

# INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

**PSC 406: International Politics**

**Instructor:** Dr. Jess Morrissette

**Office Hours:** M/W 9:00-12:00, or by appointment

**Phone:** (304) 696-2760

**Spring 2015, Tu/Th 9:30-10:45**

**Location:** Smith Hall 232

**Office Location:** Smith 739

**Email:** [morrissette@marshall.edu](mailto:morrissette@marshall.edu)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The study of major issues in world politics, with emphasis on theoretical approaches, problems of war and peace, and contemporary trends (International, 3 credit hours).

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

<b>By the end of the semester, students should be able to...</b>	<b>How we will practice this outcome</b>	<b>How we will assess this outcome</b>
<i>Compare, critique, and apply major theories of international relations.</i>	Lectures, discussions, in-class activities	Exams, essays
<i>Utilize primary sources and effectively critique arguments advanced in the study of IR.</i>	Lectures, discussions, in-class activities	Exams
<i>Evaluate issues of war and peace at the global, domestic, and individual levels of analysis.</i>	Lectures, discussions, in-class activities	Exams
<i>Assess the impact of globalization on both nation-states and individuals.</i>	Lectures, discussions, in-class activities	Exams, essays

This course also assesses the following “Intercultural Thinking” learning outcomes:

<b>By the end of the semester, students should be able to...</b>	<b>How we will practice this outcome</b>	<b>How we will assess this outcome</b>
<i>Evaluate how specific approaches to global issues will affect multiple communities.</i>	Lectures, discussions, in-class activities	Exams, essays
<i>Untangle competing political, economic, religious, social, or geographical interests of groups in conflict.</i>	Lectures, discussions, in-class activities	Exams

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY:** Your grade will be based on your performance on two short papers, a take-home midterm exam, a take-home final exam, three random reviews of your reading journals, and class participation. Failure to complete any component of the course will result in a failing grade for the semester, regardless of the missing assignment's point value. There will be no extra credit offered for this course—no exceptions. Your final grade is determined as follows:

5%	Participation	A = 90-100%
15%	Reading Journals (5% each)	B = 80-89%
10%	"Honesty is the Worst Policy" Essay	C = 70-79%
30%	Midterm Exam	D = 60-69%
10%	"Pop Culture" Essay	F ≤ 59%
30%	Final Exam	

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

- ✓ Crothers, *Globalization and American Popular Culture*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.
- ✓ Handler, *International Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*
- ✓ Mearsheimer, *Why Leaders Lie: The Truth about Lying in International Politics*

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** Attendance is required in this class, and students are expected to have read and be ready to discuss all assigned readings prior to class. Students will also be graded based on their class participation—engaging in discussion of the readings and current political events, asking questions, and so forth. Once again, attendance is clearly important; if you aren't in class, you can't participate. If you feel that you are having trouble getting your voice heard in our discussions, please contact me as soon as possible and we will work together to get you more involved.

The participation grade will be determined as follows: 5 points will be awarded to students who attend class consistently and make valuable contributions to class discussion on a regular basis; 4 points will be awarded to students who attend class consistently and contribute to discussions occasionally; 3 points will be awarded to students who attend class consistently, but seldom participate in class discussions. Attendance grades of 2, 1, and 0 points are reserved for those students who fail to attend class regularly and therefore cannot participate meaningfully in class discussions.

**PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Please turn off your cell phone prior to class. Students who text during class will be asked to leave.

Students should also refrain from using PKE Meters, boom boxes, Xboxes, Pandora's Boxes, Crock-Pots, seismographs, lightsabers, jetpacks, laser tag guns, Moog synthesizers, old-timey collodion process cameras, electromagnetic pulse emitters, tanning lamps, sonic screwdrivers, Segways, Easy-Bake Ovens, baseball pitching machines, Nintendo Power Gloves, laser epilators, leaf blowers, PoulonPRO PP3516AVX chainsaws, Dance Dance Revolution arcade machines, welding torches, night vision goggles, Margaritaville™ frozen drink machines, shiatsu massage chairs, theremins, remote-controlled helicopters, or similar electronic devices during class time.

Finally, I discourage you from using a laptop during class. A growing body of research suggests that taking notes on a laptop or tablet hinders classroom learning by not only distracting both the user and other nearby students (Sana, Weston, and Wiseheart 2013), but also by promoting shallower processing of information (Mueller and Oppenheimer 2014).

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Students are expected to adhere to the University's policies concerning academic honesty (see pages 70-72 of the 2014/2015 undergraduate catalog). Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty on an exam, quiz, or assignment will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent under University policies. **The penalty for academic dishonesty is a failing grade for the course.**

Cheating is defined by the University as "[a]ny action which if known to the instructor in the course of study would be prohibited" (Undergraduate Catalog, p. 70). This includes, but is not limited to, the use of any unauthorized materials or assistance during an academic exercise.

Plagiarism is defined as "[s]ubmitting as one's own work or creation any material or an idea wholly or in part created by another" (Undergraduate Catalog, p. 71). Furthermore, it is "the student's responsibility to clearly distinguish his/her own work from that created by others. This includes the proper use of quotation marks, paraphrase and the citation of the original source. Students are responsible for both intentional and unintentional acts of plagiarism" (p. 71).

**EMAIL POLICY:** Please check your Marshall email account regularly. Articles, assignments, and other important announcements may be sent to your "@marshall.edu" email address during the course of the semester. If you prefer to use a different email service, please contact Computing Services for assistance with forwarding your Marshall email to your preferred address.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Late assignments will be assessed a 10% penalty per day after the missed deadline (including weekends), with a maximum penalty of 50%. Late exams will not be accepted without a University-excused absence. Please keep in mind that you must complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade in the course, regardless of the point values of those assignments.

Please note that the Reading Journals carry a special late penalty. If you submit a journal after I've already collected it in class without a University excuse, I will assess a 50% penalty on the assignment. If you *do* have a University excuse, you can submit your journal at our next class meeting with no penalty.

**OTHER UNIVERSITY POLICIES:** By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. The full text of each policy is available at <http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/>.

- Academic Dishonesty, Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates, Computing Services Acceptable Use, Inclement Weather, Dead Week, Students with Disabilities, Academic Forgiveness, Academic Probation and Suspension, Academic Rights & Responsibilities of Students, Affirmative Action, Sexual Harassment.

---

---

**ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS:**

- **"HONESTY IS THE WORST POLICY" ESSAY:** Choose one of the following scenarios:
  - A drone has destroyed a Pakistani orphanage after mistaking it for an al-Qaeda training camp. There were no survivors.
  - Leaked documents reveal that the NSA has eavesdropped on the phone conversations of Russian President Vladimir Putin for the past five years. Putin is not pleased.
  - A *60 Minutes* report uncovered evidence that CIA agents operating out of the US embassy in Seoul, South Korea, have smuggled 50 refugees out of North Korea in the past six months. Kim Jong Un calls this a violation of international law and a possible act of war.

Imagine that you're a speechwriter for the President and craft the perfect lie to explain, dismiss, and/or otherwise distract from these troubling developments. Write your essay in the form of a speech to be delivered by the President to the American people. In a brief (one paragraph) epilogue, discuss which of Mearsheimer's "seven lies" your speech represents. The essay should be approximately 3 pages in length.

- "POP CULTURE" PAPER: Choose any aspect of modern American popular culture (a song, novel, movie, television show, video game, fashion trend, celebrity, et cetera) and discuss how it reflects—either positively or negatively—American values and/or America's place in the world. The essay should be approximately 3 pages in length.
- READING JOURNALS: Students will maintain a reading journal that summarizes and critiques each of the readings assigned during the semester. I will collect these journals three times during the semester (unannounced) and assess your progress.
  - I have created a worksheet to streamline these summaries, and I will distribute a "starter set" of worksheets at the beginning of the semester. I'll also make the worksheet template available on MUOnline so you can print your own after you've run through your initial supply.
  - My advice is to hole-punch these worksheets and place them in a three-ring binder—for your convenience and mine.
  - You should complete one worksheet summary for each reading assigned this semester. When we split up a book over multiple weeks, treat the chapters assigned for that week as a single reading. For instance, if I ask you to read Chapters 1-4 in Mearsheimer, you should complete a single worksheet summarizing and critiquing what Mearsheimer writes in those chapters.
  - You will be graded both on how complete and up-to-date your summaries are, as well as the quality of your critique.
  - Complete the week's summaries prior to class each Tuesday, and be sure to bring them with you!
  - If you submit a journal late without a University excuse, I will assess a 50% penalty on the assignment. If you have a University excuse, you can submit your journal at our next class meeting with no penalty.
- MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS: The midterm and final exams are take-home tests. Approximately one week prior to the respective due-dates, I will distribute a set of essay questions. In turn, students will return the completed exam on the dates specified in the course schedule. Please note that while these are take-home exams, *they are still exams*. In other words, students are **not** allowed to collaborate with one another in the completion of the exams. I will provide more details as the exams approach.

---

---

Please consider the following guidelines when preparing your written assignments:

- ✓ All papers and exams are due *in class* on the due dates listed in the syllabus. No e-mail submissions will be accepted.
- ✓ Be sure to include a brief introduction that states the purpose of your essay, as well as a concise conclusion that sums up what you have written.

- ✓ Always cite your sources! For this class, I request that you use the American Political Science Association style guidelines (online at <http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocAPSA.html>). In turn, be sure to make it clear where you found any “outside” information in your essay. This includes not only citing direct quotations, but also any paraphrased material or statistics. Also, include a “works cited” page at the end of your essays and exams. Failure to properly cite your sources constitutes **PLAGIARISM**.
- ✓ Be judicious in choosing online sources, and do not cite Wikipedia or other online encyclopedias. Online news articles from major media outlets and official organizational websites are always safe bets; some dude’s Twitter feed is decidedly less so. If it’s a website that you’ve never heard of prior to it popping up in a Google search, that’s probably a good sign that it’s not an appropriate academic source.
- ✓ Proofread your essays! Most grammatical and typographical errors can be easily caught with a simple read-through before a paper is submitted. Essays and papers plagued by significant grammatical or typographical errors will be penalized.
- ✓ Papers should conform to the suggested lengths provided above (title pages and works cited pages do not count toward the suggested length). Papers should be double-spaced with 1” margins and typed using the standard 12-point Times/Times New Roman font (or the Macintosh equivalent).

**COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

- ⇒ **Week of January 13: *Why Leaders Lie***
  - Mearsheimer, Introduction and Chapters 1-4
  - 1.1: Nye, “What Is International Politics?”
- ⇒ **Week of January 20: *Why Leaders Lie* (continued)**
  - Mearsheimer, Chapters 5-9
  - 1.2: Farrell, “Good Writing in Political Science”

**“HONESTY IS THE WORST POLICY” ESSAY DUE  
Tuesday, January 27**

- ⇒ **Week of January 27: Realism**
  - 3.1: Hobbes, “Of the Natural Condition of Mankind as Concerning Their Felicity and Misery”
  - 3.2: Machiavelli, *The Prince* (excerpt)
  - 10.1: Thucydides, “The Melian Dialogue”
  - 3.3: Morgenthau, “A Realist Theory of International Politics”
  - 4.1: Waltz, “The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory”
  - 4.2: Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power”
- ⇒ **Week of February 3: Liberalism**
  - 5.1: Locke, “Of the State of Nature...”
  - 5.2: Kant, “Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch”
  - 6.5: Wilson, “Fourteen Points”

- 6.1: Nye, "Liberalism Revived"
- 6.4: Keohane, "Harmony, Cooperation, and Discord"

⇒ **Week of February 10: Constructivism**

- 7.1: Hopf, "The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations Theory"
- 7.2: Finnemore and Sikkink, "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change"
- 7.3: Tannenwald, "Stigmatizing the Bomb: Origins of the Nuclear Taboo"
- 8.1: Tickner, "Dealing With Difference: Problems and Possibilities..."

⇒ **Week of February 17: Power and International Politics**

- 11.3: Levy, "Preventative War and Democratic Politics"
- 12.1: Morgenthau, "The Balance of Power"
- 12.2: Walt, "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power"
- 12.3: Pape, "Soft Balancing Against the United States"
- 13.2: Posen, "A Nuclear-Armed Iran: A Difficult But Not Impossible Problem"

⇒ **Week of February 24: War**

- 14.1: Reiter, "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War"
- 15.1: Russett, "The Fact of Democratic Peace"
- 15.2: Mansfield and Snyder, "Democratization and War"
- 18.1: Nagel, "War and Massacre"
- 18.2: Rawls, "The Moral Duties of Statesmen"

⇒ **Week of March 3: Terrorism**

- 17.1: Rapoport, "The Four Waves of Rebel Terror and September 11"
- 17.2: Crenshaw, "The Causes of Terrorism"
- 17.3: Kydd and Walter, "The Strategies of Terrorism"

<p><b>MIDTERM EXAM DUE</b> <b>Thursday, March 5</b></p>
---

⇒ **Week of March 10: International Trade**

- 19.1: Frieden, Lake, and Broz: "International Politics and International Economics"
- 20.1: Krugman, "What Do Undergrads Need to Know About Trade?"
- 20.2: Panagariya, "International Trade: Think Again"
- 21.3: Velasco, "Dependency Theory"
- 24.2: Kapstein, "Does Globalization Have an Ethical Problem?"
- 24.3: Kristof and WuDunn, "Two Cheers for Sweatshops"

⇒ **Week of March 17: Spring Break!**

⇒ **Week of March 24: Poverty, Inequality, and Foreign Aid**

- 25.1: Karl, "The Vicious Cycle of Inequality in Latin America"
- 25.2: Collier, "What's the Issue? and On Missing the Boat"
- 25.3: Bueno de Mesquita and Root, "The Political Roots of Poverty"
- 28.1: Sachs, "The Development Challenge"

- 28.2: Easterly, “The Utopian Nightmare”

⇒ **Week of March 31: Class cancelled!**

⇒ **Week of April 7: Popular Culture and Globalization**

- Crothers, Chapters 1-3

⇒ **Week of April 14: Popular Culture and Globalization**

- Crothers, Chapters 4-6

**“POP CULTURE” ESSAY DUE**

**Tuesday, April 14**

⇒ **Week of April 21: The Global Environment**

- 30.1: *The Economist*, “Let Them Eat Pollution”
- 30.2: *The Economist*, “Pollution and the Poor”
- 30.3: Sprinz and Vaahtoranta, “The Interest-Based Explanation...”
- 30.4: Bell, “What To Do About Climate Change?”
- 32.2: Hardin, “Lifeboat Ethics: The Case Against Helping the Poor”

⇒ **Week of April 28: The Future of International Politics**

- 31.1: Fukuyama, “The End of History?”
- 31.2: Barber, “Jihad vs. McWorld”
- 31.3: Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?”

**FINAL EXAM DUE**

**Tuesday, May 5 (9:00AM)**

*Please note that assignments are tentative. Readings may be removed, added, or moved to a different day based on our progress in the semester.*