

Political Science 2223 (MWF, 1.00-1.50pm, ARNT N200)

Fall 2018

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office hours: MWF 12.45pm-1.00pm at Arnett N200, MWF 10.00am-10.50am at Ketchum 114A,
and by appointment

This course serves as the gateway course for more advanced classes in international relations. As an introductory course, it seeks to survey the major concepts, theories, and problems of the field. It also presents some illustrative examples of policy challenges facing officials although its basic intent is not to address “current events.” By the end of the semester, you should have gained a reasonable idea about what the study of international relations and foreign policy is all about and a basic competency to pursue further inquiries in this field.

There is only one text for this course. It is *World Politics: The Menu for Choice* (10th edition) written by David Kinsella, Bruce Russett, and Harvey Starr (Boston: Wadsworth, 2013). This book should be available at the UMC Bookstore for your purchase.

While the text provides a general framework for the course and some background information for the research traditions and problems to be discussed in the class, my lectures will present additional material that seeks to expand, elaborate, and explore in further depth some of the analytic, substantive and/or policy concerns raised in the readings (and other topics not covered in the book). Therefore, it is important that you attend classes and take good notes. You should also know that I will not be able to cover and explain everything discussed in the text, as there is not enough time to do so in the lectures. Because most of you are likely to be freshmen starting your first semester at CU, do please contact me if there is anything that is unclear. You should seek clarification or help early in the semester rather than wait until the last minute.

There are times when I will alter the order in which the pertinent material is introduced. When this happens, I highlight the pertinent terms in the glossary so that you will be able to look them up in the text and read them before my lectures. You will be responsible to know these terms.

Evaluation of your course performance will be based on the following considerations. There will be an in-class mid-term exam and also an in-class final exam. It is mandatory for you to take these two exams. The mid-term will constitute 30% and the final exam another 40% of your course grade. Unless otherwise provided for by university policy *and* with my prior approval, students are required to take these exams at the scheduled times. You will not be able to make up for a missed exam except for reasons qualifying for university-approved excuses -- namely, for genuine emergencies beyond a student’s control. The specific format for each exam will be explained in class. The midterm exam will take place during **class time on Friday, October 12**. The university has scheduled the final exam on **Monday, December 17, 2018**, from 1.30pm to 3.00pm in our regular classroom. The midterm and final exams will start and end at the scheduled times even if you arrive late.

Your course evaluation will also include a required term paper. You must write on the topic assigned at the end of this syllabus. This topic will have a critical thinking component, requiring you to apply your analytic skills to address a theoretical and/or policy problem germane to international relations. This term paper will constitute 25% of your course grade. This paper is limited to 10 pages (double-spaced, 12-point font size). The deadline for turning in this paper assignment is **1.00pm**,

Wednesday, October 24, 2018 – that is, at the start of the class on that day. In addition to turning a hard copy of this paper to me, you must email it as a MS-WORD attachment to me by the above deadline. For every day that this paper is tardy, a penalty of 10% will be assessed on its grade (weekend days will count in assessing this penalty for tardiness).

In order to successfully complete this paper assignment, you are encouraged to make a 10 to 15-minute appointment with me to go over an outline of your paper (so please bring this outline with you when you come to see me). Please don't wait until too late to make this appointment.

The remaining 5% of your course grade will be based on your attendance of and participation in class and other germane considerations such as your performance on any impromptu quizzes.

If you have a complaint about the grade you have received for an assignment or test, you must submit a written statement explaining why you think you deserve more credit. You must do submit this document within one week after the pertinent grades have been issued. You will no longer be able to contest your grade after this deadline.

Academic dishonesty in fulfilling any assignment will be grounds for failing the course. Thus, for instance, you must not represent someone else's work as your own in carrying out your paper assignment. And, when presenting another person's ideas or data, you must provide explicit citation to acknowledge your intellectual debt. Quotation marks must be used when you are quoting someone. Minor changes that try to paraphrase someone else's ideas do not relieve you of the responsibility of acknowledging your intellectual debt. When in doubt, you should err on the conservative side (that is, by citing your sources), or you should at least consult with your teaching assistant or me.

You are responsible to learn about the Honor Code adopted by the University. You can find relevant information at the following websites: <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/faculty.html>; <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html>; and <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

If you happened to have three final exams scheduled on the same day, you are entitled to request a change in the time designated for the last exam for that day. If this last exam of the day happens to be this course, please provide the relevant documentation to the professor during the first two weeks of the semester in order to schedule an alternate time for your exam. You should direct your request for an alternate exam time to another professor if the third exam on the same day happens to be for another course.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, University faculty members are required to make "reasonable and timely accommodations" for students with disabilities. By University policy that obligation only extends to students who have registered with the Office of Disability Services, which makes the determination of whether, for example, students have real learning disorders. If you are a student with a disability, please notify the professor in writing within the first two weeks of the semester what accommodations are needed. Please provide me documentation from Disability Services (303-4928671, Willard 322, www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices).

If a student has religious obligations that may conflict with this course, please notify the professor in writing within the first two weeks of semester in order to seek a reasonable and fair arrangement. The campus policy regarding religious observance is available at http://www.colorado.edu/policies.fac_relig.html.

To do well in this class, you must attend lectures and recitations regularly. If you have any

questions, please do not hesitate to seek clarification from me.

The lecture plan and reading assignments below are intended to give you an approximate timeline. We may occasionally get ahead of or fall behind this rough schedule. It is important for you to keep up with the reading assignments. As you can see, the course schedule is very tight and there is very little room for slippage. I strongly urge you to do the readings before you attend lectures for the relevant chapters. The lectures are not a substitute for the readings because as already mentioned, I will not be able to discuss everything covered in the readings in my lectures. You should not hesitate to ask questions in class or visit me during office hours.

One final note and reminder: you must not allow your work to fall behind schedule. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me early on, not after the fact.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

August 27

Introduction and Organization

Glossary: three examples (atomic bomb, Asian financial flu, and 9/11 terrorist attack), menu for choices, opportunity and willingness, joint necessity

Read chapter 1

August 29

More on the Organization Concepts for the Course

Glossary: circumstances and choices, structure and agency, constrained choice, environmental probabilism, levels of analysis

Read chapter 2

August 31

On the Scientific Study of International Relations

Glossary: scientific inquiry, pattern recognition, theory, hypothesis, concept, generalization, falsifiability, evidence, empirical versus normative analysis

September 3

Labor Day, no class

September 5, 7

The Genesis of Modern States

Glossary: Thirty Years' War, Treaty of Westphalia, sovereignty (non-interference and legal equality), French Revolution, nationalism, monopoly of force, territoriality, nonstate actors

Read chapter 3

September 10, 12

On Realism, Polarity, and Power Balances

Glossary: realism, structural anarchy, relative gain, positional competition, self-help, security imperative, national power, soft power, **security dilemma**, balance of power and balance of threat, balancing and bandwagoning, chain-ganging and buckpassing, offensive versus defensive realism, Triple Alliances and Triple Entente, polarity (unipolar, bipolar, multipolar), American primacy,

hegemonic stability

Read chapter 4

September 14, 17, 19

Liberal Critiques of Realism

Glossary: political and strategic culture, power elites, pluralism, military-industrial complex, public opinion, permissive public, mobilizables, attentive public, mass public, gender gap, rally 'round the flag, decay factor, diversionary war, democratic peace (norms and institutions), Immanuel Kant (republicanism, cosmopolitanism, pacific union)

Read chapter 5

September 21, 24, 26, 28

Decision Making: Rationality, Psychology and Organizations

Glossary: humans as information processors, rationality as cost-benefit analysis, satisfice, bounded rationality, muddling through, incrementalism, wishful thinking, signals and noise, cognitive consistency, mirror images, groupthink, risky shift, operational code, personality traits, prospect theory, loss aversion, attribution theory: dispositional vs. circumstantial explanation, Allison's models: rational actor, organizational processes, and governmental politics, principal-agent dilemma

Read chapter 6

October 1, 3, 8

More on the Causes of Conflict

Glossary: three images of war, human nature, war as a social institution, slavery and dueling as examples of value changes pointing to obsolescence of war, relative deprivation, capitalism and imperialism, balance-of-power theory, power-transition theory, long-cycle theory, imperial overstretch, failed states, ethnic wars, lootable resources, terrorism, cyber warfare

Read chapter 7

October 10

Review for Midterm

October 12

Midterm Exam today (during class, 1.00pm-1.50pm)!

October 15, 17, 19

Armament and Disarmament

Glossary: security dilemma (again), Richardson's arms race model, nuclear deterrence, nuclear proliferation, mutual assured destruction, first- versus second-strike capability, counter-value versus counter-force strikes, national missile defense, guns versus butter, opportunity cost, counter-cyclical tool, prisoners' dilemma, tit-for-tat, shadow of the future, evolution of cooperation

Read chapter 8

October 24

Term Paper Due today at the start of class (1.00pm)!

October 22, 24, 26

Ethics and Laws on War

Glossary: just war doctrine, *jus ad bellum*, *jus ad bello*, self-defense, double-effect rule, Catholic bishops on morality of nuclear deterrence, preventive war (Caroline standard), reprisal (last resort, proportionality, discrimination, just cause, legitimate authority), Geneva Law, Nuremberg trials, reason of state, superior order, domestic versus universal jurisdiction, retrospective law, military necessity, *tu quoque*, people as reasoning agents, natural law, superintendent principle, communitarian (statist) vs. cosmopolitan (universal) conceptions of human rights, positive and negative rights, International Court of Justice, international regimes, torture and mistreatment of POWs, humanitarian intervention

Read chapter 9

October 29, 31

Global Order and International Organizations

Glossary: functionalism, **security community**, **collective action**, **collective goods (or public goods)**, **joint supply and non-exclusiveness**, **free ride**, United Nations, International Criminal Court, responsibility to protect

Read chapter 10

November 2, 5, 7

Economic Competition and Interdependence

Glossary: Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Friedrich List, free trade, laissez-faire, comparative advantage, autarky, protectionism, mercantilism, strategic trade, embedded liberalism, sensitivity and vulnerability, relative versus absolute gain, Bretton Woods regime, World Trade Organization, **complex interdependence**, hegemonic stability

Read chapter 11

November 9, 12

Regional Integration and Globalization

Glossary: integration, amalgamation, European Coal and Steel Community, the Common Market, European Union, Single European Act (Maastricht Treaty), supranationalism, pooled sovereignty, North American Free Trade Area, complex interdependence (again), nationalist backlash on immigration and free trade, Brexit

Read chapter 12

November 14, 16, 26

Development and Underdevelopment: The North-South Gap

Glossary: best of times and worst of times, North-South gap, multiple Souths, BRIC, human-development index (life expectancy, literacy, parity purchasing power), New International Economic Order, commodity concentration, debt burden, terms of trade, demographic pressure, structural violence, structural adjustment, human capital, development aid, dependent development, world system, import-substitution industrialization, export-oriented industrialization, newly-industrializing countries, democracy and development (roving versus stationary bandit)

Read chapter 13

November 19-23, Fall Break, no classes

November 28, 30, December 3, 5

Global Commons (the Environment)

Glossary: forced ride, public bad, externality, global warming, tragedy of the commons, intrinsic responsibility, carrying capacity, triage, lifeboat ethics, demographic transition, doubling time, age structure, replacement rate, the “greying” of advanced industrial countries, sustainable development, common-pool resources, overpopulation or overconsumption, spaceship earth, ecological footprint, distributive justice, interdependence

Read chapter 14

December 7, 10

Alternative Futures

Glossary: end of history, triumphalism, clash of civilizations, secularism, primordialism, west versus rest, jihad versus McWorld

Read chapter 15

December 12

Review of Course Material

December 17

Final exam today, 1.30-3.00pm!

Paper Topic

One of the key concepts in international relations theorizing is *balance of power*.

1. What is the meaning of this concept? What do proponents of this approach to international relations suggest that states must do?
2. How have states actually behaved in the past? That is, do you think states have followed or are following this approach in their actual conduct? Alternatively, have states acted or are acting differently? Be clear and introduce evidence to support your view.
3. Is there a balance of power in today's international system? That is, do you think power in today's international system is distributed relatively equally among several major powers, or do you think it is concentrated in the hands of one country? Again, support your view with evidence.
4. How do you think states ought to behave in today's world? Do you think they should follow the advice to balance against power, or not? Why?

Your paper must include a discussion and explanation of at least three theoretical ideas or concepts such as those mentioned in the glossary for September 10 and 12, and/or the glossary for October 1, 3 and 8. A hint: ideas and concepts such as those just alluded to can be easily looked up in the glossary and index sections of your textbook (and of course, they are also discussed in the text and/or taken up in the lectures).

Your paper will be evaluated on the basis of the coherence, clarity, consistency, and completeness of your answer to the above questions. As well, the extent to which you can introduce compelling evidence and present cogent arguments to support your conclusions would be a basis of evaluation. Naturally, historical accuracy will be another consideration for evaluation.

The best thing you can do to help yourself is to start preparing for your paper assignment early, and to avoid turning in your paper late. In addition, I have asked you to see me to get feedback and advice on your paper's draft outline. So, sign up for this appointment early rather than wait till the last minute! Contact me about any questions you have about your paper assignment.

Finally, be mindful of the deadline for you to turn in the finished paper, the penalties for tardiness, and the Honor Code's stipulations against cheating and plagiarism. Always identify the sources of your ideas, arguments and evidence! Put direct quotes between quotation marks. Even when you are just paraphrasing someone, give this person credit by citing him/her.