



POLS 3653 International Relations
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
CRN 12311 Section 101
Fall 2020, TR 11-12:20pm, PY 200

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Course Description

This course introduces you to the field of international relations and the major theoretical approaches, actors, and topics in global politics. There are three major paradigms that we will examine: realism, liberal idealism, and constructivism, along with some sub-paradigms including Democratic Peace Theory, feminist IR theory, and liberal institutionalism. We also look at the actors in international relations—states, the state system, non-state actors, international organizations, regimes, and transnational actors. We then consider the topics of foreign policy, that is, states' pursuit of their national interest in the international system and the issue of decision making in foreign policy. After the mid-term exam, we examine critical issues in international relations such as: terrorism, cybersecurity, human rights and humanitarian intervention, and environmental threats. **The syllabus provides a general plan for the course; changes may be necessary. Any changes made will be announced in class and posted to D2L.**

Learning Objectives

- To understand the main theoretical frameworks used by scholars, students and practitioners of international relations;
- To identify the actors, institutions, and processes at work within the international political system
- To examine the traditional and contemporary debates in the field of international relations, foreign policy, and transnational politics;
- To enhance your analytic, problem-solving, and communication skillsets by critically reading, and writing several critical analysis policy briefs
- To become an informed global citizen with a solid foundation for more advanced studies in international affairs

Required Textbook & Instructional Materials

- *Classics of International Relations*, by John Vasquez, 3rd Edition, Prentice Hall Publishing, ISBN: 0-13-146648-8, available at MSU bookstore, or rent from Amazon for \$11.06
- *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, by Jeffrey A. Frieden and David A. Lake, 4th edition, Norton Publishers, ISBN: 978-0393675092; available at MSU bookstore, or rent from Amazon for \$22.13
- Additional readings, which will be posted to D2L in PDF form

- Students are expected to follow international news through such sources as [The Washington Post](#), [The New York Times](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#), the BBC World News, etc.. You may use this material for class discussions

Student Handbook

Refer to: [2019-2020 MSU Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Copying your own work from another class is also considered cheating because it is self-plagiarism. All work submitted for this course must be your own original work, or the sources must be cited appropriately. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Electronic Devices:

Laptop computers and tablets are allowed for the purposes of taking notes and completing in-class assignments. Cellphone use is prohibited unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. Please mute all electronic devices before coming into class.

Many assignments in this course will be conducted in D2L. Tests and exams will utilize the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor for testing. In order to install these programs, you will need the following:

- A desktop computer or laptop other than a Chromebook. NOTE: Chromebooks are not compatible with the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor.
- Apple iPads may be used for quizzes and exams, but these are not advised for any assignment with a written component.
- Mobile phones and similar devices are not compatible with the required programs.
- A working webcam on the computing device used for the exam.
- Microsoft Office or a compatible program for written assignments. Access to Microsoft Office 365 available through the Office 365 for Students on the Microsoft website.

Please note: a limited number of webcams and laptops with cameras are available for check-out through the MSU Texas Moffett Library.

Office Hours:

Normally, office hours are an open invitation to walk into my office without appointment and discuss with me anything of concern related to the course. Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, I will hold virtual office hours this term. See the top of the syllabus for my generally available times. I will schedule a virtual Zoom appointment with you we can talk, but also stay healthy with use of social distancing.

Communication:

The best way to reach me is by email. I will make all attempts to answer emails within 48 business hours unless it is over a holiday break. You must check your email listed as the primary account in your Banner information, as I will use this address to communicate with you outside of class. I will use D2L for posting syllabi, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and gradebook. There may be some online office hours announced through D2L, if they vary from the office hours posted above. You should regularly check D2L and the email hosted via D2L for important course information.

Attendance Policy:

This course has been planned as a fully face-to-face course for Fall 2020. As such, face masks are required to be worn in class at all times, per university policy. The class will meet in its regularly scheduled room but will utilize

social distancing and an assigned seating chart. When the university transitions to fully online after Thanksgiving we will review during the last week of class and hold our finals virtually. In the event of increased incidence and risk of COVID-19 that results in the university moving back to a shelter-in-place mode, the course instruction will transition to fully online. More instructions will be given at that time.

I will randomly check class attendance and participation on the Instagram groups at 10 timepoints during the term. If you are out on that day of class, or do not show discussion activity in Instagram, and do not have a permitted absence, it will be marked against your attendance grade. **FOR ONLINE COURSES: Attendance also means regular participation by logging into D2L multiple times a week. You are also responsible for checking your MSU email each weekday. Failure to login and complete D2L assigned work regularly will result in a lower or failing attendance score.**

Disability Accommodations:

Any student having an education disability plan on file with the university needs to inform me within the first week of the class so I can make the appropriate arrangements to accommodate your situation. In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Clery Act Notification:

Sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature; sex or gender discrimination violate University policies. Any person experiencing such behavior may receive confidential support from the Counseling Center. Counseling Center staff will hold what you share in strict confidence. If you disclose sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex or gender discrimination occurring on campus, in a University-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) to me, I as the instructor of this course am required to forward such information to the MSU Title IX office. This should not prevent you from speaking to me should you wish to do so, but know that what you tell me in this area cannot be held confidential, but must be shared with the Title IX office.

Grading

There are five graded requirements for the course that will be the basis for assessing student performance:

1. Beginning of course and end of course essays (10 points total/5 each):
 - Beginning of course essay: Minimum of 400 words. The start of the semester essay is due by the end of the first week of class. The purpose of this essay is to gauge the student's expectations of this course and what they hope to learn and to understand.
 - End of semester essay: Minimum of 400 words, and due before the final exam in the last week of the course. Students should reflect on the semester and talk about what they have learned throughout this course, including what fascinated the most, what they wish they could have learned more about, and how this course helped them.
2. Attendance and Participation (20 points):

Your attendance grade is based upon participation in class and in an Instagram discussion group, which functions through a private account I have created for this class.

 - Discussion Questions: You will be assigned to a student discussion group at the beginning of the term- either a "Tuesday" or "Thursday" group. Your group can discuss the readings leading up to the next class, to determine what area you find most interesting or confusing in the reading. For your assigned day of the week, your group will create 2-3 class discussion questions due by

11:59pm on the night before your day’s class (the Tuesday group has to submit their question by 11:59PM on Monday night). The discussion questions must be posted to the discussion board for your group on D2L for the course by 11:59pm on the day before class meets. I will randomly choose dates or “classes” on the Instagram discussion board to check for your participation in talking with your group and submitting question ideas. I will explain more about how this works during the first class.

3. Reading Quizzes (10 points/2 points each): You have 8 reading quizzes posted in D2L. You can take these open-book, for an unlimited number of times until the deadline. Quizzes have between 10-20 questions each. The lowest 3 quiz grades are dropped.
4. Mid-Term and Final Exams (30 total/15 points each). Designed to test your grasp of the subject matter to date, the examinations will be in a mixed format of multiple choice and long answer questions and will be based on material drawn from all aspects of the course: readings, other posted on-line material, lectures and class discussions.
5. Policy Briefs (30 points total/15 points each). You will choose two case studies on which to submit a policy brief. These must be entirely original and produced for the first time for this course, submitted via a Word doc file in a folder on D2L. ANY plagiarism will result in a zero for this assignment, without exception. I will give more details in class and on D2L for how you will prepare this brief. Policy Brief 1 is Due **Monday, October 26**, and Policy Brief 2 must be submitted by **Friday, November 20**.

Assignments	Points
Beginning/end of course essays (5 points each)	10
Participation & Discussion group	20
Reading Quizzes	10
Midterm Exam	15
Final Exam	15
Policy Brief Papers (15 points each)	30
Total	100

Grading Scale:

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Less than 60

Policy on Missed Work

There will be no makeup for attendance, discussion questions, reading quizzes, or policy brief. Makeup credit for exams will only be given in cases of legitimate and documented emergencies such as doctors excuses, college coach-provided travel schedules, or legal court attendance. Do not miss an exam unless there is a real emergency. All makeup work must be requested by email within 7 days of the regular due date. If you do not request makeup work within 7 days, I assume that you do not want to submit it. My recommendation is that you avoid having to make-up work as much as possible and if you have special circumstances, contact me immediately!

Last Day to drop with a grade of “W:”

Please note, the semester’s midpoint is **December 4, 2020 at 4:00pm**. This is the last Day for “W”. Students can **withdraw from the class up to this point and** receive a W for the class. However, there is a limited number of W’s a student can receive over their academic career. **Drops after this date will receive grades of**

“F.” If you intend to withdraw from a course, you must do so yourself. If you are still on the roll when I have to assign grades and you haven’t done any passing work, then you will fail. So, if you intend to drop, please make sure you do so in time. Also note, after the first few days of the semester, I have to report to the university whether students have participated at least once. If you have never attended this class when I have to submit my report to the university, it is possible that the university will drop you from the course, potentially impacting your academic record and financial assistance.

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L platform is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this learning platform as it provides a primary source of submitting assignments and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Class Behavior Policies

In order to make this a successful class, it is important that we create an environment where everyone has an opportunity to learn. **This includes in-person and online classes.** To this end, you should know that the university policy on disruptive behavior in class applies. Disruptive class behavior for this purpose is defined by the instructor. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, verbal or physical threats, repeated obscenities, unreasonable interference with class discussion, making/receiving personal phone calls or pages (text messaging) during class, wearing of headphones/earbuds in class, leaving and entering class frequently in the absence of notice to instructor of illness or other extenuating circumstances, and persisting in disruptive personal conversations with other class members. For purposes of this policy, it may also be considered disruptive behavior for a student to exhibit threatening, intimidating, or other inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates outside of class. If your behavior is disruptive to other students or the instructor, this will violate University guidelines, and you will be reported to administrative authorities.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions

under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Course Schedule:

You are expected to complete all readings BEFORE the class date listed. All reading quizzes are due by Friday of each week. *See next page for schedule.*

Course Schedule

Dates	Readings/Assignments/Exams	Assignment Due Date
Tue., Aug. 25 - Course intro	Course Introduction & Levels of Analysis: What are states and what is the system of states? What are the “Levels of Analysis” in International Relations? Course Syllabus and Requirements Review Intro to D2L site and quizzes <i>No assignments due</i>	
Thu., Aug. 27	Components of International System: Read <i>World Politics</i> , Chapter 2 (Interests, Interactions, Institutions), pgs.42-81 <i>Thursday group discussion questions due each Wednesday, before Thursday class, at 11:59PM</i>	Beginning of course essay due Friday, Aug. 28 at 11:59PM
Tue., Sep. 1- Theories of IR	Historical Background & Intro to “Reality” of International Relations: Reading: The Melian Dialogue (on D2L, in Additional Readings folder) <i>Tuesday group discussion questions due each Monday before Tuesday class, at 11:59PM</i>	
Thu., Sep. 3	Political Realism and Neo-Realism Readings from Vasquez: Niccolò Machiavelli, “The Prince,” pp. 15-19 Thomas Hobbes, “Of the Natural Condition of Mankind,” pp. 219-221 Hans Morgenthau, “Political Power: A Realist Theory of International Politics,” pp. 24-27 Ken Waltz, “Theory of International Politics,” pp. 307-313	Reading Quiz 1 due Friday, September 4, 11:59PM
Tue., Sep. 8	Political Idealism Readings from Vasquez, Immanuel Kant, “Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch,” pp. 368-76 Woodrow Wilson, “The World Must be Made Safe for Democracy” and “The 14 Points,” pp. 35-40	
Thu., Sep. 10 –	Explaining Cooperation: The Democratic Peace and “Neo-Liberalism” Readings from Vasquez: Zeev Moaz and Bruce Russett, “Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace 1946-86,” pp. 386-399 Robert Keohane, “After Hegemony,” Chapter 11 (PDF on D2L in Readings folder)	Reading Quiz 2, due Friday, September 11, 11:59PM
Tue., Sep. 15	Constructivism and Feminism: Readings (available on D2L): Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It” D’Anieri excerpt on Constructivism and Feminism (p. 103-117) J.A. Tickner, “Hans Morgenthau’s Principles of Political Realism: A Feminist Reformation” Cythia Enloe, “The Personal is International”	
Thu., Sep. 17 – Key Organizations	Liberal Institutionalism & International Organizations Thomas Risse, “Transnational Governance and Legitimacy”	

Dates	Readings/Assignments/Exams	Assignment Due Date
	Kenneth Abbott and Duncan Snidal, "Why States Act Through Formal International Organizations"	
Tue., Sep. 22	The United Nations System Readings on D2L: Paul D'Anieri, "United Nations" Council on Foreign Relations, "UN Security Council" Read <i>World Politics</i> , Chapter 5 (International Institutions and War), pgs. 214-231	
Thu., Sep. 24	NATO and International Security: Read <i>World Politics</i> , Chapter 5 (International Institutions and War), pgs. 186-213 CFR Article (use link or PDF in D2L folder): Future of NATO	Reading Quiz 3, due Friday, September 25, 11:59PM
Tue., Sep. 29	WHO and Covid-19: (Links also on D2L in module) Article: What does WHO do? Article: Did China Deceive WHO?	
Thu., Oct. 1	MIDTERM EXAM – probably ONLINE, but during class; bring a computer or iPad to lecture classroom to take exam.	Reading Quiz 4, due to 11:59PM on Friday, October 2
Tue., Oct. 6	How to Write a Policy Brief & Foreign Policy and the Pursuit of the National Interest Readings from Vasquez: Graham T. Allison and Morton Halperin, "Bureaucratic Politics: A Paradigm and Some Policy Implications," pp. 172-178 Robert Putnam article (on D2L) – "Two-Level Games"	
Thu., Oct. 8 -- Applying the Theories to Cases	Case: EU and Brexit– Listen to Podcast -- to be posted on D2L Article: Europe's Post-Brexit Future Is Looking Scary Article: How does the EU work? Article: A Global Europe	
Tue., Oct. 13	Case of US and China Relations Article: In U.S.-China Trade War, New Supply Chains Rattle Markets Article: How will Belt and Road Initiative advance China's Interests? https://chinapower.csis.org/china-belt-and-road-initiative/ Article: How the Cold War Between China and U.S. Is Intensifying	
Thu., Oct. 15 – Terrorism and Cyber-Security	Terrorism and Non-State Actors Listen to Podcast – to be posted on D2L Read <i>World Politics</i> , Chapter 6 (Violence by Non-State Actors: Civil War and Terrorism), pgs. 236-293	
Tue., Oct. 20	Cybersecurity – The New Offensive Frontier: Everyone read the following: Introduction to Lucas Kello's book, <i>The Virtual Weapon</i> , pgs. 1-8 only AND	

Dates	Readings/Assignments/Exams	Assignment Due Date
	<p>“Getting beyond Norms: New Approaches to International Cyber Security Challenges,” Special Report by the Centre for International Governance Innovation, 2017 – PDF online. Read pgs. 1-8</p> <p>Then, each group pick one of the following two choices to read and discuss:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Attributing Cyber Attacks”, by Rid & Buchanan, <i>Journal of Strategic Studies</i>, 2015 2. “When Violating the Agreement Becomes Customary Practice” inside the PDF “Getting beyond Norms: New Approaches to International Cyber Security Challenges” 	
<p>Thu., Oct. 22 - International law and Human Rights</p>	<p>International Law: Read <i>World Politics</i>, Chapter 11 (International Law and Norms), pgs. 462-497</p>	<p>Reading Quiz 5 due by 11:59PM on Friday, October 23</p> <p>Policy Brief 1 due by 11:59PM on Monday, October 26</p>
<p>Tue., Oct. 27</p>	<p>Human Rights: Listen to Podcast (includes Digital Human Rights content) – to be posted on D2L Read <i>World Politics</i>, Chapter 12 (Human Rights), pgs. 498-527</p>	
<p>Thu., Oct. 29</p>	<p>Human Rights, Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect: Read <i>World Politics</i>, Chapter 12 (Human Rights), pgs. 528-537 Reading: The United Nations, “The Responsibility to Protect,” (available on D2L)</p>	
<p>Tue., Nov. 3 – International Trade and Development</p>	<p>Read <i>World Politics</i>, Chapter 7, (International Trade), pgs. 294-318; skim rest of chapter</p>	
<p>Thu., Nov. 5</p>	<p>Read <i>World Politics</i>, Chapter 8, (International Financial Relations), pgs. 346-368; skim rest of chapter</p>	<p>Reading Quiz 6 due by Friday, October 30, 11:59PM</p>
<p>Tue., Nov. 10</p>	<p>Read <i>World Politics</i>, Chapter 9, (International Monetary Relations), pgs. 386-409; skim rest of chapter</p>	
<p>Thu., Nov. 12</p>	<p>Read <i>World Politics</i>, Chapter 10 (Development), pgs. 424-444</p>	<p>Reading Quiz 7 due by Friday, November 13, 11:59PM</p>
<p>Tue., Nov. 17</p>	<p>Case: USAID Listen to Podcast - - to be posted on D2L Read article: US Foreign Assistance</p>	

Dates	Readings/Assignments/Exams	Assignment Due Date
	Read article: Which Foreign Aid Programs Read article: Reforming USAID	
Thu., Nov. 19 - Environmental Policy Coordination	Global Environmental Politics and the Challenge of Global Warming: Readings on D2L: Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons,” and Elinor Ostrom, “Revisiting the Commons: Local Lessons, Global Challenges,”	Policy Brief 2 due by 11:59PM on Friday, November 20.
Tues, Nov. 24	***THANKSGIVING BREAK** , begins 10 pm on Tuesday, November 24	
Tue., Dec. 1	Read <i>World Politics</i> , Chapter 13 (The Global Environment), pgs. 540-583	Reading Quiz 8 due by Wednesday, December 2, 11:59PM
Thu., Dec. 3	Foreign Policy as a Career: Council on Foreign Relations Podcast – Global Challenges and the Future of U.S. Diplomacy, with Ambassador Frank G. Wisner https://www.cfr.org/podcasts/global-challenges-and-future-us-diplomacy-ambassador-frank-g-wisner	End of course essay due Friday, Dec. 4 at 11:59PM
Tue., Dec 8	Final Exam	