

PSC 406
SPRING 2018



INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

INSTRUCTOR: DR. JESS MORRISSETTE

MEETINGS: TU/TH, 9:30-10:45 (SMITH HALL 435)

OFFICE HOURS: M 9-12, TU/TH 3:30-4:30, OR BY APPOINTMENT

OFFICE LOCATION: SMITH HALL 739

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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

By the end of the semester, students should be able to...	How we will practice this outcome...	How we will assess this outcome...
<i>Compare, critique, and apply major theories of international relations.</i>	Lectures, discussions, in-class activities	Exams, essay, theory paper
<i>Utilize primary sources and effective critique arguments advanced in the study of IR.</i>	Lectures, discussions, in-class activities	Exams, essay, theory paper
<i>Assess the impact of globalization on nation-states and individuals.</i>	Lectures, discussions, in-class activities	Exams
<i>Evaluate how specific approaches to global issues will affect multiple communities.</i>	Lectures, discussions, in-class activities	Exams, essay
<i>Untangle competing political, economic, religious, social, or geographical interests of groups in conflict.</i>	Lectures, discussions, in-class activities	Exams, essay

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

Your course grade is calculated based on two papers, take-home midterm and final exams, and class participation. Your final grade is determined as follows:

5%	Participation	A =	90%-100%
10%	"Honesty is the Worst Policy" Essay	B =	80-89%
25%	Midterm Exam	C =	70-79%
30%	Theory Paper	D =	60-69%
30%	Final Exam	F ≤	59%

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Handler, Scott. *International Politics: Classic & Contemporary Readings*. Sage/CQ Press, 2013.
- Mearsheimer, John. *Why Leaders Lie: The Truth about Lying in International Politics*. Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Crothers, *Globalization and American Popular Culture*, 4th edition.

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.

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.

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.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students are expected to adhere to the University's policies concerning academic honesty (please see the 2017/2018 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." 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." 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."

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will be assessed a 10% penalty per day after the missed deadline (including weekends), with a maximum penalty of 50%. The final date to submit late work for the semester is Friday, April 27. 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.

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.

OTHER UNIVERSITY POLICIES

By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy by going to www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.” Or, you can access the policies directly by going to <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 and Responsibilities of Students, Affirmative Action, Sexual Harassment

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 (including variations favored by Darth Maul and Kylo Ren), jetpacks, laser tag guns, Moog synthesizers, old-timey collodion process cameras, electromagnetic pulse emitters, tanning lamps, sonic screwdrivers, Segways, Easy-Bake Ovens, unmanned drones, baseball pitching machines, Nintendo Power Gloves, laser epilators, leaf blowers, PoulonPRO PP3516AVX chainsaws, Dance Dance Revolution arcade machines, welding torches, night vision goggles, Jimmy Buffet® Margaritaville™ frozen drink machines, shiatsu massage chairs, theremins, remote-controlled helicopters, or similar electronic devices during class time.

ASSIGNMENTS

- **"Honesty is the Worst Policy" Essay:** Choose one of the following scenarios:
 - A drone has destroyed a Syrian orphanage after mistaking it for an ISIS training camp. There were no survivors.
 - Leaked documents reveal the NSA has eavesdropped on the phone conversations of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for the past year. Trudeau is not pleased.
 - A *60 Minutes* exposé uncovered evidence that the CIA has tampered with Russia's 2018 presidential legislative election, funneling support to candidates opposed to President Vladimir Putin. Putin is not pleased.

Imagine 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, explain which of Mearsheimer's "seven lies" your speech represents. The essay should be approximately 3 pages long.

- **Theory Paper:** Choose a historical or contemporary event in world politics and analyze it using one of the theoretical perspectives covered this semester (realism, liberalism, feminism, constructivism, Marxism). Your paper should follow this outline:
 - **Introduction (1-2 pages):** Establish the topic and state the essay's purpose.
 - **Theory (3 pages):** Summarize and critique the theoretical perspective you plan to apply. Go beyond course readings and draw upon peer-reviewed journal articles and books published by university presses to provide insight into the theory under consideration.
 - **Case Study (5 pages):** Analyze your case study using the theory introduced in the previous section. Don't just describe the event! We have Wikipedia for that. Provide an account of the events *through the lens* of your chosen theory.
 - **Conclusion (1 page):** Summarize what we have learned about your topic by applying IR theory.

Your paper should work out to approximately 10 pages (give or take). You should also cite at least 8 sources, at least half of which should be either peer-reviewed journal articles or books published by university presses.

- **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 submit 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.

GENERAL WRITING TIPS

- You will submit all assignments via MUOnline.
- When writing your essays, be sure to include a brief introduction that states the essay's purpose, as well as a concise conclusion that sums up what you have written. (This is not necessary, however, for the midterm and final exam questions.)
- Cite your sources! You can choose any widely used citation style (e.g. APA, MLA, Chicago), but stay consistent. Also, 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 those 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~~.
- Be judicious in choosing your online sources, and **do not cite Wikipedia or other online encyclopedias**. Articles from major media outlets and official organizational websites are safe bets. On the other hand, if it's a website 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.
- Write your papers in 12-point Times/Times New Roman, double-spaced with 1" margins and page numbers in the upper right-hand corner. Title pages and works cited pages do not count toward the suggested page length. Always cite your sources! For this class, please use the Chicago author/date style (guidelines available on MUOnline).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week of January 9: *Why Leaders Lie*

- Mearsheimer, Introduction and Chapters 1-4
- 1.1: Nye, "What Is International Politics?"

Week of January 16: *Why Leaders Lie* (continued)

- Mearsheimer, Chapters 5-9
- 1.2: Farrell, "Good Writing in Political Science"

Week of January 23: 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"

**"Honesty is the Worst Policy" Essay Due
Tuesday, January 30**

Week of January 30: 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 6: Constructivism and Feminism

- 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 13: 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 20: 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 February 27: 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"

Midterm Exam Due
Tuesday, March 6

Week of March 6: 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 13: 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 20: Spring Break!**Week of March 27: Failed States and State-Building**

- 26.1: Paul Collier, "State Building and Nation Building"
- 26.2: North, Wallis, and Weingast, "Violence and the Rise of Open-Access Orders"
- 26.3: Fukuyama, "Nation-Building and the Failure of Institutional Memory"
- 27.1: Jackson and Rosberg, "Why Africa's Weak States Persist"
- 27.2: Fazal, "State Death in the International System"
- 27.3: Krasner and Pascual, "Addressing State Failure"

Theory Paper Due
Thursday, March 29

Week of April 3: Globalization and American Popular Culture

- Crothers, Chapters 1-3

Week of April 10: Globalization and American Popular Culture

- Crothers, Chapter 4-6

Week of April 17: The Global Environment

- 30.1: *The Economist*, "Let Them Eat Pollution"
- 30.2: *The Economist*, "Pollution and the Poor"
- 30.3: Sprinz and Vaahoranta, "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 24: 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 1 (10:00 AM)**

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