

University of California, San Diego
Professor John Stoessinger
Spring 2007
PS 154

CRISIS AREAS IN WORLD POLITICS

This course will examine the most critical areas in contemporary world politics. While the emphasis will be placed on American involvement in each crisis, an effort will also be made to acquaint the student with its historical and political background. Students are required to read each weekly assignment before class in order to allow meaningful dialogue after the lecture. There will be a midterm and a final exam.

TOPIC 1 LOOKING INTO THE ABYSS: THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

April 3 READINGS: *Robert F. Kennedy, Thirteen Days. *Entire Book*.
*John G. Stoessinger, Nations at Dawn. Sixth Edition,
Chapter 12

TOPIC 2 THE WAR AGAINST TERROR: SADDAM HUSSEIN, OSAMA BIN LADEN, & THEIR LEGACIES

April 10 READINGS: *John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War, Tenth Edition, Chapters 8, 9.
*Paul Pillar, "Intelligence, Policy, and the War in Iraq," Foreign Affairs, March/April 2006

TOPIC 3 THE HOLOCAUST: REFLECTIONS ON GERMANY'S PAST AND FUTURE

April 17 READINGS: *Thomas Keneally, Schindler's List. *Entire Book*.
*John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War, Tenth Edition, Chapters 1, 2 and Epilogue

TOPIC 4 THE MIDDLE EAST: THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

April 24 READINGS: *John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War, Tenth Edition, Chapter 7

May 1, MIDTERM EXAM

May 8

READINGS: *Stoessinger, Nations at Dawn. Sixth Edition, Chapter 8-11, 13
 *George F. Kennan, "Communism in Russian History," Foreign Affairs, Winter 90/91
 *Marshall I. Goldman, "Putin and the Oligarchs," Foreign Affairs, Nov/Dec 2004

May 15

READINGS: *John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War, Tenth Edition, Chapters 3.
*Stoessinger, Nations at Dawn, Sixth Edition, Chapters 1-7, 15, 16
*Andrew Nathan, "The Tiananmen Papers," Foreign Affairs, Jan/Feb 2001

May 22

READINGS: *Alan Kuperman, "Rwanda in Retrospect," Foreign Affairs, Jan/Feb 2000.
* "Terrorist Threat in Africa," Foreign Affairs, March/April 2004

May 29

READINGS: *Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War. Ninth Edition, Chapters 5, 6
*Gary J. Bass, "Milosevic at the Hague," Foreign Affairs, June 2003

June 5

READINGS: *Stanley Meisler, The United Nations: The First Fifty Years. *Entire Book*.
*Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War, Tenth Edition, Chapter 10
*Harold S. Kushner, When Bad Things Happen to Good People, Avon Paperback. *Entire Book*.

June 11, FINAL EXAM
7:00-10:00pm