

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
(POL/IAF 253.004)
SPRING 2018 -- Knight 203
MONDAYS (3:00-4:415 PM), WEDNESDAYs (3:00-4:15 PM)
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Office Hours: TBD (Available for appointments on request)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to both the theory and practice of international affairs, supplemented by “real world” examples as well as class discussion and student presentations. Upon completion of the course, students should (1) know the major theoretical frameworks used by scholars to analyze international affairs; and (2) understand major structures, forces and issues shaping the world, both past and present.

In examining some of the various global questions facing the planet, the emphasis will be on living with ambiguity and understanding complexity. Students should not expect to complete the course having learned a neat package of answers to international riddles; rather, they should emerge with a new appreciation for the challenges shaping today’s world and a better understanding of how these challenges will shape their own future. Put another way, students will not be “force-fed” into formulaistic approaches focused on *what* to think; rather they will be encouraged to apply knowledge gained in this course to help inform *how* they think, furthering their journey toward becoming critical and independent thinkers on matters related to world politics and international relations.

Finally, students should complete the course with an appreciation for the cross-cutting nature of international relations, including a better understanding of the extent to which other social and behavioral sciences – in addition to political science – may be useful in gaining a deeper and better understanding of a wide range of global issues and concerns.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will assist students in developing the knowledge and analytical skills needed to understand international political, security and economic systems. In particular, students enrolling in the course will develop a basic understanding of:

- The evolution of the international system and the origins of the nation-state
- The variety of theoretical approaches used to explain the conduct of states as well as international organizations
- The international political economy, including monetary and trade relations, migration, economic development and environmental issues
- Contemporary security issues, including theories on the cause of war, nuclear deterrence, arms control, terrorism, human rights and peacekeeping
- Current affairs and possible emerging issues confronting the international system

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Main Text: Jeffrey Haynes, Peter Hough, Shahin Malik and Lloyd Pettiford, *World Politics: International Relations and Globalisation in the 21st Century* (Sage, 2015 Edition)
2. Supplementary Text: *Cases in International Relations* (Oxford University Press, 2015, Second Edition)

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Exam One	20 percent
Exam Two	20 percent
Exam Three (Final Exam)	20 percent
Quizzes	10 percent
Class Participation/Current Events	10 percent
Class Presentation/Policy Memo	20 percent
TOTAL:	100 PERCENT

GRADE SCALE

A	91-100 percent
B+	87-90 percent
B	81-86 percent
C+	77-80 percent
C	70-76 percent
D	61-69 percent
F	60 or below

SUMMARY OF COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. Students are required to attend all classes and actively participate in class discussions
2. Students are expected to complete the assigned reading before the date on which it is listed in the course outline attached as part of this document
3. Quizzes will typically be administered on a Wednesday, prior to class presentations
4. There will be three exams including the final exam, each counting 20 percent toward the final grade – the first exam covers the first 12 chapters of the main text for this course (*World Politics*); the second exam covers the second 8 chapters of the main text; and the final exam covers the final 8 chapters of the main text
5. Each student will also be responsible for one oral presentation during the course, accompanied by a written Policy Memo recommending a course of action to address a particular issue or concern highlighted in *Cases in International Relations*, the supplementary text for this course.

COURSE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

Academic Integrity: The course will adhere to the Honor System, as maintained by Mercer University. The Honor System imposes on each student the responsibility for his or her own honest conduct and assumes the corollary responsibility that each one will report any violations of the Honor Code about which he or she has information. A violation of the Honor Code involves cheating, plagiarism, academic negligence or other acts of academic dishonesty and will be forwarded to the Honor Council. For more details about the specific code (including revisions made for the 2017-2018 school year), please consult the University Bulletin or the LAIR (University Policy).

Assessment: The College of Liberal Arts is interested in assuring the quality and integrity of its General Education Program. Every semester, randomly-selected students from each General Education course will be required to submit samples of their work to an independent and objective assessment by faculty. No personally identifiable information about any student will be used for the purposes of this assessment and assessment results will have no bearing whatsoever on student grades.

Attendance: A class role will be taken at the start of each class. If you are not present at that time, you will be counted as absent. Because participation is an integral part of this course, attendance is essential. *Up to three absences (excused or un-excused) can be accumulated for the term – each additional absence will adversely affect your final grade, reducing it by 3 percent on each additional occasion; six or more absences will result in an automatic “F”.*

(Note: If you are an athlete, debater or miss class because of an official Mercer function, I will consider classes and assignments missed as excused and will not count them against you. However, I must stress that it is your responsibility to inform me in advance of your expected absences and arrange for the completion of all assignments.)

Please remain attentive and become involved in class discussions – simply occupying a seat in this class is not enough! If you plan only to show up and then fall asleep during class, please don't come! If for any reason you intend to leave class early, please also advise me beforehand. Sleepers and early leavers (unless otherwise excused) may have an additional one percent deducted from their overall term average following each occurrence.

Cell Phone Policy: As per Mercer University policy and out of courtesy to others, all cell phones and pagers must be turned off before entering the classroom. *Cell phones should be stored out of sight, in your bag or pocket, not on the table in front of you.* Failure to comply with this policy will negatively affect your class participation grade.

Course Evaluations: In an ongoing effort to improve the quality of instruction, each student enrolled in the course is expected to complete an end-of-semester course evaluation, to be administered on-line via your MyMercer account during the final weeks of the term.

Deadlines: You will be given ample notice of any deadlines, with written assignments collected at the end of class. Failure to turn in assignments on time will result in a penalty (typically five percentage points deducted from the assignment for each day an assignment is late).

If you must be away on university business (such as an athletic event or other university program) or have any other foreseeable absence, please turn in the assignment before leaving. If you miss class or an assignment deadline for an excused reason, you will need to provide written authentication from a valid authority.

Computer malfunctions, a failure to back up files, problems with the printer and similar circumstances are not considered an excuse for failure to turn in assignments on time. Typically, these can be avoided with appropriate advance planning – you should avoid leaving typing and printing until the last minute!

Please note that this class has only one required written assignment (excluding of course tests and quizzes that are taken in the classroom during class time) that needs to be prepared outside of class and then turned in by a set deadline – the Policy Memo prepared as part of the class presentation, discussed separately below.

Disabilities: Students requiring accommodations for a disability should inform the instructor at the close of the first class meeting or as soon as possible thereafter. The instructor will refer you to the ACCESS and Accommodation Office to document your disability, determine eligibility for accommodation under the ADA/Section 504 and request a Faculty Accommodation Form. Disability accommodations or status will not be indicated on academic transcripts.

In order to receive accommodations in a class, students with sensory, learning, psychological, physical or medical disabilities must provide their instructor with a Faculty Accommodation Form to sign. Students must return the signed form to the ACCESS Coordinator. A new form must be requested each semester. Students with a history of a disability, perceived as having a disability or with a current disability who do not wish to use academic accommodations are also strongly encouraged to register with the ACCESS and Accommodation Office and request a Faculty Accommodation each semester.

For further information, please contact Katie Johnson, Director and ADA/504 Coordinator, at 301-2778 or visit the ACCESS and Accommodate Office website at:
<http://www.mercer.edu/disabilityservices>

Electronic Submissions: “Hard copies” should be provided for all written assignments including the Policy Memo and any Extra Credit assignments; I prefer *not* to receive electronic submissions.

E-mail Distribution Lists: Everyone enrolled in the course will be automatically subscribed to an electronic list set up exclusively for this course:
POL25300116FAMCN00@LISTS.MERCER.EDU or
IAF253001116FAMCN00@LISTS.MERCER.EDU

Study Tips for Reading the Text: Before you begin reading the basic text, take some time to become familiar with the way it is organized. This will ensure that it becomes both a useful study guide and reference tool for you. Don't just "read" the chapter – also study it! Take notes and/or highlight especially useful concepts. Note also key terms, personalities and historical events. Try not to read the entire chapter in one sitting, rather break it into "manageable pieces". Don't forget to also check out and use the online resources indicated in the text.

Withdrawal and Incomplete Grades: The university sets the deadline to withdraw or drop a course without penalty. Students who drop the course by this date will receive a "W" but it is your sole responsibility to know the date and to act upon it if necessary. Do not simply decide to stop coming to class and hope to get an "I" or a "W". As a rule, I don't plan on giving "incompletes" or an "I" for this course! Any student receiving failing grades during the course is urged to arrange a meeting with the instructor to discuss the work/assignment(s) in question.

BASIS FOR DETERMINING FINAL GRADES

Exams (60 percent): *There will be three exams for this course including a final exam. As noted, the first exam will cover the first twelve chapters of the main text (World Politics) and count for 20 percent of the final grade; the second exam will cover the next eight chapters of the main text and count for 20 percent of the final grade; and the final exam will cover the final eight chapter of the main text and count for 20 percent of the final grade. Exams will include a mix of essay, short answer, multiple choice and/or matching.*

Exam dates shown in the course outline are final and except in extraordinary circumstances any undocumented excuse for failing to take the exam on the assigned date and time will not be accepted. In such cases, no make-up exam will be provided and the student will receive a failing grade.

Requests for a make-up exam will be made only under the following conditions: (1) the student provides a reasonable, documented (e.g. written) justification for missing the exam, such as hospitalization for major surgery; and (2) I am contacted within two days of the missed exam. Make-up exams will not necessarily include the same questions given to the rest of the class; they will also include an oral portion, in addition to a written part. I reserve the right to not give make-up exams for non-emergency medical or other excuses.

With regard to the final exam, the university requires that this exam be administered only at the scheduled time published in the course schedule. The only exception is that students with three or more exams scheduled for the same day may make arrangements to move one exam. Please note that, barring an extreme emergency, an "Incomplete" will not be given as a final grade for the course and that no make-ups can or will be given for the final!

Class Presentation/Policy Memo (20 percent): *Each student will be assigned one class presentation, accompanied by a written Policy Memo. Assignments will be made with a minimum of one week's advance notice typically provided beforehand. Ordinarily, oral presentations will be made on a Wednesday with two or more students making their*

presentations in turn. Written Policy Memos on which the oral presentation is based must be handed in at the end of the relevant class.

This portion of the class involves two parts, each counting for up to 10 points of the final overall course grade:

Part one entails an oral presentation with a point of view, based on an issue or topic highlighted in the supplementary text, *Cases in International Relations*. You can draw on material appearing in the assigned chapter of this text; you can also access and incorporate additional material, researched and presented as you deem appropriate.

Following your oral presentation, any classmates who are also presenting on that day will first be given an opportunity to comment on your presentation and query you about it, followed by your response. I will then make additional comments and possibly ask additional questions, hopefully launching a broader class-wide discussion on the matters that you raised and in which you will also need to participate. Your grade will reflect a combination of (1) the quality of your oral presentation; (2) your response to any questions or comments made; and (3) the comments that you make regarding any other student presentations made on that particular day.

Typically, the initial oral presentation that describes and elaborates on the substance of the Policy Memo will take 5-7 minutes, followed by comments and questions raised by any other student(s) presenting that day (2-3 minutes) and then your own response (3-4 minutes); the subsequent class discussion on your topic and your presentation will take another 10-15 minutes.

Part two entails submission of the written Policy Memo, recommending policy actions on the part of the United States Government or another country of your choosing when dealing with one or more issues highlighted in your assigned chapter of *Cases in International Relations*. Imagine for this assignment that you are a Foreign Service Officer, asked to research and provide policy guidance for your Assistant Secretary on the particular issue at hand; or imagine that you play a similar role in the government of another country or for a non-governmental organization or think tank working in the foreign policy arena; this Policy Memo will represent your response.

Guidance in the form of “writing tips for policy memos” issued by Princeton and the University of Southern California will be available at the start of the course to help frame and guide your written work. Your grade will be based on the quality of your memo, including the extent to which you make a compelling case for the assessment or course of action that you recommend. *The Policy Memo should be succinct and to the point and the memo itself is not expected to be more than 2-3 pages in length, single-spaced.*

Quizzes (10 percent): You will be quizzed on each of the supplementary readings assigned from *Cases in International Relations*, one of the two texts required for this course. Typically, these readings represent a “deep dive” on specific topics of global concern, providing important background and context as well as a better understanding of the complex dynamics involved. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of the class and no make-up will ordinarily be possible without a university excused absence (e.g., athletes, debate, ROTC, etc.).

The quizzes are designed to test whether you have read and understand the relevant material in the *Cases in International Relations* supplementary text assigned for that particular day. It is fine to consult any written notes for these quizzes – however, you are not permitted to refer to the actual text itself while taking the quiz. There will be eleven quizzes in all (your lowest quiz score will be “dropped” from the final calculation), together representing 10 percent of the final course grade.

Class Participation/Current Events (10 percent): You are expected to be prepared for each class, having read the material assigned beforehand. Simply “showing up” does not mean participation – rather, you should participate in (1) class discussions on current events, (2) asking questions of your fellow students when they present their Policy Memos; and (3) responding to questions raised during the lecture portion of the course. In short, you should not be a silent witness but rather be prepared to participate in all aspects of the class.

Each class will begin with a brief discussion of current events, based on information gathered from outside sources. At a minimum, each student is expected to read the international section of the *BBC World Service* or a comparable website (supplemented by other readings from other media sources), in order to come to class prepared to discuss major stories and current developments.

Contributions made during these discussions will not only count toward class participation; they also provide relevant examples useful in testing and better understanding the various theories and paradigms that are an essential part of International Affairs as an academic discipline.

Each student will be assigned a country or organization for which he or she will be responsible throughout the entire term. All students should also feel free to comment on and discuss whatever headlines appear on the *BBC* or other website, according to their individual interests, knowledge and experience.

Available countries and organizations, assigned during the first week of class, may include the following: (1) *Americas*: USA, Mexico, Venezuela, Cuba, Brazil; (2) *Europe*: UK, France, Germany, Russia, Italy; (3) *Middle East*: Iraq, Saudi Arabia/UAE/Qatar/Kuwait, Israel/Palestine, Turkey, Syria, Iran (4) *Asia*: China, Japan, India, North and South Korea, Afghanistan, Pakistan; (5) *Africa*: Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa; and *Int’l Organizations*: European Union, United Nations, NATO, World Bank/IMF.

Extra Credit: One or more extra credit opportunities will be provided during this course, allowing students to earn up to 4 percent points of extra credit added to the calculation of their final grade. These opportunities will be discussed and presented during the course, along with a corresponding deadline. Examples of extra credit opportunities might include (1) a brief written report on a campus speaker or other campus event on a topic that is relevant to this course; or (2) a second Policy Memo, again on a topic that is relevant to this course.

COURSE READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

(NOTE: I reserve the right to make changes in the syllabus, as deemed necessary)

WEEK ONE:

Monday, January 8: Introductions; Course Summary; Review of Syllabus
Wednesday, January 10: Chapter 1: Int'l Relations and Globalization
Chapter 2: Development of Int'l Society

WEEK TWO:

Monday, January 15: Holiday (MLK Birthday)
Wednesday, January 17: Chapter 3: Int'l Relations Before Second World War
Chapter 4: Int'l Relations after Second World War

WEEK THREE:

Monday, January 22: Chapter 5: Int'l Relations After the Cold War
Wednesday, January 24: QUIZ 1 (*Case Study 1: Pathways to Conflict and Cooperation*);
Policy Memo

WEEK FOUR:

Monday, January 30: Chapter 6: Realism
Chapter 7: Liberalism
Wednesday, January 31: QUIZ 2 (*Case Study 2: Power Management in the South China Sea*); Policy Memo

WEEK FIVE:

Monday, February 5: Chapter 8: Marxism and Neo-Marxism
Chapter 9: Neo-Realism and Neo-Liberalism
Wednesday, February 7: QUIZ 3 (*Case Study 10: Global Monetary Reform after 2008*);
Policy Memo

WEEK SIX:

Monday, February 12: Chapter 10: Critical Theory
Chapter 11: Social Constructivism
Chapter 12: Feminist Theory and Gender in Int'l Relations
Wednesday, February 14: **EXAM ONE (COVERS CHAPTER 1-12)**

WEEK SEVEN:

Monday, February 19: Chapter 13: Int'l Organizations and Transnational Actors
Chapter 14: The United Nations
Wednesday, February 21: QUIZ 4 (*Case Study 8: Organizing World Trade*); Policy Memo

WEEK EIGHT:

Monday, February 26: Chapter 15: Int'l Law
Chapter 16: Regionalism
Wednesday, February 28: QUIZ 5 (*Case Study 11: Uniting Europe Through a Common Currency*); Policy Memo

WEEK NINE:

Monday, March 5: Holiday (Spring Vacation)

Wednesday, March 7: Holiday (Spring Vacation)

WEEK TEN:

Monday, March 12: Chapter 17: Int'l Security Studies

Chapter 18: Int'l Political Economy

Wednesday, March 14: QUIZ 6 (*Case Study 7: Cybersecurity's Uncertain Battleground*);
Policy Memo

WEEK ELEVEN:

Monday, March 19: Chapter 19: Human Rights

Chapter 20: The Natural Environment

Wednesday, March 21: QUIZ 7 (*Case Study 16: Social Responsibility and the BP Oil
Spill*); Policy Memo

WEEK TWELVE:

Monday, March 26:

EXAM TWO (COVERS CHAPTER 13-20)

Wednesday, March 28:

QUIZ 8 (*Free Choice: Choose Among Chapter 9 (Food Aid),
Chapter 12 (Haiti Earthquake); Chapter 13 (Libya) or Chapter 14
(Arctic)*); Policy Memo

WEEK THIRTEEN

Monday, April 2:

Chapter 21: Development, Poverty and Inequality

Chapter 22: Migrations

Wednesday, April 4:

QUIZ 9 (*Case Study 15: Tensions over the US-Mexico Border*");
Policy Memo

WEEK FOURTEEN

Monday, April 9:

Chapter 23: New Wars

Chapter 24: Nuclear Deterrence and Proliferation

Wednesday, April 11:

QUIZ 10 (*Case Study 5: Iran's Nuclear Ambitions*); Policy Memo

WEEK FIFTEEN

Monday, April 16:

Chapter 25: Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Interventions

Chapter 26: Terrorism and Political Violence

Wednesday, April 18:

QUIZ 11 (*Case Study 6: Responding to Terrorism after 9/11*);
Policy Memo

WEEK SIXTEEN

Monday, April 23:

Chapter 27: Rising Powers

Wednesday, April 25:

Chapter 28: Conclusions and the Future of Int'l Relations

FINAL EXAM (COVERS CHAPTERS 21-28):

Friday, MAY 5:

7 – 10 PM