States

September 5: The Westphalia System

September 7: Colonial Empires and their Impact on the Political Map of the World

Readings:

John Baylis and Steve Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics*, chapters 2 and 3.

Week 2: Types of States

September 10: Imperialism and the Growth of International Society

September 12: States, Nations, and Nation-States
September 14: Federal versus Unitary States

Readings:

Baylis and Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics*, chapter 4.
Wayne C. McWilliams and Harry Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*, pp. 109-114.

Week 3: Types of States

September 17: Parliamentary versus Presidentialism
September 19: Electoral Systems
September 21: One-Party States and Military Regimes

Readings:

To be announced.

Week 4: Modern Ideologies I: the 19th Century

September 24: Nationalism
September 26: Liberalism
September 28: First Midterm Exam

Readings:

Baylis and Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics*, chapter 23.
Andrew Heywood, *Political Ideologies*, pp. 94-98 and chapters 2 and 5.

Week 5: Modern Ideologies II: the Left

October 1: Marxism
October 3: Communism
October 5: Social Democracy and Democratic Socialism

Readings:

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *Communist Manifesto*. Accessible at <http://www.anu.edu.au/polsci/marx/classics/manifesto.html>
Heywood, *Political Ideologies*, chapter 4, and pp. 183-185.
Recommended: Baylis and Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics*, chapter 10.

Week 6: Modern Ideologies II: the Right

October 9: Conservatism
October 10: Fascism and National Socialism
October 12: Catch up with schedule.

Readings:

Heywood, *Political Ideologies*, chapters 3 and 7.

Week 7: Religion and Politics

October 15: State and Church

October 17: Christian Democracy
October 19: Religious Fundamentalism

Readings:

Heywood, *Political Ideologies*, chapter 10.
Baylis and Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics*, chapter 24.
Wayne C. McWilliams and Harry Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*, pp. 539-551.

Week 8: New Movements

October 22: The Greens
October 24: Human Rights
October 26: The Seas and Oceans

Readings:

Heywood, *Political Ideologies*, chapters 8 and 9.
Baylis and Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics*, chapters 20 and 31.

Week 9: The Global and the Local

October 29: The North-South Divide
October 31: Demography and Population Explosion
November 2: Second Midterm Exam

Readings:

Baylis and Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics*, chapter 29.
McWilliams and Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*, chapter 11, pp. 249-265.

Week 10: Regions I

November 5: Europe and the European Union
November 7: The Breakdown of Communism
November 9: Post-Communist Russia

Readings: Baylis and Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics*, chapter 26.
McWilliams and Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*, pp. 431-444; 458-469, 481-502.

Week 11: Regions II

November 12: No class
November 14: The Eastern Middle East
November 16: The Western Middle East

Readings:

McWilliams and Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*, pp. 469-475; 148-170; 476-481, 551-560, 564-588.

Week 12: Regions III

November 19: Central Asia
November 21: No class

November 23: No class

No Readings

Week 13: Regions IV

November 26: Latin America

November 28: Africa

November 30: South Asia

Readings:

McWilliams and Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*, pp. 312-331, 333-340, 344-346; 129-145, 268-275, 279-282, 287-290; 113-119, 377-389, 530-533.

Week 14: Regions V

December 3: East Asia: How to Catch up with the West

December 5: Continued

December 7: South-East Asia: Little Tigers?

Readings:

McWilliams and Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*, pp. 352-373, 407-425, 531-532; 119-127, 205-224, 389-400.

Week 15: Leftovers

December 10: Catch up with the schedule

December 12: Antarctica and Evaluations