

# Graduate Course Syllabus

**COURSE:** SOCS 5030.03 Contemporary World Affairs

***CROSS LISTED WITH:*** Balkans INTL 5600 AREA STUDIES

**ST. LOUIS:** SPRING 2, 2003

## **THE INSTRUCTORS**

**Name:** Dr Peter van Krieken

**Availability:** After class.

**Home Phone:**

**Office Phone:**

**Fax:**

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### ***About the instructor***

Dr. Peter van Krieken (with his wide experience in the Balkans [UNHCR, OSCE, EU/EC] and the necessary background in refugees, war crimes, the UN, Kosovo and Dayton) will be your guide.

Dr. Van Krieken has had a long and distinguished career in diplomacy and refugee work. He earned his Ph.D. in International Law from the University of Groningen in 1976. As an international civil servant with of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for more than 16 years, he has served in Geneva, Stockholm, Peshawar, Juba (South Sudan), Beirut, Addis Ababa and Zirndorf (FRG). From 1983-1987 he headed Stichting Vluchteling in the Hague, a leading Dutch refugee organization. Apart from lecturing at Webster, he serves as a special advisor with the Netherlands Ministry of Justice, and is member of the academic advisory council of the IOM (International Organization for Migration).

He has a long list of publications to his credit on such subjects as asylum law, torture, hijacking, statelessness, family reunification, migration, health, terrorism and repatriation (see e.g. amazon.com under peter j. van krieken).

Van Krieken has been with Webster Leiden since 1996 and during Spring 2001 he lectured at Webster St. Louis as a visiting professor (to be repeated Spring 2003). He is also actively involved with the Netherlands School of Public Health.

His latest book *Terrorism and the International Legal Order* has been widely acclaimed. It, of course, also touches upon human rights issues.

### ***Other Speakers***

to be announced

## **THE COURSE**

***Course Definition (source: Webster University Undergraduate Catalogue)***

### ***This Course Fulfills the Following Requirements***

The students will finally be able to look through the labyrinth of rights, duties and responsibilities; they will appreciate the use and abuse of international law; they will understand the workings of the UN; they will be able to put the 'news' (Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, Kyoto, NAFTA, UN, Rights of the Child, etcetera) in context.

### ***Course Content***

What have been the results of 15 years of strife:  
a new mosaic, new power balances, scars and frustrations,  
or just more of the same?

Questions to be dealt with during this course are:

- are the Europeans able to look after their own backgarden  
or will they continue to need their U.S. allies
- have the lessons of the Ottoman Empire been learned
- are the Balkans an illustration to the idea of a clash of civilizations
- should the European Union be extended to include all Balkan countries
- has Kosovo a future beyond that of a UN-protectorate
- now that Milosevic is facing the ICTY prosecutors,  
will the ICC be given a fair chance
- does nationalism always yield disaster
- international law, human rights and humanitarian law: useless or of some relevance ?

### ***Incoming Competency (Also See Course Definition Above)***

Common sense, a healthy interest in international developments and learning  
Eagerness to finally understand the ins and outs, the pros and cons of international law & politics.

### ***What Students Will Learn During the Course***

- some history
- the context of the Balkan conflict in the wider field of international relations and politics
- the difference between human rights and humanitarian law and their relation with international law
- the difference between the various actors, the impact, the consequences
- the future of the EU (with or without the Balkans, with or without Turkey, Cyprus)
- the Habsburg & Ottoman empires: a clash of civilizations to be repeated ?

### ***Required Reading Material***

Every week: The Economist

Every day: St. Louis Post

+ Reader

+ Misha GLENNY, The Balkans: Nationalism, War & the Great Powers, 1804-1999  
(Penguin, USA, max \$ 20)

### ***Required Material***

### ***Recommended Reading Material***

## **ACADEMIC POLICIES**

### **Webster University's Under-Graduate Grading System:**

**Letter grades mean that in the opinion of the instructor the work was:**

A (4.0), A- (3.67):	Superior
B+ (3.33), B (3.0), B- (2.67):	Good
C+ (2.33), C (2.0), C- (1.67):	Satisfactory
D+ (1.33), D (1.0):	Passing, but less than satisfactory
F (0.0)	Unsatisfactory. No credit is granted

### **Other Designations**

W:	The student withdrew from the course
Z:	Instructor has not yet submitted the final grade

### ***Attendance, Participation, Assignments***

Students and auditors are required to attend all classes and participate actively. Their grade will partly reflect this. It is usually appropriate for class participation to account for roughly 20% of the grade. Auditors do not receive academic credit, but participate in all other classroom work. All classes include assignments (such as presentations or papers). Students must report to the instructor all assistance they received and all sources they used in carrying out their assignments. Otherwise they will fail the course and may face other penalties as well.

**PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is using another person's words or ideas without telling the reader. This applies to books, articles, but also to sources from the internet, or copying work from your fellow students. Those who are discovered cheating or plagiarizing will normally receive a failing grade for the entire course and may even be subject to dismissal. Please don't fall into this trap, make proper references in your work and include a bibliography in all your papers (for more information, see the Student Handbook on our website). Please respect your sources, your audience and yourself

**The Instructors Will Evaluate the Student's Work as Follows:**

Description:	Percentage:
attendance + participation	20%
Exam (obligatory, last week)	40%
Paper (to be submitted 7th of May at the latest)	40%

Students and Instructors will be asked to evaluate the course in a form handed out during the last lesson.

The first session of a course is very important and should not be missed. Therefore, in accordance with Student Guidelines on Attendance, the instructor can request that students who miss the first class without valid reason, and without having obtained permission beforehand, be dropped from the course.

For this course, the instructor has requested that this rule is in principle enforced: Yes  / No

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Homework, subjects to be dealt with in the lesson, assignments, presentations, and examinations

<b>Date:</b>	March 19, 2003	<b>Time:</b>	18:00 – 22:00
<b>Lesson 1</b>	The Balkan today: an overview		
<b>Prepare for this session</b>	Glenny		

<b>Date:</b>	March 26, 2003	<b>Time:</b>	18:00 – 22:00
<b>Lesson 2</b>	Habsburg and Ottoman empires		
<b>Prepare for this session</b>	Glenny and the F.A. article by Huntington on the clash of civilizations		

<b>Date:</b>	April 2, 2003	<b>Time:</b>	18:00 – 22:00
<b>Lesson 3</b>	War and Peace		
<b>Prepare for this session</b>	WW I, WW II, recent & future Balkan wars		

<b>Date:</b>	April 9, 2003	<b>Time:</b>	18:00 – 22:00
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<b>Prepare for this session</b>	To be announced
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<b>Date:</b>	April 16, 2003	<b>Time:</b>	18:00 – 22:00
<b>Lesson 5</b>	International law, the Yugoslavia Tribunal and the ICC		
<b>Prepare for this session</b>	To be announced		

<b>Date:</b>	April 23, 2003	<b>Time:</b>	18:00 – 22:00
<b>Lesson 6</b>	Turkey's future (Cyprus, the EU and beyond)		
<b>Prepare for this session</b>			

<b>Date:</b>	April 29, 2003	<b>Time:</b>	18:00 – 22:00
<b>Lesson 7</b>	Some specific Balkan features + movie		
<b>Prepare for this session</b>			

<b>Date:</b>	May 7, 2003	<b>Time:</b>	18:00 – 22:00
<b>Lesson 8</b>	e x a m		
<b>Prepare for this session</b>	Books, handouts ('reader'), notes, etc.		

**Additional Information On TheCourse:**