

Introduction to International Relations

Instructor Information:

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3PM or by appointment

Course Information:

POLS 260
TR 10:00-11:15AM
Brooks 151
Spring 2015

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as a survey course in a number of important topics concerning the study of international relations. The material covered in this class will come from the two main fields of international relations: international conflict and international cooperation. The objectives of this course are twofold: First, a better understanding of the international relations field will enable you to be a more informed global citizen. Second, you will have the basic knowledge needed to advance and succeed in upper level international relations courses. The main goals of this course are to provide students with sufficient information that will enable them to be more critical of the international interactions in the world around them. This course fulfills Objective 4 (Contemporary Society) or Objective 8 (Western Culture) of the GEC.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Heywood, Andrew. 2014. *Global Politics*. Second edition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exams: There will be three exams given throughout the semester. These exams will cover all material (lecture, readings, films, guest lectures, etc.) through the dates listed below. The exams will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Each exam will be worth 25% of the course grade (total=75% of the course grade). The exam schedule for this class is listed below:

Exam One: February 12
Exam Two: March 19
Exam Three: Tuesday, May 5 7-9PM (finals week)

Make-up examinations are given only with **prior** instructor approval (unless in a true emergency) and with appropriate documentation. Note that the documentation must indicate why you could not be in class *at the exact time of the test*. Failure to take any exam will result in a failing grade for the entire course; a passing grade requires completion of all course requirements.

Reading Quizzes: In this class, I will be utilizing monte carlo quizzes. At some point in each class period, a student will roll a standard six-sided die. If it lands on an even number, there will be a quiz on that day's readings. If it lands on an odd number, no quiz is given. The student will roll the die a second time to find out which of the six pre-assigned questions the students will have to answer. These are closed book quizzes, so please be prepared.

- 1) Knowledge: Describe the major thesis, the central idea or set of ideas in the reading.
- 2) Comparison: Identify two concepts or principles presented in the chapter or article and, when you mention each, underline and define it. Then, show how the concepts or principles in some way(s) are both similar to and different from one another.
- 3) Application: Select a concept or principle in the chapter or article, clearly define or describe it, and then indicate how it applies to you or someone you know. Provide sufficient details to justify convincingly that the concept or principle indeed applies as you suggest.
- 4) Critique: Write a critical perspective on some aspect of the chapter or article, citing evidence that prompts you to agree or disagree with the author's perspective.
- 5) Passion: Citing page number(s), quote verbatim a statement or brief passage that elicits in you some type of emotional response. Then identify your emotional response, describe the meaning(s) that the statement or passage has for you, and provide actual or possible reasons for your response.
- 6) Student's Choice: Answer any of the above five questions.

There will be no makeup quizzes. This part of the course grade is worth 25%.

Grade Calculations for POLS 260:

Exam One	25%
Exam Two	25%
Exam Three	25%
Quiz Average	25%
Total	100%

Social Justice Statement: The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. All students must treat both the instructor and the other students with respect. This includes showing respect for alternative opinions and points of view, listening when either the instructor or a fellow student is speaking to the class, and refraining from insulting language and gestures.

Classroom Policy: Also, all students must treat the classroom setting with respect. This includes arriving on time and staying for the entire class (or notifying the instructor in advance if this will not be possible), turning off cell phones and similar devices during class as well as putting them out of sight (for example, in a bookbag or purse), and refraining from reading, talking with friends, and any other potentially disruptive activities.

Adverse Weather Statement: In the event of inclement or threatening weather, everyone should use his or her best judgment regarding travel to and from campus. Safety should be the main concern. If you cannot get to class because of adverse weather conditions, you should contact me as soon as possible. Similarly, if I am unable to reach our class location, I will notify you of any cancellation or change as soon as possible (by 8AM on the class day, at the latest), using email and the Remind app to prevent you from embarking on any unnecessary travel. If you cannot get to class because of weather conditions, I will make allowances regarding quizzes, etc.

The Remind app works in such a way that I can send you a text that will protect both my phone number and your phone number. You can sign up by texting “@pols26” to 81010 OR at <https://www.remind.com/join/pols260>. If you have any questions, please refer to www.remind.com.

Grade Scale:

- A** 90-100%
- B** 80-89%
- C** 70-79%
- D** 60-69%
- F** 0-59%

Students are asked to keep an extra copy of each assignment until the instructor has returned the graded copy of that assignment. Students are also required to keep graded, returned copies of all exams and quizzes. Failure to do so will invalidate any potential question or protest about assignment or course grades.

Reading Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
1/13	Intro to Class	None
1/15	Concepts in IR	Ch. 1
1/20	Origins of IR	Ch. 2
1/22	Realism	pages 54-64
1/27	Liberalism	pages 65-70
1/29	Alternative Approaches	pages 71-83
2/3	Statehood	pages 115-129
2/5	Foreign Policymaking	pages 129-140

2/10	Nationalism	Ch. 7
2/12	EXAM ONE	
2/17	No Class—ISA Meeting	
2/19	No Class—ISA Meeting	
2/24	Challenges to Peace	Ch. 8
2/26	Understanding Power	Ch. 9
3/3	Understanding War	Ch. 10
3/5	Terrorism and State Responses	Ch. 12
3/10	Russia's Position in the World	TBA
3/12	International Law	Ch. 14
3/17	Human Rights	Ch. 13
3/19	EXAM TWO	
3/24	No Class—Spring Break	
3/26	No Class—Spring Break	
3/31	The Global Economy	Ch. 4
4/2	The Global Society	Ch. 6
4/7	Bretton Woods	Ch. 19
4/9	2008 Global Financial Crisis	TBA
4/14	Poverty and Development	Ch. 15
4/16	NO CLASS—MPSA Meeting	
4/21	International Organizations	Ch. 18
4/23	Regionalism	Ch. 20
4/28	Gender Issues	Ch. 17
4/30	Climate Change	Ch. 16
5/5	EXAM THREE, 7-9PM	