

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Terms and concepts to know:

International relations	Hypotheses
War and conflict	Generalizations
International actors	Theory
International economics	Empirical theories
Wealth distribution	Normative theories
Globalization	Levels of analysis
Global environment	Individual level of analysis
International relations theory	State level of analysis
Concepts	System level of analysis

Study and discussion questions:

1. How has politics been affected by the expansion of force, through technological change, and its dispersion?
2. How has world politics been affected by changes in capitalism?
3. Is there any plausible sense in which progress has taken place in international relations, and if so, is this progress due to intellectual or moral advances in human thinking?
4. What is the impact on world politics of the increasing diversity and complexity of social structures in the most powerful societies of the world?
5. What are the implications of electronic technologies, especially of the Internet, for world politics?
6. What modes of action can effectively cope with the unprecedented stress that human beings are imposing on the global environment?
7. Briefly describe Walt's "5 Big Questions" about contemporary world politics. Of the five, which one do you think is most important and how would you answer it?
8. Explain what Chipaike means by African agency in international relations. Why does he believe this agency is left out of most contemporary Western explanations of I.R.?
9. Well, supposedly according to the "experts," 2034 ain't lookin' too good! But what do the experts know – they're usually wrong about everything. No matter. Take a good look at some of their predictions and feel free to comment on what you think seems important to focus in on over the next decade.

Readings:

Text. *Conflict and Cooperation*, Chapter 1.

Video:

Remaking the Middle East: The U.S., Israel, and Iran.