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Winter 2009  
MW 1:10-2:30 p.m.  
Location: Land

### **PAL-110E: International Politics and Public Policy**

This course seeks to introduce students to the intersection of international politics and public policy. No prior background in international relations is assumed. Students will acquire the basic analytic tools necessary to understand and explain a variety of international phenomena, including environmental degradation, trade liberalization and protection, and war and internal conflict. We will review a series of analytic frameworks and then apply them to a series of cases from each of these areas of international politics. The goal is to help students better understand *why* we observe particular types of policy outcomes in the international arena.

### **Assignments and Grading**

Attendance at all lectures is mandatory. The class combines lectures and discussion, and students should expect to be cold-called. The class is graded using the professional scale we also use for spring exercise, which varies between 1 and 6. Your final grade is determined by performance on the following assignments, whose due dates are indicated in the appropriate place on the syllabus:

Memo 1:	15%
Op-ed:	15%
Memo 2:	20%
Briefing:	20% (10% for oral presentation and slides; 10% for group memo)
Final Exam:	20%
Participation:	10% (in-class discussions and debates)

On the graded exercises, we will be using the Kennedy School's performance index rather than the traditional A, B, C, D, F grade system. The index is basically a point scale that is tied to performance standards:

- 6 = Distinction even by the standards expected of a professional practitioner
- 5 = Fully meets the standards expected of a professional practitioner
- 4 = Distinction by the standards expected of a professional school graduate student
- 3 = Average by the standards expected of a professional school graduate student
- 2 = Below average by the standards expected of a professional school graduate student
- 1 = Unacceptable by the standards expected of a professional school graduate student

We use this grading method for PAL-110 because most of the grades are based on practical exercises, and the index scores provide students with a clearer sense of their performance level than do traditional letter grades. A "6" is almost never awarded (less than 1 percent) and that a "5"

is seldom awarded (less than 10 percent). These numbers are reserved for performance levels that equal or exceed what would be expected of individuals who already hold the types of job positions that most of you aspire to hold.

In any event, your absolute score on any graded exercise is much less significant than your score relative to that of the other students. We are required in large Kennedy School courses to assign final letter grades on the basis of a curve—students' relative ranking in the class. Because PAL-110 is one of your first KSG courses, we apply the most liberal curve allowable by KSG guidelines, which means that the grade distribution for this course will fall roughly within the following ranges: A (top 15-20%). A- (next 20-30%), B+ (next 20-30%), B (next 20-25%). B- or lower (lowest 5-10%). As a faculty member, I do not control the curve. However, I do have a responsibility to ensure that no one in the class receives a higher grade than another student who has performed as well or better. If you take responsibility for your performance, I assure you that it will be evaluated fairly relative to all others in the class.

## **Academic Integrity and Writing**

*This course includes a lot of writing. It is appropriate to remind you of the practice of citation at the Kennedy School (the following quotes directly from the Kennedy School academic code, which you should read in full: [http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/registrar/acad\\_code.htm](http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/registrar/acad_code.htm)).*

**“Using someone else's words or concepts without citation is a serious violation of the Academic Code. The following are guidelines for determining when to document sources in written material:**

**Facts:** If you assert a fact, you should be able to document it with reliable sources.

**Quotes:** If you use text that someone else has written, put it in quotes and credit the original author.

**Ideas:** If you use ideas that reflect someone else's original insight, acknowledge their contribution (even if you don't use their exact words. ).”

When in doubt, please cite! Ignorance of the rules of academic honesty is not an acceptable excuse. If you have any question as to whether or not you have indeed used citation correctly, please speak with one of the course assistants. This course has a no tolerance policy when it comes to plagiarism. If you cheat, you will fail the class and be referred to the Kennedy's School's formal disciplinary board.

## **Required Reading**

All course packets can be purchased at the CMO, located on the ground floor of the Belfer building.

## **I. Introduction and Overview of Course (January 28)**

## **II. Anarchy and its Consequences (February 2, 4, 9, 11)**

Topics:       The Distinctive Nature of International Politics  
                  The Meaning of Anarchy  
                  Alternative Conceptions of International Relations  
                  Strategic Interaction

- ***Distribute Op-Ed Assignment, Maximum 600 Words (February 2)***
- ***Op-Ed Due in Class (February 11)***

### **1. Distinctive Nature of International Relations (2/2)**

Helen Milner, "The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: A Critique," in David A. Baldwin, ed., *Neorealism and Neoliberalism: The Contemporary Debate* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1993), pp.143-69.

Stephen M. Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," *Foreign Policy* No. 110 (Spring 1998), pp.29-44.

Marc Trachtenberg, "The Problem of International Order and How to Think About It" *The Monist* (April 2006) Volume 89, Number 2, pp. 207-232.

### **2. Consequences of Anarchy (2/4)**

John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York: W.W. Norton), Chapter 2, pp. 29-54.

Steven R. Ratner, "International Law: The Trials of Global Norms," *Foreign Policy* No. 110 (Spring 1998), pp.65-79.

### **3. Strategic Interaction (2/9-2/11)**

David A. Lake, "Escape from the State of Nature: Authority and Hierarchy in World Politics," *International Security* 32:1 (Summer 2007), pp. 47-79.

Arthur A. Stein, *Why Nations Cooperate: Circumstance and Choice in International Relations* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1990), pp.3-20.

Arthur A. Stein, "Coordination and Collaboration: Regimes in an Anarchic World," *International Organization*, Volume 36, Number 2, pp. 299-324.

-----February 16: No Class (President's Day) -----

### **III. The Environment: Collective Action in an Anarchic World (February 18, 23, 25, & March 2)**

Topics: Environmental Degradation: Climate Change, Ozone Depletion and Acid Rain  
Public Goods and Free Riding  
Intergenerational Transfers and Equity  
International Institutions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Distribute Memo 1 Assignment (February 18)</b></li></ul>
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#### **1. Environmental Problems (2/18)**

Mark Seis. "Regulating the Atmospheric Commons." In Michael T. Snarr and D. Neil Snarr, Editors, *Introducing Global Issues*. (Boulder: Lynn Reiner Publishers, 2008), pp. 265-286.

Michele Betsill and Roger A. Pielke. "Blurring the Boundaries: Domestic and International Ozone Politics and Lessons for Climate Change." *International Environmental Affairs*, 10(3): 147-172

#### **2. Public Goods (2/23) & Equity Challenges (2/25)**

Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1990), Chapter 1, pp. 1-28.

Todd Sandler, *Global Challenges: An Approach to Environmental, Political, and Economic Problems* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997), pp. 23-51 and 99-129.

#### **3. International Solutions (3/2)**

Marc A. Levy, "International Co -operation to Combat Acid Rain," in Helge Ole Bergesen, Georg Parmann, and Øystein B. Thommessen (eds.), *Green Globe Yearbook of International Co -operation on Environment and Development 1995* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 59– 68.

Ruth Greenspan Bell, "What to do About Climate Change", *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2006).

David Victor. "Toward Effective International Cooperation on Climate Change: Numbers, Interests and Institutions". *Global Environmental Policy* 6(August 2006): 90-103.

### **IV. International Trade: Distributional Implications and Foreign Policy (March 4, 9, 11, 16, 18.)**

Topics: NAFTA (and WTO)

Comparative Advantage and the Welfare Gains from Trade

Winners and Losers in International Exchange

The Politics of Protection

- ***Memo 1 Due in Class (March 4)***
- ***Distribute Memo 2 Assignment (March 4)***
- ***Memo 2 Assignment Due (March 18)***
- ***Distribute Materials for Briefing (March 18)***

### **1. Patterns of Trade (March 4, 9)**

Anne O. Krueger. "NAFTA's Effects: A Preliminary Assessment." *The World Economy* 23(June 2000): 761-775

Peter Sutherland, John Sewell and David Weiner. "Challenges Facing the WTO and Policies to Address Global Governance," in *The Role of the World Trade Organization in Global Governance*, edited by Gary P. Sampson (New York: United Nations Press 2001), pp. 81-111.

### **2. Comparative Advantage and Protectionism (March 11, 16)**

Cletus C. Coughlin, K. Alec Chrystal, and Geoffrey E. Wood, "Protectionist Trade Policies: A Survey of Theory, Evidence, and Rationale," in Jeffry A. Frieden and David A. Lake, eds., *International Political Economy* (New York: St. Martin's Press 1995), pp.323-38.

Ronald Rogowski, *Commerce and Coalitions: How Trade Affects Domestic Political Alignments* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989), pp.3-20.

Frank Ackerman. "Can Openers and Comparative Advantage: Alternative Theories of Free Trade and Globalization." Transcript of talk given at the Environment Forum of the People's Summit in Quebec, April 17, 2001.

### **3. Trade and Wages (March 18)**

Paul Krugman, "Competitiveness: A Dangerous Obsession," in *Pop Internationalism* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1997), 3-23.

Ethan B. Kapstein, "Workers and the World Economy," *Foreign Affairs* 75 (May/June 1996), 16-37.

Paul Krugman, "Trade, Jobs, and Wages," in *Pop Internationalism* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1997), 35-48.

Pankaj Ghemawat, "Why the World Isn't Flat," *Foreign Policy*, March/April 2007, pp. 54-60.

-----Spring Break: March 21-29-----

## **V. War: Information, Commitment, and Conflict (March 30, April 1, 6, 8)**

Topics: Patterns of War: Persian Gulf and Somalia

Theories of War

Private Information with Incentives to Misrepresent

Problems of Credible Commitment

Democratic Peace

Domestic Politics, Public Opinion and War

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Tentative Briefing Schedule: April 8-9, 4:00-6:30 p.m.; location TBD</i></b></li></ul>
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### **1. Operation Desert Storm (Persian Gulf War) & Operation Restore Hope (Somalia) (3/30)**

Michael R. Gordon and Bernard E. Trainor. *The General's War: The Inside Story of the Conflict in the Gulf*, Boston, MA: Back Bay Books, Chapters 1 ("War by Miscalculation") and 2 ("Drawing the Line"), pp. 3-53.

Nora Bensahel, "Humanitarian Relief and National Building in Somalia." In *The United States and Coercive Diplomacy*, edited by Robert J. Art and Patrick M. Cronin (Washington D.C.: U.S. Institute of Peace, 2003), Chapter 2, pp. 21-56.

### **2. Traditional Theories of War (4/1)**

Jack S. Levy. "The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace," *Annual Review of Political Science*. 1:139-165.

William Graham Sumner, *War and Other Essays*, "Essays of William Graham Sumner: War [excerpt]", edited by Albert Galloway Keller (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1911), pp. 3, 9-11, 28-40.

Barbara Tuchman, *The Guns of August* (New York: Macmillan Company, 1962), pp. 71-75.

Irving Janis, *Victims of Groupthink: A Psychological Study of Foreign-Policy Decisions and Fiascoes* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1972), pp. 2-3, 9-15, 36-43, 48-49.

Michael Howard, *The Causes of War*, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1984), pp. 9-22.

Johan Galtung, "A Structural Theory of Imperialism [excerpt]", *Journal of Peace Research*, 8(2), pp. 81-85.

Kenneth Boulding, "National Images and International Systems [excerpt]", *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 3(2), pp. 120-125.

Michael Klare, "Redefining Security: The New Global Schisms", *Current History*, November 1996, pp. 353-358.

## **2. Rationalist Theories of War (4/6)**

David A. Lake and Donald Rothchild, "Containing Fear: The Origins and Management of Ethnic Conflict," *International Security* 21 (Fall 1996), pp.41-75.

Monica Duffy Toft, "Issue Indivisibility and Time Horizons as Rationalist Explanations for War" *Security Studies* 15:1: 34-69.

## **2. Domestic Politics and War (4/8)**

Bruce Russett. *Grasping the Democratic Peace: Principles for a Post-Cold War World*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993), Chapters 1-2, pp. 3-42.

Matthew A. Baum and Philip B. K. Potter. The Relationship Between Mass Media, Public Opinion and Foreign Policy: Toward a Theoretical Synthesis. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 11(2008): 39-66.

## **VII. Conclusion (April 13)**

<b>Final Exam in Class (April 15)</b>
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