

Introduction to International Relations – POLS 241

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Office Hours: 9:30-10:30 am TR and by appt

2-135 Wilson

General Overview

In this introductory course we will study the structures, substance, and context of contemporary world politics. We begin by "thinking about how we think" about world politics. What theories or analytic perspectives are used by policy makers and political scientists to understand world politics and consequently, to make policies? How do they differ and what are the consequences of thinking in different ways about world politics? We then proceed to the structure of relationships among states, including: great power rivalry (World Wars I, II and the Cold War); European imperialism and its aftermath; interdependence of economic and security interests; the growing role of non-state actors (i.e. UN, EU, MNCs, ethnic groups).

The next section of the course considers trade, economic development, environmental, and resource management issues. In the final section we take up the classic issues of war and peace, violence, and world order. We will find out what political scientists know about the causes of war and violence, and the prospect for managing violence through the development of international law, diplomacy, and intervention.

Expectations

Attend class regularly, read assignments when due, be prepared to ask and answer questions in class, and participate in class discussion. Lectures are designed to supplement and clarify material presented in the text. I realize that much of what you will read is new to you, and you may find the material a bit overwhelming. Reading it before coming to class, you will be able to get the most out of the lectures, and out of your class time. I suggest that you make notes of questions you have while you are reading the text and bring them to class.

Quizzes and Essays

There will be 10 multiple choice quizzes worth a total of 50% of your final grade (5% each). Quizzes are on all assigned readings up to the date of the quiz. The remaining 50% is based on two essays you will write out of class on a topic to be assigned. Quiz dates and essay due dates below.

Essay Guidelines

Your essays should be in the best form you are capable of writing. They should have a clearly identifiable thesis statement, supported by arguments that include specifics and avoid generalizations that are unsupported. The best essays will also anticipate and address objections readers might raise to your arguments. It will have a conclusion that follows logically from the organization of your supporting arguments and thesis. When providing factual data, provide an appropriate reference. Be as specific as possible and avoid overly broad generalizations that cannot be supported by evidence (for example: "Since the beginning of human history..." Neither you nor I know enough about human history to say anything authoritative about it in its entirety.)

Required Text:

Kegley and Wittkopf, (2007) *World Politics: Trend and Transformation* (11th edition).

University Policies

Behavioral Expectations

Montana State University expects all students to conduct themselves as honest, responsible and law-abiding members of the academic community and to respect the rights of other students, members of the faculty and

staff and the public to use, enjoy and participate in the University programs and facilities. For additional information reference see http://www2.montana.edu/policy/student_conduct/student_conductc-code_2006-2007.htm.

Collaboration

University policy states that, unless otherwise specified, students may not collaborate on graded material. Any exceptions to this policy will be stated explicitly for individual assignments. If you have any questions about the limits of collaboration, you are expected to ask for clarification.

Plagiarism

Paraphrasing or quoting another's work without citing the source is a form of academic misconduct. Even inadvertent or unintentional misuse or appropriation of another's work (such as relying heavily on source material that is not expressly acknowledged) is considered plagiarism. If you have any questions about using and citing sources, you are expected to ask for clarification.

Academic Misconduct

Section 420 of the Student Conduct Code describes academic misconduct as including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, multiple submissions, or facilitating others' misconduct. Possible sanctions for academic misconduct range from an oral reprimand to expulsion from the university.

Section 430 of the Student Code allows the instructor to impose the following sanctions for academic misconduct: oral reprimand; written reprimand; an assignment to repeat the work or an alternate assignment; a lower or failing grade on the particular assignment or test; or a lower grade or failing grade in the course. More serious sanctions require a Conduct Board hearing. You may wish to make explicit the minimum sanction you will impose for willful acts of academic misconduct.

Academic Expectations

Section 310.00 in the MSU Conduct Guidelines states that students must:

- A. be prompt and regular in attending classes;
- B. be well prepared for classes;
- C. submit required assignments in a timely manner;
- D. take exams when scheduled;
- E. act in a respectful manner toward other students and the instructor and in a way that does not detract from the learning experience; and
- F. make and keep appointments when necessary to meet with the instructor.

In addition to the above items, students are expected to meet any additional course and behavioral standards as defined by the instructor.

Withdrawal Deadlines

After [state date], I will only support requests to withdraw from this course with a "W" grade if extraordinary **personal** circumstances exist.

University policy is explicit that the advisor and instructor must approve requests to withdraw from a course with a grade of "W." However, as general practice seems to favor supporting these requests until the last possible date, many students are unaware of this. We therefore recommend that, if you are going to have an earlier effective withdrawal date for your course, you state this explicitly.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation(s), you are encouraged to contact your instructor and Disabled Student Services as soon as possible.

Email Policy

I expect that you will check your university email at least once a day. Changes in class assignments, scheduling, answers to questions students ask, and articles of interest you or I want to share with the class relevant to topics covered in class will be sent to our class listserv. Check your email listing with the ITC student directory. If the email listed there is not the one you primarily use, please change it. The listserv is automatically generated using the email address listed in the student directory.

Student Educational Records

All records related to this course are confidential and will not be shared with anyone, including parents, without a signed, written release. If you wish to have information from your records shared with others, you must provide written request/authorization to the office/department. Before giving such authorization, you should understand the purpose of the release and to whom and for how long the information is authorized for release.

Students have the right to access their educational records by appointment. This information is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). For more information contact the Dean of Students office at 994-2826.

Weekly Class Topics and Assigned Readings

Aug 28 – 30	Thinking About World Politics and International Relations: Basic Concepts Chapter 1
Sept 4-6	Theorizing International Relations - Chapter 2; Quiz 1 Sept 6
Sept 11-13	Great Power Rivalry in the 20 th century – Chapter 4; Quiz 2 Sept 13
Sept 18	NO CLASS
Sept 20	View from the Global South: Imperialism, Colonialism, and the Aftermath – Chapter 5
Sept 25-27	Non-State Actors: the UN, EU, and NGOs – Chapter 6; Quiz 3 Sept 27
Oct 2-4	Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues – Chapter 7; Quiz 4 Oct 4
Oct 9-11	Understanding the World Economy – Chapter 9; Quiz 5 Oct 11
Oct 16-18	Globalization and Global Governance? – Chapter 8

FIRST ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE OCT 18: International economic, environmental, and human rights issues implicate globalization and increasing interdependence. Critically evaluate the effects of globalization on these three sets of issues.

Oct 23-25	Population, Resources, and the Environment in Global Perspective – Chapter 10 Film: It Takes Political Decisions; Quiz 6 Oct 25
Oct 30-Nov 1	Armed Conflict in the 21 st Century. – Chapter 11
Nov 6-8	Armed Conflict in the 21 st Century – Chapter 11 Film: Faces of the Enemy; Quiz 7 Nov 6
Nov 13-15	Military Power and the Internationalization of Security – Chapter 12 Quiz 8 Nov 15
Nov 20	Realist Paths to World Order: Alliances and Balance of Power – Chapter 13 Quiz 9 Nov 20
Nov 27-29	Liberal Paths to World Order: Arms Control and International Law – Chapter 14 Quiz 10 Nov 29
Dec 4-6	International Law continued, and Chapter 15, time allowing

Dec 6 – 12 SECOND ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE: Earlier we studied theories of international relations, many aimed at providing a framework for studying the causes and possible responses to international conflict. Critically evaluate realism, liberalism and at least two additional theoretical perspectives in light of what you have learned about conflict, security, and world order in Chapters 11-14.

NOTE: I will take final essays anytime between Dec 6 and 12 and will return them graded during the time scheduled for the final exam. Please try to get them in earlier rather than later so that I have ample time to grade them.

Quiz and Paper Due Dates

Sept 6	Quiz 1	Oct 25	Quiz 6
Sept 13	Quiz 2	Nov 6	Quiz 7
Sept 27	Quiz 3	Nov 15	Quiz 8
Oct 4	Quiz 4	Nov 20	Quiz 9
Oct 11	Quiz 5	Nov 29	Quiz 10
Oct 18	First Paper Due	Dec 6–12	Second Paper Due