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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 and final module concentrates on political regions in order to acquaint students with the regional dynamics and specificities of the world.

Readings will consist mainly of three textbooks: Andrew Heywood, *Political Ideologies* (New York: Palgrave, 2007); Patrick H. O’Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics* (New York: Norton, 2007); and Wayne C. McWilliams and Harry Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945: A History of International Relations* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2005), 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 are Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:00 and Wednesday 4:00-5:00 and take place at 154 Bay State Road. For brief questions students should speak to the instructor before or after lecture.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1: The Genesis of the International System of States

September 6: The Westphalia System

Readings:

Robert Jackson and Patricia Owens, “The Evolution of International Society.”

Week 2: Empires, Nations, States

September 8: Colonial Empires and their Impact on the Political Map of the World
 September 13: States, Nations, Nation-States, Federations

Readings:

Wayne C. McWilliams and Harry Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*, pp. 109-114.
 O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, chapters 2 and 3.

Week 3: Types of States

September 15: Parliamentary versus Presidentialism
 September 20: Electoral Systems and Non-Democratic Regimes

Readings:

O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, chapters 5 and 6.

Week 4: Modern Ideologies I: the 19th Century

September 22: Nationalism and Liberalism
 September 27: First Midterm Exam

Readings:

Andrew Heywood, *Political Ideologies*, pp. 94-98 and chapters 2 and 5.

Week 5: Modern Ideologies II: the Left

September 29: Marxism
 October 4: Communism and Social Democracy

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.

Week 6: Modern Ideologies II: the Right

October 6: Conservatism
 October 11: Fascism and National Socialism

Readings:

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

Week 7: Religion and Politics

October 13: No class.
 October 18: State and Church

Readings:

Heywood, *Political Ideologies*, chapter 10.
 Wayne C. McWilliams and Harry Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*, pp. 539-551.

Week 8: New Movements

October 20: Christian Democracy and Religious Fundamentalism
 October 25: The Greens

Readings:
 Heywood, *Political Ideologies*, chapters 8 and 9.

Week 9: The Global and the Local

October 27: The North-South Divide
 November 1: War

Readings:
 McWilliams and Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*, chapter 11, pp. 249-265.

Week 10: Regions I

November 3: Europe and the European Union
 November 8: The Breakdown of Communism and Post-Communist Russia

Readings:
 McWilliams and Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*, pp. 431-444; 458-475, 481-502.
 O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, chapter 8.

Week 11: Regions II

November 10: Second midterm exam
 November 15: The Western Middle East

Readings:
 McWilliams and Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*, pp. 148-170,

Week 12: Regions III

November 17: The Eastern Middle East and Central Asia
 November 22: South Asia

Readings:
 McWilliams and Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*.
 Middle East: pp. 476-481, 551-560, 564-588
 South Asia: pp. 113-119, 377-389, 530-533.

Week 13: Regions IV

November 24: No class
 November 29: Southeast Asia

Readings:
 Southeast Asia: pp. 119-127, 205-224, 389-400.

Week 14: Regions V

November 31: Latin America

December 6: East Asia: How to Catch up with the West

Readings:

McWilliams and Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*.

Latin America, pp. 312-331, 333-340, 344-346.

East Asia: pp. 352-373, 407-425, 531-532.

Week 15: Leftovers

December 8: Africa (last day of classes)

December 9: Antarctica and Evaluations

Readings:

McWilliams and Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945*.

Africa: pp. 129-145, 268-275, 279-282, 287-290.