COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys major issues in international affairs. The first section of the course provides an overview of the main theoretical approaches to understanding international politics. The second section of the course addresses issues in international security, looking at the causes of interstate war, civil war, and terrorism; the role that the United Nations plays in responding to conflict and violence in the international system; and the prospects for resolving ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Syria. The third section of the course considers issues in international political economy, including international trade; economic growth and development; and the role of international institutions such as the WTO, the World Bank, and the IMF. In the fourth part of the course, focusing on contemporary issues in international relations, topics will include the role of international law in international relations; human rights; prospects for international cooperation to resolve environmental problems; and nuclear proliferation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. Class Participation 20% [10% in-class discussion; 10% presentation]

   In-class discussion. Attendance in class is required. More than two unexcused absences will negatively affect your participation grade (please see “Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences” in the “Course Policies” section below). Although the course is a lecture course, we will also intersperse discussion with the lecture material. You are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to class, and be prepared to participate in discussion about the readings in class.

   Presentation. Once during the semester, you must give a brief (10 minute) presentation on a news article of your choice, addressing how the article relates to the material we are covering in class that week.

II. Geography Quiz 10% [Pass/Fail]

   At the end of the semester, you must pass an online world geography quiz and a world leaders (G20) quiz (receiving a score of at least 85% on each). If you pass both quizzes, you will receive full credit for this portion of your grade. We will take practice quizzes throughout the semester to prepare you for the final quiz.

III. Midterm Paper 25%

   5 pages, DUE on Friday, March 2 by 5pm.

   The paper assignment will be posted on Moodle after class on Thursday, February 22, and is DUE on Friday, March 2 by 5pm. The paper assignment will ask you to draw on the assigned readings and lecture material covered through Thursday, February 22. We will set aside time in class to discuss the assignment in more detail.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)

IV. Final Exam 45%

Take-home written exam, DUE on Wednesday, May 9 by 5pm.
The final exam is a take-home exam, totaling approximately 10 pages of writing. You will have some degree of choice in answering the essay questions, and may use the course reading materials and your notes in developing your answers. The final exam will be posted on Moodle after our last class meeting on Thursday, May 3, and is DUE on Wednesday, May 9 by 5pm.

COURSE POLICIES

Student Conduct Code

The University seeks an environment that promotes academic achievement and integrity, that is protective of free inquiry, and that serves the educational mission of the University. Similarly, the University seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; that is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of the University; and that does not threaten the physical or mental health or safety of members of the University community.

As a student at the University you are expected adhere to Board of Regents Policy: Student Conduct Code. The Student Conduct Code is available at: http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf.

Note that the conduct code specifically addresses disruptive classroom conduct, which means “engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor’s ability to teach or student learning. The classroom extends to any setting where a student is engaged in work toward academic credit or satisfaction of program-based requirements or related activities.”

Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty

You are expected to do your own academic work and cite sources as necessary. Failing to do so is scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

(http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf). If it is determined that a student has cheated, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment in question and may face additional sanctions from the University. For additional information, please refer to: http://policy.umn.edu/education/instructorresp.

The Office for Community Standards has compiled a useful list of Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to scholastic dishonesty: https://communitystandards.umn.edu/avoid-violations/avoiding-scholastic-dishonesty. If you have additional questions, please contact me.
Use of Personal Electronic Devices in the Classroom
Using personal electronic devices in the classroom setting can hinder instruction and learning, not only for the student using the device but also for other students in the class. To this end, the University establishes the right of each faculty member to determine if and how personal electronic devices are allowed to be used in the classroom. For complete information, please reference: http://policy.umn.edu/education/studentresp.

Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences
Students will not be penalized for absence during the semester due to unavoidable or legitimate circumstances. Such circumstances include verified illness, participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, bereavement, and religious observances. Such circumstances do not include voting in local, state, or national elections. For complete information, please refer to: http://policy.umn.edu/education/makeupwork.

Appropriate Student Use of Class Notes and Course Materials
Taking notes is a means of recording information but more importantly of personally absorbing and integrating the educational experience. However, broadly disseminating class notes beyond the classroom community or accepting compensation for taking and distributing classroom notes undermines instructor interests in their intellectual work product while not substantially furthering instructor and student interests in effective learning. Such actions violate shared norms and standards of the academic community. For additional information, please refer to: http://policy.umn.edu/education/studentresp.

Grading and Late Submissions
Writing assignments are due on the date listed on the syllabus. Late submissions will be penalized, except in cases of documented family or medical emergency. The penalty for late submissions is four points per day that the assignment is late.

The University utilizes plus and minus grading on a 4.000 cumulative grade point scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.000 - Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.667</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.333</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.000 - Represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.667</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.333</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.000 - Represents achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.667</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.333</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.000 - Represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For additional information, please refer to: http://policy.umn.edu/education/gradingtranscripts.
All assignments as well as the final course grade will use the following grading scale:

- **A**: 93-100
- **A-**: 90-92
- **B+**: 87-89
- **B**: 83-86
- **B-**: 80-82
- **C+**: 77-79
- **C**: 73-76
- **C-**: 70-72
- **D+**: 67-69
- **D**: 60-66
- **F**: 59 and below

**Sexual Harassment**

“Sexual harassment” means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment in any University activity or program. Such behavior is not acceptable in the University setting. For additional information, please consult Board of Regents Policy: [http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/SexHarassment.pdf](http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/SexHarassment.pdf)

**Equity, Diversity, Equal Employment Opportunity, and Affirmative Action**

The University provides equal access to and opportunity in its programs and facilities, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. For more information, please consult Board of Regents Policy: [http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Equity_Diversity_EO_AA.pdf](http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Equity_Diversity_EO_AA.pdf).

**Mental Health and Stress Management**

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating, and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via [www.mentalhealth.umn.edu](http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu).

Remember that there are advisors in the Humphrey Student Services office who are trained and experienced counselors. They are available at short notice to address any concerns you have and provide further resources within the University: Humphrey Student Services, HHH 280, (612) 624-3800.
Disability Accommodations
The University of Minnesota is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. Disability Services (DS) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact DS at (612) 626-1333 to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations. If you are registered with DS and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, we encourage you to contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

Academic Freedom and Responsibility
Academic freedom is a cornerstone of the University. Within the scope and content of the course as defined by the instructor, it includes the freedom to discuss relevant matters in the classroom. Along with this freedom comes responsibility. Students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. Students are free to take reasoned exception to the views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.*

Reports of concerns about academic freedom are taken seriously, and there are individuals and offices available for help. Please contact me, your advisor, the associate dean, or the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs in the Office of the Provost.

* Language adapted from the American Association of University Professors "Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students".
**COURSE MATERIALS**

The following books are required for the course and are available for purchase at the University of Minnesota bookstore:


NOTE: We will be using the sixth edition of this book, which was published in 2017. The editors have made revisions to this edition and a number of the readings required for the course are not included in earlier editions.

All other required readings for the course are articles or book chapters, available on the Moodle site for the course.

**SECTION I: THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**WEEK 1**

January 16: Introduction and course logistics

January 18: Anarchy and Realist Approaches to International Relations

Jack Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 3-11.


John Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power,” in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 60-77.

**WEEK 2**

January 23: Freeman Seminar

January 25: Neoliberal Institutionalism & Cooperation under Anarchy


John Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions” in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 300-309.
WEEK 3
January 30: Constructivist Approaches to International Relations


Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, “Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics,” in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 310-320.

February 1: Domestic Politics and International Relations


WEEK 4
February 6 & 8: Global Governance and the Creation of International Institutions


SECTION II: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

WEEK 5
February 13 & 15: Causes of War


Karen Yarhi-Milo, “In the Eye of the Beholder: How Leaders and Intelligence Communities Assess the Intentions of Adversaries” in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 237-261.

WEEK 6

Excerpts from the Charter of the United Nations.


**Paper assignment posted on Moodle on Thursday, February 22**

WEEK 7
February 27: Contemporary Conflict – The Iraq War


WEEK 7 (CONTINUED)
March 1: Contemporary Conflict – Terrorism


**Paper DUE by 5pm on FRIDAY, MARCH 2**

WEEK 8
March 6 & 8: Contemporary Conflict – State Failure and Civil Wars


Reading on Syria, TBA.

WEEK 9
NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
SECTION III: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

WEEK 10
March 20 & 22: Regional Organizations – Case Study of the European Union


WEEK 11
March 27 & 29: Economic Development and the Role of International Institutions


WEEK 12
April 3: The WTO and International Trade


April 5: NO CLASS
SECTION IV: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

WEEK 13
April 10: International Law


April 12: Human Rights

Beth A. Simmons, “From Mobilizing for Human Rights,” in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 597-628.


WEEK 14
April 17 & 19: The United Nations, Peacekeeping, and Humanitarian Intervention

Michael Barnett, Eyewitness to a Genocide: The United Nations and Rwanda (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2002), pp.1-12 in the Introduction and Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 5. If you are not familiar with the conflict in Rwanda, I would recommend skimming Chapter 2 before you read Chapters 3-5.


**WEEK 15**  
**April 24:** International Justice and the International Criminal Court


**April 26:** International Environmental Issues


Scott Barrett, “Why Have Climate Negotiations Proved So Disappointing?” in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 649-659.


**WEEK 16**  
**May 1:** Nuclear Proliferation


Additional reading on North Korea, TBA.

**May 3:** The Future of International Politics

No assigned readings.

**Take-home final exam will be posted on Moodle after class on Thursday, May 3**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 9:** TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE