

# *Fundamentals of* **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**PSC 209 CT (Spring 2017, MWF 10:00-10:50)**

**Instructor:** Dr. Jess Morrisette  
**Office hours:** M 11-12, W 1:30-2:30, Th 9-12, or by appointment  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Survey of major concepts and approaches in the study of international relations and analysis of processes, institutions, strategies, and trends in world politics (CT, International, 3 credit hours).

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** We will address a wide range of questions this semester. Why do states go to war? When is cooperation possible? What roles do international organizations play? What is the impact of globalization on world politics? What are the origins of terrorism, and how can it be fought? The goals of this course are to provide you with the tools to answer these fundamental questions of world politics, as well as understand current global events in their theoretical and historical contexts.

Course Student Learning Outcome	How we will practice this outcome	How we will assess this outcome
<i>Students will apply the theories and methodologies of IR to analyze historical and contemporary events and explain decision-making processes.</i>	Discussions, ungraded in-class essays, group exercises (e.g. roleplaying/simulations)	Essay and multiple-choice questions, current events essay
<i>Students will analyze the ways in which globalization is transforming world politics and assess its political, economic, and social impacts on both states and individuals.</i>	Discussions, group exercises, informal debates	Current events essay, essay and multiple-choice questions
<i>Students will propose and evaluate potential solutions to contemporary global issues.</i>	Discussions, problem-based group exercises	Current events essay, essay questions

Critical Thinking at Marshall University: “The Core Curriculum at Marshall University requires students to complete 9 hours of Core I courses: a First Year Seminar (FYS) and two courses with a critical thinking (CT) designation. Together these courses introduce first year students to the nine Marshall University Learning Outcomes common to all majors at Marshall. While Core I is an introduction to the Marshall outcomes, students will continue to practice these outcomes throughout their degree programs and will demonstrate proficiency in these outcomes in the Capstone Experience” ([www.marshall.edu/gened/core-i-courses/](http://www.marshall.edu/gened/core-i-courses/)). This course meets the Core I/CT requirement and fulfills the following CT Learning Outcomes:

Critical Thinking Learning Outcome	How we will practice this outcome	How we will assess this outcome
<b><i>Integrative Thinking:</i></b> <i>Students will make connections and transfer skills and learning among varied disciplines, domains of thinking, experiences, and situations.</i>	Lectures, discussions, ungraded in-class essays, group exercises, debates	Essay and multiple-choice questions, current events essay

<p><b>Intercultural Thinking:</b></p> <p><i>Students will evaluate generalizations about cultural groups, analyze how cultural beliefs might affect communication across cultures, evaluate how specific approaches to global issues will affect multiple cultural communities, and untangle competing economic, religious, social, or geographical interests of cultural groups in conflict.</i></p>	<p>Exercises applying the "interests, interactions, institutions" framework to contemporary and historical conflicts</p>	<p>Current events essay, essay questions</p>
<p><b>Ethical and Civic Thinking:</b></p> <p><i>Students will determine the origins of core beliefs and ethical principles, evaluate the ethical basis of professional rules and standards of conduct, evaluate how academic theories and public policy inform one another to support civic well-being, and analyze complex ethical problems to address competing interests.</i></p>	<p>Discussions, informal classroom debates on ethics and international law, group activities that emphasize connecting theory to practice</p>	<p>Essay questions, current events essay</p>
<p><b>Creative Thinking:</b></p> <p><i>Students will outline multiple divergent solutions to a problem, develop and explore risky or controversial ideas, and synthesize ideas/expertise to generate ideas.</i></p>	<p>Problem-based group exercises, discussions, "policy brainstorming" activities</p>	<p>Current events essay, essay questions</p>
<p><b>Information Literacy:</b></p> <p><i>Students will revise their search strategies and employ appropriate research tools, integrate relevant information from reliable sources, question and evaluate the complexity of the information environment, and use information in an ethical manner.</i></p>	<p>In-class exercises demonstrating search strategies and evaluating the quality/reliability of sources.</p>	<p>Current events essay</p>

PSC 209 meets the following student learning outcomes for the International (INTL) designation:

<b>"International Thinking" Learning Outcome</b>	<b>How we will practice this outcome</b>	<b>How we will assess this outcome</b>
<p><i>Students will evaluate how specific approaches to global issues will affect multiple communities.</i></p>	<p>Discussions and exercises emphasizing immediate and long-term impacts of foreign policy decisions.</p>	<p>Essay questions, multiple-choice questions, current events essay</p>
<p><i>Students will untangle competing political, economic, religious, social, or geographical interests of groups in conflict.</i></p>	<p>Exercises applying the "interests, interactions, institutions" framework to contemporary and historical conflicts</p>	<p>Essay and multiple-choice questions</p>

Finally, this course also meets the following student learning objectives for the International Affairs major:

<b>International Affairs Learning Outcome</b>	<b>How we will practice this outcome</b>	<b>How we will assess this outcome</b>
<p><i>Students will analyze the process of globalization and apply knowledge of political, economic, and cultural institutions across state borders to predict emerging global issues.</i></p>	<p>Discussions, problem-based group exercises</p>	<p>Current events essay, essay questions</p>
<p><i>Students will construct original arguments about global phenomena, integrating appropriate knowledge, theory, practices, methodologies, and techniques.</i></p>	<p>Discussions, in-class exercises on constructing and presenting an original argument</p>	<p>Current events essay, essay questions</p>

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY:** Your grade is based on your performance on two exams, a series of pop quizzes, a paper, and class participation. No extra credit will be awarded—no exceptions. Your final grade is determined as follows:

5%	Participation	A = 90-100%
20%	Online reading quizzes	B = 80-89%
25%	Midterm exam	C = 70-79%
20%	Current events essay	D = 60-69%
30%	Final exam	F ≤ 59%

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

- ✓ Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions* (3rd edition)
- ✓ Additional readings may be distributed via MUOnline during the course of the semester. Students should also keep up-to-date on current events in world 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.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Students are expected to adhere to the University's policies concerning academic honesty (please see pages 73-75 of the 2016/2017 undergraduate catalog). Cheating or plagiarism on any exam, quiz, or assignment will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent under University policies. **The penalty for cheating or plagiarism 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. 73). This includes, but is not limited to, the use of any unauthorized materials or assistance during an academic exercise.

The University defines plagiarism 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. 74). 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. 74).

**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).

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

**MAKE-UP POLICY:** There will be no make-up exams administered for students without an excused absence from the University (e.g. family emergency, illness, athletic commitment). Students who need to miss an exam should contact me prior to the scheduled exam period if at all possible.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Late essays will be assessed a 10% penalty per day after the missed deadline (including weekends), with a maximum penalty of 50%. Quizzes submitted after the deadline immediately incur a 50% penalty. 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.

**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:

- **MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS:** Students will complete two in-class exams during the semester: a midterm exam and a comprehensive final exam. Additional details about the content and format of these exams will be provided as the exam dates approach.
- **READING QUIZZES:** Most weeks, students will complete a short online reading quiz covering the week's assigned readings and developing international news. These quizzes will go "live" on MUOnline the preceding Friday and must be submitted prior to the beginning of class each Monday (unless otherwise noted in the course schedule). The quizzes are "open book" and "open notes."
- **CURRENT EVENTS ESSAY:** Students will choose a current event in international politics and analyze it using the interests, interactions, institutions framework outlined in the Frieden, Lake, and Schultz text. Your essay should: 1) present a brief summary/background of the event under consideration, 2) explain the event's significance, and 3) apply the three I's to provide additional insight into the event. Keep in mind that your essay's emphasis should be on *analysis* of the event rather than mere description.

The essay should be approximately 6 pages long, and it should cite at least 6 sources. Please choose these sources wisely. Academic sources (journals and books published by University presses) are considered the "gold standard." Other good sources include major newspapers (e.g. *New York Times*, *Washington Post*) and reports compiled by international organizations (e.g. the United Nations or World Bank). Do NOT cite online encyclopedias or other sources of dubious quality. As a rule of thumb, a good bibliography does not consist of the first ten links that happen to pop up in a Google search.

I will grade the papers based on overall quality of analysis, application of course concepts, use of proper sources, and writing style.

Please consider the following guidelines while completing your writing assignments:

- You will submit your paper electronically via MUOnline.
- Be sure to include a brief introduction that states the purpose of your paper, 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 Chicago author/date style (guidelines available on MUOnline). 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**. As a rule of thumb, any information that you decide to include in the paper and didn't know before you began working on the project merits a citation. Also, include a "works cited" page at the end of your essays and exams. Failure to properly cite your sources constitutes **PLAGIARISM**.
- Proofread your essays! Most grammatical and typographical errors can be easily caught with a simple read-through before a paper is submitted.
- 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). Please include page numbers in the upper right-hand corner of your pages.

I will provide more details on the format of the essay as the semester progresses.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

### **Week of January 9: History of the World, Part I**

- *World Politics*, Introduction and Chapter 1

### **Week of January 16: History of the World, Part II**

- *World Politics*, Introduction and Chapter 1 (review)
- Class cancelled on Monday for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- Reading Quiz 1 (due on Wednesday)

### **Week of January 23: Interests, Interactions, Institutions**

- *World Politics*, Chapter 2
- Reading Quiz 2

### **Week of January 30: The War Puzzle**

- *World Politics*, Chapter 3
- Reading Quiz 3

### **Week of February 6: Domestic Politics and War**

- *World Politics*, Chapter 4
- Reading Quiz 4

### **Week of February 13: WMDs and Cyberwarfare**

- Finaud, "Reconciling National Security and General and Complete Disarmament" (online)
- Theohary and Rollins, "Cyberwarfare and Cyberterrorism: In Brief" (online)

### **Week of February 20: International Institutions and War**

- *World Politics*, Chapter 5
- Reading Quiz 5

### **Week of February 27: Terrorism**

- *World Politics*, Chapter 6
- Reading Quiz 6

**MIDTERM EXAM**  
**Monday, March 6**

### **Week of March 6: International Political Economy, Part I**

- *World Politics*, Chapter 7

### **Week of March 13: International Political Economy, Part II**

- *World Politics*, Chapters 8 and 9

### **Week of March 20: Spring Break!**

### **Week of March 27: Development and Inequality**

- *World Politics*, Chapter 10
- Reading Quiz 7

**CURRENT EVENTS ESSAY DUE**  
**Wednesday, March 29**

**Week of April 3: International Law and Human Rights**

- *World Politics*, Chapters 11 and 12
- Reading Quiz 8

**Week of April 10: The Global Environment**

- *World Politics*, Chapter 13
- Reading Quiz 9

**Week of April 17: The Future of International Politics, Part I**

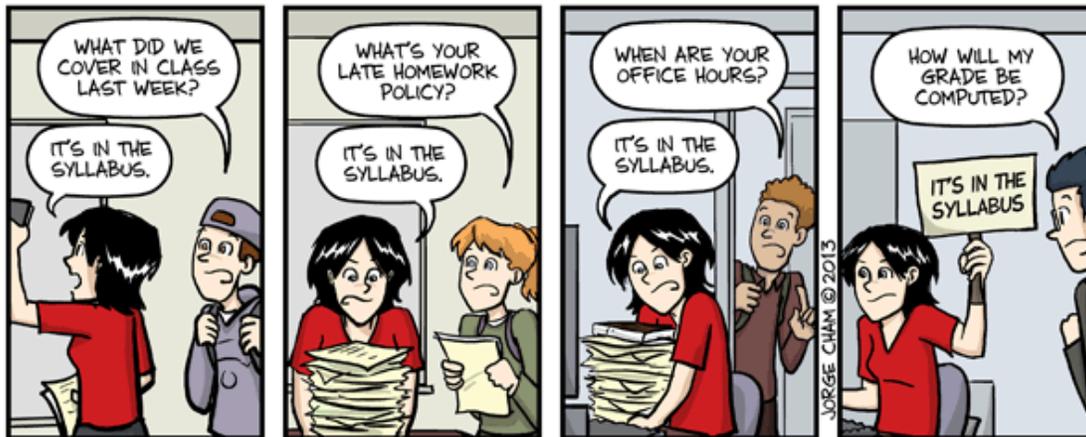
- *World Politics*, Chapter 14
- *Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds* (online)
- Reading Quiz 10

**Week of April 24: The Future of International Politics, Part II**

- *Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds* (online)

**FINAL EXAM**  
**Monday, May 1 (10:15-12:15)**

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



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