PURPOSE
This course is intended as a survey of international politics since 1945 with particular focus on the period following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. Special attention will be paid to three themes currently occupying both public policy and scholarly discourse on the nature and future of international politics-- understanding international conflicts, the “clash of civilizations,” and the role of the U.S. in foreign affairs. These issues are theoretically interpreted as structural, cultural, and economistic explanations of international political behavior. Cases will be drawn worldwide although the Arab/Islamic world will receive particular attention given the importance of the “Arab Spring” that has ushered in a potentially revolutionary and conflictual transformation of the Middle East and North Africa.

READINGS (All available for purchase at university book shop)


The New York Times, daily and weekend (international news)

EXAMINATIONS AND QUIZZES

There will be four (4) take home essay-type examinations covering the readings due for this course, each valued at 20%. There will also be a quiz a week (n=4) on New York Times international coverage valued at 20% (5% each).

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Daily class attendance is required with excuses permitted only with the prior approval of the professor communicated via email (preferred), in-person, telephone/voice message, or mailbox.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS (Provisional and subject to change)

May 31 (Tues) - Introduction
June 1 (Wed) - Nye/Welch
June 2 (Thurs) – Nye/Welch
June 6,7,8 (M,T,W) – Nye/Welch
June 9 (Thurs) – EXAM #1
June 13, 14, 15 (M, T, W) – Stoessinger
June 16 (Thurs) – EXAM #2
June 20, 21, 22 (M, T, W) – Huntington
June 23 – EXAM #3
June 27, 28, 29 (M, T, W) – Nye
June 30 (Thurs) – EXAM #4