

Politics 116: World Politics

Spring 2018

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

Professor: Andy Reiter

Office Hours: Skinner 107, T 2:45-3:45, TH 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. Papers must follow the American Political Science Association's style guide for citations; a guide is provided on Moodle. 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.

To encourage active engagement and academic inquiry in the classroom, as well as to safeguard the privacy of students and faculty, no form of audio or visual recording in the classroom is permitted without explicit permission from the professor/instructor or without a letter from AccessAbility Services, signed by the faculty member, authorizing the recording as an accommodation. Authorized recordings may only be used by a student who has obtained permission and may not be shared or distributed for any reason. Violation of this policy is an infraction of the Mount Holyoke Honor Code and academic regulations and will result in disciplinary action.

AccessAbility

If you 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 maintain after the course ends!).

Grade Breakdown

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

Course Schedule

Tuesday January 23 Introduction to the Course and Levels of Analysis

Thursday January 25 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: Random House, 1987), 3-30.

Tuesday January 30 Realism

- ❖ Richard W. Mansbach and Kirsten L. Rafferty, *Introduction to Global Politics* (New York: 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 1 Multi-Polarity: World War I

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

Tuesday February 6 Multi-Polarity: The Interwar Years

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

- Thursday February 8 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 13 Bi-Polarity: The Beginnings of the Cold War**
- ❖ George F. Kennan, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” *Foreign Affairs* (July 1947).
- Thursday February 15 Bi-Polarity: The Cold War 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.
- Friday February 16 **First Paper Question Distributed****
- Tuesday February 20 Uni-Polarity: The Iraq Wars and Beyond**
- ❖ 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 22 Workshop: How to Write a Political Science Essay**
- Tuesday February 27 No Class**
****First Paper Due by 2:30 PM via Moodle****
- Thursday March 1 Challenges to Realism: Liberalism and Constructivism**
- ❖ Henry Nau, *Perspectives on International Relations: Power, Institutions, Ideas* (Washington: 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].
 - ❖ Oona A. Hathaway and Scott J. Shapiro, *The Internationalists: How a Radical Plan to Outlaw War Remade the World* (New York: Simon & Schuster), ix-xxii.

Tuesday March 6 State Cooperation: International Organizations

- ❖ Oona A. Hathaway and Scott J. Shapiro, *The Internationalists: How a Radical Plan to Outlaw War Remade the World* (New York: Simon & Schuster), 202-214.
- ❖ Oona A. Hathaway and Scott J. Shapiro, *The Internationalists: How a Radical Plan to Outlaw War Remade the World* (New York: Simon & Schuster), 309-335.
- ❖ Stewart Patrick, “World Weary: Evaluating the United Nations at 70,” *Foreign Affairs*, July 19, 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 8 International Norms and Human Rights

- ❖ Amartya Sen, “Universal Truths: Human Rights and the Westernizing Illusion,” *Harvard International Review*, 20:3 (1998): 40-43.
- ❖ Damien Cave and Jacqueline Williams, “Australia Makes Same-Sex Marriage Legal,” *The New York Times*, December 7, 2017
- ❖ *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.
- ❖ “A School Is Not a Military Post,” *Scientific American* 318:1 (2018): 7.

Tuesday March 13 No Class – Spring Break

Thursday March 15 No Class – Spring Break

Tuesday March 20 Transnational Actors: Activists

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

Thursday March 22 Identity and Nationalism

- ❖ Samuel P. Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs* 72:3 (1993): 22-49.
- ❖ Benjamin Barber, “Jihad vs. McWorld,” *Atlantic Monthly* March (1992).
- ❖ Idean Salehyan, “What the Iranian Revolution Can Teach Us About the US Presidential Election,” *Political Violence at a Glance*, November 25, 2016
- ❖ Graham Allison, “China vs. America: Managing the Next Clash of Civilizations,” *Foreign Affairs* 96:5 (2017): 80-89.

Tuesday March 27 Transnational Actors: Terrorists
****Second Paper Question Distributed****

- ❖ 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 29 International Law

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

Tuesday April 3 International Law: Human Rights

- ❖ David Bosco, *Rough Justice: The International Criminal Court in a World of Power Politics* (New York: 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.

Wednesday April 4 **Second Paper Due by 1:15PM via Moodle**

Thursday April 5 The Environment: Problems

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

Tuesday April 10 The Environment: Solutions

- ❖ Barack Obama, “Barack Obama on food and climate change: ‘We can still act and it won’t be too late’,” *The Guardian*, May 26, 2017.
- ❖ 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 12 Globalization and Development

- ❖ Thomas L. Friedman, “It’s a Flat World, After All,” *New York Times Magazine* 3 April 2005.
- ❖ 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/>.
- ❖ 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.

**Tuesday April 17 International Political Economy
Guest Lecture by Professor Chris Mitchell**

- ❖ John G. Ikenberry, “The Liberal International Order and its Discontents,” *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 38:3 (2010): 509-521.
- ❖ Stephen D. Krasner, “State Power and the Structure of International Trade,” in *International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Power and Wealth*, edited by Jeffry A. Frieden and David A. Lake (London: Routledge 2017).

Thursday April 19 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*, January 16, 2010.

**Tuesday April 24 Realism Revisited: A New Great Power War?
Third Paper Question Distributed**

- ❖ *Council on Foreign Relations*, “China’s Maritime Disputes,” <https://www.cfr.org/asia-and-pacific/chinas-maritime-disputes/p31345#!/p31345>
- ❖ Max Fisher, “How World War III became Possible: A Nuclear Conflict with Russia is Likelier than You Think,” *VOX*, June 29, 2015
- ❖ Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and Michael Carpenter, “How to Stand Up to the Kremlin: Defending Democracy Against Its Enemies,” *Foreign Affairs* 97:1 (2018): 44-57.
- ❖ Oona A. Hathaway and Scott J. Shapiro, *The Internationalists: How a Radical Plan to Outlaw War Remade the World* (New York: Simon & Schuster), 336-351.

Thursday April 26 Conclusion: The Future of International Relations

Friday May 4 **Third Paper Due by 1:15 PM via Moodle**