

THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STUDIES

CAMBRIDGE

GEOPOLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Course Description

This seminar examines post Cold War international politics in the light of the rising tide of ethnicity, radical nationalism and religious fervor. The implications for order/disorder will be approached in the context of the passing of a bipolar system and the arrival of a multipolar and multinuclear world. Since international law is adapting to the priorities of a new generation considerable attention will be given to the implications of the NATO action against Serbia and the causes and consequences of transnational terrorism since September 2001.

The role of the UN, the International Criminal Tribunal, the OCSE, NATO and the EU in peace keeping and peace enforcement will be discussed in relation to specific case studies. The position of the USA as the principal contributor to international peace and security will be discussed in relation to the recent military action against Iraq.

Lecture List

- Week 1
- Lecture The strategic environment in the 21st. century
- Seminar Can American be an effective unipolar power?
- Week 2
- Lecture The pursuit of a new law of humanitarian intervention
- Seminar How can state sovereignty and self-determination be reconciled?
- Week 3
- Lecture The changing role of international law in world politics
- Seminar The end of classical interpretations of international law
- Week 4
- Lecture The Rise of trans-national terrorism
- Seminar What can be done and by whom to deal with global terrorism?
- Week 5
- Lecture The fragmentation of the Islamic World
- Seminar Can Arab and Islamic states be reformed?
- Week 6
- Lecture The role of security institutions
- Seminar What is the role of NATO and the “Coalitions of the Willing” in dealing with international and intra-state conflicts?
- Week 7
- Lecture Towards superpower Europe?
- Seminar What is the future of the European Union: integration or fragmentation?

- Week 8
- Lecture Geopolitics: Russia, China, India, Japan and Germany
- Seminar Who will be the new hegemons?
- Week 9
- Lecture Collapsing states and state building: Iraq and Afghanistan etc.
- Seminar What can be done and by whom to achieve state transformation?
- Week 10
- Lecture The rise of rogue states and the threat of WMD and missile attack
- Seminar Arms control or pre-emption?
- Week 11
- Lecture The maintenance of international order: the next twenty years
- Seminar What is the proper balance between the use of soft and hard power?
- Week 12
- Final papers

Reading List

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Bobbitt, Philip | The Shield Of Achilles |
| Butler, Richard | The Greatest Threat |
| Catherwood, Christopher | Why the Nations Rage |
| Cooper, Robert | The Breaking of Nations |
| Emmott, Bill | 20:21 Vision |
| | The Lessons of the 20 th Century for the 21st |
| Kagan, R. | Paradise and Power |
| Kennedy, Paul | Preparing for the 21 st . Century |
| Malanczuk, Peter | Akehurst's Modern Introduction to International Law |
| Nye, Joseph | Bound to Lead: the Changing Nature of American Power |
| Shawcross, William | Allies |
| Shaw, Malcolm | International Law |
| Williams, G.L. | International Terrorism and the Failure of the International Response |
| Williams, G.L. & Jones B.J. | NATO and the Transatlantic Alliance in the 21 st . Century: the Twenty Year Crisis |

The Economist
Quality newspapers

Methods of Assessment

- Seminar discussion
- Two essays of at least 2500 words
- The first to be submitted at the end of week 5
- The second at the end of week 12

Note: If enrolment for this particular course is too low for it to be held as a two hour seminar with two required essays per semester it may be possible to run it as a one hour supervision with three essays per semester.