

International Politics Gov 130

Professor N. Kollars

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Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10-11:00, Wednesdays 2-4, or by appointment



The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the study of international politics: both the scholarly and applied paths. We will take a two-pronged approach to the field and literature in international relations focusing both on current events as well as on the scholarly theoretical debates. By the end of the course you should be able to express your opinions about the most important issues in today's international system in a way that reveals a deeper and more critical perspective.

The course unfolds in three sections:

- History and the Theory Lenses: Westphalia, WWI, WWII, & the Cold War
- Institutions, Power, and Economics in the International System
- 21st Century Security Issues

Learning Objectives

*To develop a general knowledge regarding the actors, power structures, and problems associated with international politics both past and present

*To be able to read, understand, and critique the scholarly literature of International Relations (IR) theory.

*To be able to synthesize what you learned about international politics with what you learned about IR theory

*Progressive development of research skills.

*Maintenance of a professional demeanor that demonstrates self-awareness and respect in the scholarly environment.

*Increased levels of self-discipline and taking the initiative.

*Further development of writing, speaking, and critical analysis skills.

Required Book:

Mingst: 5th Edition: Essential Readings in World Politics.

This is a reader. It contains much of the most well-known scholarship of IR. These are often not easy to read. It isn't always clear what the author is trying to say and you may need to read each piece up to 3 times before you really get what they are saying. TAKE YOUR TIME READING THIS. TAKE NOTES... What is important here? What is the argument? Who cares?

The Mingst readings and all the journal articles we read are the meat of the course. You are supposed to struggle with them. If you aren't struggling... you aren't reading closely.

***Any readings found listed on the syllabus that are NOT associated with Mingst will be available via CANVAS.**

NEWS OUTLETS: Pick a couple from the most prominent in the world. Personally I like the BBC and the NYT but it is up to you. You are expected to spend a couple hours a week perusing and listening to the events going on in the world. You will be expected to know about current events and you will be tested on them periodically.

Workload Expectations for the course outside class: Do the following things and you will survive this course.

1. Read what is assigned—all of it
2. Read well in advance of the class period
3. Take notes and mark up the articles and Mingst textbook
4. ALWAYS bring the assigned reading to class with your notes
5. Find the central argument. What is important, what is problematic, what is interesting

Workload Expectations for the course inside class:

Commit to being in the room. Professionals never say they are bored (even if they are uninterested in the topic), they are respectful, focused, and do their best to contribute.

Percent	Letter Grade	
94 – 100	A	Has superb mastery of readings, concepts, and lectures; full participation, serious engagement with reading and class; risk-taking; develops and expresses insights about readings and ideas as well as the implications; ability to compare different ideas and authors, constant pursuit of excellence; inspires peers to improve their own work; good team player.
90 – 93	A-	
87 – 89	B+	Has clear understanding of course materials and conscientious participation some evidence of critical inquiry and analysis of course materials; knows material and writes carefully and consistently.
83 – 86	B	
80 – 82	B-	

77 – 79	C+	Accomplish basic tasks, but sometimes incomplete, lethargic relationship with course materials, some involvement of self in course, little risk-taking and growth, no insights of one's own, minimal enthusiasm about engaging learning material
73 – 76	C	
70 – 72	C-	
67 – 69	D+	Trying to wing it, erratic participation, essays are incomplete
63 – 66	D	
60 – 62	D-	
< 60	F	Same as D but worse.

Midterm Exams 2 x 20%

40%

Twice over the semester you will have an exam. Each midterm will cover the data from each section and will NOT be cumulative. The midterm may include the following components: short answers, map tests, current events questions, concepts questions, and essay questions.

Paper Assignments 2 x 15%

30%

Theoretical Lens OR Level of Analysis: Lens= find an article that explains an issue of concern in international politics that embodies the assumptions/logic of one of the predominant schools of thought in IR: realism, liberalism, constructivism, or feminism. In no more than 4 pages: 1. Clearly identify the theoretical lens the article is pointing to and define it using the texts we have read. 2. Provide direct evidence that the author is arguing from this specific perspective. 3. Identify another theoretical lens that could also be used to understand the issue. 4. Finally, provide a reasoned argument as to which lens is more compelling as an explanation.

Level= Find an article that analyzes a topic of interest to international relations that CLEARLY provides an explanation of the issue from a SINGLE level of analysis: Individual, State, or System. In no more than 4 pages: 1. Clearly identify the level the article is pointing to and define it using the text we have read on Levels of Analysis. 2. Provide direct evidence that the author is arguing from this specific level. 3. Identify another level of analysis that could also be used to understand the issue. 4. Finally, provide a reasoned argument as to which level is more compelling as an explanation.

Literature Analysis: Using the topics and themes sheet I provided in class, collect 10 citations from the Social Science Citation Index (SSI) AKA Web Of Science and assemble them into a source list. Then, working ONLY from the abstracts, citations, and titles provided by SSI create a 2-3 page analysis of the research on that topic.

Final Exam – TBD by the college on the permitted exam date and time

20%

The final exam is cumulative and will contain components from the two midterms and current events. The final exam may include any of the following: short answers, map tests, current events questions, concepts questions, and essay questions.

Professional Participation

10%

Physical presence is the first step toward “participation,” but it is only part of this grade. Students who achieve full points in participation tend to: 1. CLEARLY demonstrate preparation for the course 2. Find ways to

increase dialogue in the room 3. Arrive on time and turn their work in on time 4. Provide quality comments and contributions 5. Take risks in intellectual development.

Be forewarned....shenanigans with file attachments, persistent requests for extensions due to competing time constraints, lost files, and manufacturing various illnesses or deaths of loved ones or yourself will reduce this grade to 0 and it cannot be recovered. (recognize that lying about why your paper isn't turned in, or attempting to slip it in unnoticed after the deadline constitutes academic dishonesty. (See below)

Plan, schedule, and be honest—this is professionalism.

Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty violate the academic mission of this college. The Writing Center provides several resources to keep you from committing this offense. See:

http://www.fandm.edu/uploads/media_items/using-outside-sources-10th-ed-pdf.original.pdf The college's policy on plagiarism/academic dishonesty will be followed to the letter. Please read the course catalog section (pages 206-207) regarding academic dishonesty and take it seriously.

The Writing Center

Editing is a critical part of the writing process, and **I expect you to submit polished work**. Perfectly reasoned, brilliant and insightful papers that are poorly edited will NOT receive a grade higher than a B. Please use the writing center as a resource to help you learn this skill.

Late Assignments

Students are responsible for turning in their assignments by the **start of class on the day that they are due** unless specifically instructed to do otherwise. I am under no obligation to accept late assignments. For the 3 formal writing assignments that occur during the semester: IF you are unable to load your assignment on time onto **CANVAS** you must email the file or text me IMMEDIATELY on my cel. (202 427 4442)and find an alternate route of delivery that does not delay the submission of your work by more than 15 minutes. Anything else is unfair to your colleagues.

IF late work is accepted it will be docked one full letter grade after the first hour of lateness, 1/3rd of a letter grade for each day following. Persistent lateness in your work over the semester will affect your professional participation grade. (See Above)

Course Accommodations

Franklin & Marshall has an established course accommodation policy. I adhere to this standard so please read:

“In accordance with equal education opportunity laws, Franklin & Marshall College arranges to provide appropriate academic accommodations for students whose disabilities limit their participation in academic programs for which they are qualified. Students are required to notify the College if they will require special services or accommodations in the classroom or if they want faculty, academic advisers, or administrative offices notified of a disability.”

Content	Questions	Focus Reading
Course Introduction Policies, Expectations		
What is International Politics? Methods	What is the difference between scholarship in international relations and policy work in international relations?	Jones, Seth G. <u>Beating Back the Taliban: The Afghan Surge Has Been a Success</u> <i>Foreign Policy</i> , March, 14, 2011 http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/03/14/beating_back_the_taliban Jones, Seth G. <u>The Rise of Afghanistan's Insurgency: State Failure and Jihad</u> <i>International Security</i> , Volume 32, Number 4, Spring 2008, pp. 7-40
Levels of Analysis	Can you see the world through the Levels?	Levels of Analysis in Making Foreign Policy: ON CANVAS
What is Anarchy? Theories of IR	What are the key differences between each of the schools of thought? What is justice in world politics?	Snyder: One World Rival Theories (Mingst) Thucydides: Melian Dialogue (Mingst)
Framing Anarchy	What does it mean to be Realist?	Mearsheimer: Anarchy and the Struggle for Power (Mingst)
The Prisoner's Dilemma		Charles A. Kupchan and Clifford A. Kupchan: The Promise of Collective Security <i>International Security</i> , Vol. 20, No. 1 (Summer, 1995), pp. 52-61
A Perpetual Peace		Michael Doyle: Liberalism in World Politics (Mingst)
What Anarchy? Social Construction	What is the effect of discourse and socialization on how we see the world?	Wendt: Anarchy is What States Make of It (Mingst)
Where are the Women?	A whole new kind of hegemon. Research Workshop for First Paper	Tickner: Man, the State, and War (Mingst) Cohen: Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals Carol Cohn <u>Signs</u> Vol. 12, No. 4
Levels and Theories Workshop		
Exam Prep		
Midterm #1 Feb19th		

World War I Trenches & Defense Willy & Nicky	What explains WWI?	Willy & Nicky Letters
World War II	Seeking a New Perspective	Level of Analysis Paper Due March 3rd
March 5	ON YOUR OWN	ON YOUR OWN
NUKES & the Cuban Missile Crisis	What's an Atom Bomb?	
United Nations Learning about Literature Reviews	U.S. shackle or puppet? A pile of leftist leaning liberals?	Voeten : The Political Origins of the UN Security Council's Ability to Legitimize the Use of Force. International Organization 2005 Volume 59 Issue 3
Peacekeeping	When is peace possible?	Virginia Page Fortna, from <i>Does Peacekeeping Work?</i> (mingst) Powers, Samantha "Bystanders to Genocide" (mingst)
Globalization/IPE	Is Globalization good or bad?	Martin Wolf, from <i>Why Globalization Works</i> (Mingst) Helen Milner, "Globalization, Development, and International Institutions" (mingst)
Midterm #2 April 2nd		Lit Review Paper April 4th
Terrorism	What is it and how can we understand it?	Andrew H. Kydd and Barbara F. Walter, "The Strategies of Terrorism" (mingst) John Mueller and Mark G. Stewart "The Terrorism Delusion: America's Overwrought Response to September 11" Journal Article, <i>International Security</i> , volume 37, issue 1, pages 81-110 Summer 2012
Terrorists	What causes terrorism?	Matthew Dearing: Like Red Tulips in Springtime: Understanding the Absence of Female Martyrs in Afghanistan <i>Studies in Conflict and Terrorism</i> Volume 33 Issue 2 2010
Failed States	What is a Failed State? What should we do about it?	Anna Simons and David Tucker The Misleading Problem of Failed States: a 'socio-geography' of Terrorism in the Post-9/11 Era <i>Third World Quarterly</i> Volume 28, Issue 2 2007
Warlords		Vinci, Like Parasites on the Entrails of Man (CANVAS)
Insurgents/Guerillas	Terrorist? Warlord? Revolutionary?	David Kilcullin, from <i>The Accidental Guerrilla: Fighting Small Wars in the Midst of a Big One (mingst)</i>
Final Exam Preparation		