

# PSCI 2223 Introduction to International Relations / Fall 2018

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Meeting time: M W 9 - 9:50 am  
Lecture location: Math 100  
Office hours: M 10 - 11:30am

Note: In addition to the MW 9 am lectures, you will be attending weekly recitation sessions with your Teaching Assistant. See your TA's syllabus for their contact info, office hours, section-specific assignments and due dates, etc.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the fundamental concepts, theories, practices, and problems of international politics, such as anarchy, power, security, the nature of international economics, and origins and roles of international organization and law.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Reading Materials

1. Mingst, Karen A. and I.M. Arreguín-Toft. 2017. *Essentials of International Relations*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Norton.
2. Supplementary materials, available through D2L: <https://learn.colorado.edu>

### Student Initiative

In addition to **reading assigned materials thoughtfully and thoroughly** and **attending classes regularly**, students should be alerted to the obvious fact that it will not be easy to summarize the complexity of our topics in terms of a few concepts and theories. Students should acquire the habit of regularly reading world news stories to learn about and keep up with international developments.

### Examinations

There will be two exams based on lectures, recitation sections, assigned readings, and class discussions. A description of the exam format will be given prior to the exam dates.

### Term Paper

Project description and deadlines are given at the end of the syllabus.

### Participation

Participation in the recitation sessions is expected. The students are expected to offer their own insights based on class materials. To encourage participation, the TA may use random questioning or unannounced quizzes. If quizzes are given, they will count toward the participation grade.

### Attendance

Regular attendance in both lectures and recitation sessions is expected; an absence on an exam or assignment due date does not mean that you can make the work up. Your TA will take attendance in recitation sections and calculate the grade by subtracting 15 points for each unexcused absence beyond the first one. Absences will be excused only in cases of serious health or family emergencies; appropriate documentation will be required and must be turned in within one week of the absence. Please note that excessive excused or unexcused absences will also hurt your participation grade, because one cannot participate in class discussions if one is not present in class.

## COURSE RULES

### Grading Policy

Midterm Exam	25%	Recitation Attendance	10%
Final Exam	25%	Recitation Participation	15%
Term Paper	25%		

### Class Policies

1. Students are expected to turn in the assignments at the beginning of class and take the exams on the date specified. Failure to show up for the exam on time or meet an assignment deadline does not entitle the students to make up the work at a later time.
2. Exceptions to the class requirements and rules are granted at the instructor's discretion, only under circumstances of extreme personal emergency or serious illness. In all instances, appropriate evidentiary documentation will be requested.
3. All academic work must meet the University's standards for academic honesty. Each student is responsible to inform themselves of these standards before conducting any academic work. My academic dishonesty policy is very simple: you will receive a failing grade for the class if you are found cheating on examinations, plagiarizing the work of others, attempting to turn in assignments used in previous classes, or sign the attendance sheet for another student, along with all other possible infractions noted in the University's policy on academic dishonesty. Moreover, disciplinary proceedings to dismiss you from the University may be initiated. I **will not** tolerate academic dishonesty and you **will** face the harshest punishment possible if you attempt it.
4. Students may request their TA to re-read exam answers or papers that they feel have been unfairly evaluated. Requests for re-evaluation must be submitted in **typewritten form**, along with the assignment, within a week after it has been returned to the class or the final grade posted. The written statement must explain specifically why the student thinks that the grade should be reconsidered and what grade the assignment deserves. Re-evaluation will be conducted *de novo*.
5. Accommodations based on disability and/or religious beliefs will be made whenever possible. But, it is the student's responsibility to let their TA know about **needing such accommodations within the first two weeks of class**. Accommodation requests after this time period may not be granted.
6. The syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary and will be announced.
7. All the lecture materials are considered to be the intellectual property of the instructor and are only to be used by the students enrolled in the class for their own education. Any distribution of the said materials and/or use for commercial purposes **is expressly prohibited**.
8. Additional short readings (e.g. articles, news stories) may be assigned as the semester progresses.
- 9. All students are expected to complete assigned readings before they are discussed in class and they are expected to discuss and respond to random questioning.**

## COURSE OUTLINE: TOPICS AND READINGS

### I. Introduction

- Mingst: pp. 1-76, 132-138, 169-170, 173-175
- D2L: Ra'anan "The Nation-State Fallacy"
- D2L: Barber "Jihad vs. McWorld"

### II. Key Theories of IR

#### A. (Neo)Realism

- Mingst pp. 76-83, 106-116, 138-142
- D2L: Hobbes "The State of Nature ..."
- D2L: Thucydides "The Melian Dialogue"
- D2L: Waltz "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory"

#### B. (Neo)Liberalism

- Mingst pp. 83-89, 116-118, 142-143
- D2L: Pease "Philosophical Roots of Liberalism"
- D2L: Moravcsik "Taking Preferences Seriously"

#### C. Marxism

- Mingst: pp. 89-92, 118-123, 143-144
- D2L: Pease "Marxism"

### III. Key Topics in the Study of International Politics

#### A. Security

- Mingst pp. 159-161, 297-312
- D2L: Morgan "Deterrence: A Conceptual Analysis"
- D2L: Ziegler "Disarmament"
- D2L: Ziegler "Collective Security"
- D2L: Russett "The Fact of the Democratic Peace"

#### B. International Economic Relations

- Mingst pp. 316-332, 353-358
- D2L: Frieden and Lake "International Political Economy"
- D2L: Coughlin et al. "Protectionist Trade Policies ..."
- D2L: Lenin "Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism"
- D2L: Cohn "Dependency Theory"
- D2L: Russett & Oneal "Triangulating Peace" esp. pp. 127-133, 154-155

#### C. International Institutions and Law

- Mingst pp. 208-246, 254-257
- D2L: Pease "Liberalism and the Nature of International Organizations"
- D2L: Akenhurst "Is International Law Really Law?"
- D2L: Russett, Oneal & Davis "The Third Leg of the Kantian Tripod" esp. pp. 441-449, 462
- Optional reading on institutional decision-making: Mingst pp. 162-166, 189-193

Midterm Exam: Wednesday, October 17, 9 am

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 19, 1:30 pm

## TERM PAPER PROJECT

### General Instructions and Rules

With the TA's approval, choose a post-World War II international event of interest to you. The paper will provide an analysis of the event from the perspective of one of the three schools of thought discussed in class (realism, liberalism, Marxism). The paper will be 6 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman, 1" margins), plus the bibliography. Note that the paper length is relatively short, so making your arguments economically and cogently are some of the goals of the assignment that you will be graded on.

If you choose to do so, you may coordinate with 1-2 other students who want analyze the same event; but the requirement is that you each employ a different school of thought. In any case, each student will turn in their own paper and everyone's work will be graded individually.

### Deadlines

Please **propose your topic to your TA** as soon as possible, but no later than the meeting time of your recitation section during the week of **October 8**. Each event-school of thought pairing may be used only once, so first come-first served rule applies; submitting your topic early will hence increase the chances of approval.

The **papers are due by Wednesday, November 28 at 9 am**; you are to turn in an electronic copy over D2L and – if your TA instructs you so – a hard copy as well. Please note that all due dates are known well in advance, so you need to plan accordingly. Late proposals and/or papers will be penalized by 10% per day against the term paper grade.

### Paper Content

Although you will need to research historical facts in order to obtain information necessary for the analysis, the goal of the exercise is not to report a series of historical facts. The goal is to analyze the event in terms of one of the three main schools of thought (realism, Liberalism, Marxism) discussed in class. Specifically, the papers will be composed of the following sections:

(1) Background (1.5 pages max)

- (a) Briefly describe the event, noting when it occurred and the related contentious issue.
- (b) Identify the two most relevant actors that are on the opposing sides of the issue.

(2) Analysis (about 4-5 pages)

Use the insights from one of the three major IR theories we have discussed (i.e. realism, liberalism, Marxism) to explain why the event took place and why each side did what it did (i.e. what motivated each side to pursue its chosen policies). In other words, you are utilizing the school of thought to figure out what happened and why.

(3) Include a bibliography (not counted in the page length requirement) with at least three sources other than the assigned readings. It is imperative that all facts/ideas reported in the text are properly referenced using a parenthetical referencing style such as MLA.

Grading criteria for the assignment:

- |                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. objectivity         | 4. organization              |
| 2. quality of research | 5. writing style and clarity |
| 3. quality of analysis | 6. mechanics and grammar     |

Students who have difficulties with rhetoric are encouraged to use the University's resources to help them improve their writing and purchase a writer's manual such as Strunk and White's *Elements of Style*.