

Politics 116: World Politics

Spring 2017

T-TH 1:15-2:30, Room: Cleveland L1

Professor: Andy Reiter

Office Hours: Skinner 107, T 2:45-3:45, W 10:45-11:45, or by appointment

Course Description and Readings

This is an introductory course to international relations (or international politics or world politics). It assumes no prior knowledge or experience in the subject. The aim of the course is to introduce students to the key concepts in international relations and to gain a better understanding of how the world works. Why does war occur? What is the effect of power in the international arena? To what extent can states cooperate to achieve economic develop, improve human rights, or protect the environment? What is the future of international politics? The course introduces students to the main theoretical approaches and concepts used by social scientists to study these concepts. There are no required books for the course; all readings are available electronically.

Guidelines

Any cheating or plagiarism is a serious violation of the College's Honor Code and any instance will result in a zero for the assignment, and potentially for the course. You are required to complete the [College's Tutorial on the proper use of sources](#). If you have any questions on what constitutes plagiarism, please ask; claiming that you did not know or understand the rules is not an excuse. In addition, late papers are not accepted for credit unless there are extenuating circumstances and you obtain *prior* approval from me. If a class is canceled for any reason, such as weather; I will email modifications to this syllabus accordingly.

AccessAbility

If you have a disability and would like to request accommodations, please contact AccessAbility Services, located in Wilder Hall B4, at (413) 538-2634 or accessability-services@mtholyoke.edu. If you are eligible, they will give you an accommodation letter which you should bring to me as soon as possible

Requirements

The class will be run primarily as a lecture, but student participation during lectures is encouraged and expected. Your course grade is based on three papers. The first paper is worth 27.5%, the second paper is worth 32.5%, and the third paper is worth 40% of the course grade. Papers will require you to respond to an overarching question about course material to that point in the semester and reflect on current world events. You are thus expected to follow world news throughout the semester (a habit you hopefully keep after the course ends!).

Grade Breakdown

First Paper	27.5%
Second Paper	32.5%
Third Paper	40%

Course Schedule

Tuesday January 24 Introduction to the Course and Levels of Analysis

Thursday January 26 The Origins of the International System

- ❖ Brad Cohen, "Bribery and Brandy in a Country that Doesn't Exist," *BBC*, January 2, 2014
- ❖ Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers: Economic Change and Military Conflict from 1500-2000* (New York, NY: Random House, 1987), 3-30.

Tuesday January 31 Realism

- ❖ Richard W. Mansbach and Kirsten L. Rafferty, *Introduction to Global Politics* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2008), 19-23.
- ❖ Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chapter 14.
- ❖ Stanley Milgram, "Some Conditions of Obedience and Disobedience to Authority," *Human Relations* 18:1 (1965), 57-75.

Thursday February 2 Multi-Polarity: World War I

- ❖ John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2001), 334-359.
- ❖ *The American Heritage History of World War I* (New York, NY: American Heritage Publishing Co., 1964): 17-39.

Tuesday February 7 Multi-Polarity: The Interwar Years

- ❖ Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* (New York, NY: Basic Books, 2010), 1-20.

Thursday February 9 Multi-Polarity: World War II

- ❖ Scott D. Sagan, "The Origins of the Pacific War," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18:4 (1988): 893-922.

Tuesday February 14 Bi-Polarity: The Beginnings of the Cold War

- ❖ George F. Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," *Foreign Affairs* (July 1947).

Thursday February 16 Bi-Polarity: Cold War Battles and the Fall of the Berlin Wall

- ❖ Ron Rosenbaum, “An Unsung Hero of the Nuclear Age: Maj. Harold Hering and the Forbidden Question That Cost Him His Career,” *Slate*, February 28, 2011.
- ❖ Nicholas Thompson, “Inside the Apocalyptic Soviet Doomsday Machine,” *Wired Magazine*, September 21, 2009.
- ❖ Leon Aron, “Everything You Think You Know About the Collapse of the Soviet Union is Wrong,” *Foreign Policy*, June 20, 2011.

**Tuesday February 21 Uni-Polarity: The Iraq Wars and Beyond
First Paper Question Distributed**

- ❖ Hal Brands, *Making the Unipolar Moment: U.S. Foreign Policy and the Rise of the Post-Cold War Order* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2016), 274-335.

Thursday February 23 Workshop: How to Write a Politics Essay

**Tuesday February 28 No Class
First Paper Due by 1:15 PM via Moodle**

Thursday March 2 Challenges to Realism: Liberalism and Constructivism

- ❖ Cullen Hendrix, “Shit Happens: When Equilibrium Theories Meet Non-Equilibrium Outcomes,” *Political Violence at a Glance*, July 19, 2016
- ❖ Henry Nau, *Perspectives on International Relations: Power, Institutions, Ideas* (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2012), 45-53.
- ❖ Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is what States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics,” *International Organization*, 46:2 (1992): 391-425 [excerpts].

Tuesday March 7 State Cooperation: International Organizations

- ❖ Stewart Patrick, “World Weary: Evaluating the United Nations at 70,” *Foreign Affairs*, July 19, 2016.
- ❖ Kieron Monks, “United States of Africa? African Union Launches All-Africa Passport,” *CNN*, 19 July 2016.
- ❖ Jack Citrin, John Hanley, Morris Levy and Matthew Wright, “Brexit Proved Again That Identity Can Trump Economics,” *The Washington Post* (The Monkey Cage), July 2, 2016.

Thursday March 9 Nationalism and Ethnicity

- ❖ Samuel P. Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs* 72:3 (1993): 22-49.
- ❖ Idean Salehyan, “What the Iranian Revolution Can Teach Us About the US Presidential Election,” *Political Violence at a Glance*, November 25, 2016

Tuesday March 14 No Class – Spring Break

Thursday March 16 No Class – Spring Break

Tuesday March 21 Transnational Actors: Activists

- ❖ Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1998), 1-38.

**Thursday March 23 International Norms and Human Rights
Second Paper Question Distributed**

- ❖ Amartya Sen, “Universal Truths: Human Rights and the Westernizing Illusion,” *Harvard International Review*, 20:3 (1998): 40-43.
- ❖ Elisabetta Povoledo, “Italy Approves Same-Sex Civil Unions,” *New York Times*, 11 May 2016.
- ❖ *Al Jazeera*, “Nepali Girl Dies Due to Banned Menstruation Practice,” December 19, 2016.
- ❖ *World Health Organization*, “Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An Interagency Statement, 2008. Read pages 1-21.
- ❖ Olga Khazan, “Why Some Women Choose to Get Circumcised,” *The Atlantic*, April 8, 2015.
- ❖ Alan Cowell, “French Ban on Face Veils Upheld by European Rights Court,” *The New York Times*, July 1, 2014.

Tuesday March 28 Transnational Actors: Terrorists

- ❖ Philip H. Gordon, “Can the War on Terror be Won?” *Foreign Affairs* 86:6 (2007): 53-66.
- ❖ Audrey Kurth Cronin, “ISIS is Not a Terrorist Group: Why Counterterrorism Won’t Stop the Latest Jihadist Threat,” *Foreign Affairs* March/April 2015.

Thursday March 30 International Law

- ❖ J. Martin Rochester, *Between Peril and Promise: The Politics of International Law* (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2006), 32-52.

Friday March 31 **Second Paper Due by 1:15PM via Moodle**

Tuesday April 4 International Law: Human Rights

- ❖ David Bosco, *Rough Justice: The International Criminal Court in a World of Power Politics* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2014), 23-51.
- ❖ Stuart Reid, “The International Criminal Court on Trial: A Conversation with Fatou Bensouda,” *Foreign Affairs* 96:1 (2017): 48-53.

Thursday April 6 The Environment: Problems

- ❖ Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1990), 1-7.

Tuesday April 11 The Environment: Solutions

- ❖ Mark Lynas, “The Smart Way to Play God with Earth's Limited Land,” *Scientific American*, 20 January 2012.
- ❖ Edward Wong and Jeffrey Gettleman, “China Bans its Ivory Trade, Moving against Elephant Poaching,” *The New York Times*, December 30, 2016.
- ❖ Michelle Innis, “Coast of Antarctica Will Host World’s Largest Marine Reserve,” *The New York Times*, October 27, 2016.
- ❖ Henry Fountain, “Ozone Hole Shows Signs of Shrinking, Scientists Say,” *The New York Times*, June 30, 2016.

Thursday April 13 Globalization

- ❖ Thomas L. Friedman, “It’s a Flat World, After All,” *New York Times Magazine* 3 April 2005.
- ❖ Benjamin Barber, “Jihad vs. McWorld,” *Atlantic Monthly* March (1992).
- ❖ Visit: <http://yourlifeinnumbers.org/>. Enter your country and year of birth and see how much it has changed today. You may also want to explore other articles and charts at <http://humanprogress.org/>.

Tuesday April 18 Challenges to Globalization

- ❖ Andre Gunder Frank, “The Development of Underdevelopment,” *Monthly Review* 18:4 (1966): 17-31.
- ❖ Uri Dadush and Kemal Dervis, “The Inequality Challenge,” *Current History*, January 2013, 13-20.

Thursday April 20 Security Revisited: Human Security

- ❖ Joshua S. Goldstein, “Think Again: War,” *Foreign Policy* (September/October 2011).
- ❖ Jon Western and Joshua S. Goldstein, “Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age: Lessons from Somalia to Libya,” *Foreign Affairs* 90:6 (2011): 48-59.
- ❖ Mark Thompson, “The U.S. Military in Haiti: A Compassionate Invasion,” *Time Magazine Online*, 16 January 2010.

**Tuesday April 25 Realism Revisited: A New Great Power War?
Third Paper Question Distributed**

- ❖ Kevin Rudd, “A Maritime Balkans of the 21st Century?” *Foreign Policy*, 30 January 2013.
- ❖ Max Fisher, “How World War III became Possible: A Nuclear Conflict with Russia is Likelier than You Think,” *VOX*, June 29, 2015
- ❖ Alison Smale, “In a Reversal, Germany’s Military Growth is Met with Western Relief,” *The New York Times*, June 5, 2016.

**Thursday April 27 Conclusion: The Future of International Relations
Review Day**

Saturday May 6 **Third Paper Due by 1:15 PM via Moodle**