

PSCI 230: Introduction to International Relations (Section: 001)
Spring 2020
MWF 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., LA 512
Department of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies
Montana State University Billings

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Office Hours: MW 9:20 a.m. – 10:20 a.m., TTh 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Course Description

The world has never been a simple place where an individual is in complete control of their destiny. We live in communities, regions, and countries, with decision made on each level potentially having an effect on our lives. This course will study how countries interact with one another. We will also seek to understand how scholars view how countries act towards each other, either in cooperation or competition with one another. We will also study how countries are expected to act towards each other, as well as how countries address various global issues.

Course Objectives

This course satisfies three credits of the history requirement of the university's Social Sciences and History General Education requirements. At the conclusion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Have a basic knowledge of the structures, substance, and context of contemporary world politics.
2. Know and understand the major theories and analytical perspectives policy makers and political scientists use to interpret and respond to events in world politics.
3. Understand the history of great power rivalry and imperialism and its aftermath, the interdependence of economic and security issues, and the growing role of non-state actors in world politics.
4. Have basic understanding of international law, human rights, and development as well as how political scientists produce knowledge through research on the causes of war and violence.
5. Know the role and function of major institutions and agreements regarding international trade and finance.

General education statement

General education at MSU Billings is designed to initiate students as participants in the ongoing

accumulation of human knowledge and understanding. General education courses promote the development of respect for diversity, along with skills in problem solving, critical thinking, and communication necessary for students to become productive and responsible members of their communities.

Textbooks and other readings

Mingst, Karen A., Heather Elko McKibben, and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft. 2019. *Essentials of International Relations*. 8th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton. ISBN: 978-0-393-64327-5). **Required**

Other readings will be posted on D2L.

Grading

Three exams: 60% (20% each)

IR theory paper: 15%

Model UN simulation: 15%

Daily quizzes: 10%

Final grade scale: A = 93% and above, 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 (Note: I do not round up final grades if you are just below the cutoff, such as having a 92.8%. I have to define the scale at some point, and some people are always going to fall on the other side of the divide. Do not beg to be bumped up. If you have any concerns about grades for individual assignments, please see me. I do have a 48-hour “cooling off” policy and you have to see me about any grade appeals within a week of me grading an assignment. If you appeal, you need to write a 2-3 paragraph summary of why you think the grade you received does not reflect your work).

Exams (Three exams worth 20% each): Three exams will be administered during the semester. The final exam is cumulative. Exams consist of multiple-choice and essay questions. If you miss an exam, you can take a make-up exam during University Day (Friday, Apr. 24). Unfortunately, I will not allow more than one make-up exam unless both absences are due to university sponsored events such as athletics or conferences.

IR theory paper (15%): You will write a 6-7 page paper outlining one of the main theories of international relations we will discuss during the first part of the semester and apply it to a current conflict among countries. More details will be posted on D2L A proposal of your paper is due by Friday, Jan. 31, on D2L. Final papers are due before the start of class on Friday, Feb. 28 on D2L.

Model United Nations simulation (15%): During the last two classes of the semester, we will be conducting a Model United Nations General Assembly. I will provide an example crisis the United Nations needs to address and the General Assembly is tasked with addressing the issue. I will assign countries on Friday, March 27, on D2L. As part of the assignment, you must write a

4-5 page issue brief summarizing the issue and analyzing how your country would act based on your research of how the country you picked conducts itself in international affairs. As part of this assignment, you will also submit a resolution to be considered by the General Assembly. These resolutions must be posted on D2L by noon on Friday, April, 17. The brief is due before the start of class Monday, Apr. 20 on D2L. Attendance at both sessions of the simulation is mandatory to receive a passing grade on the assignment unless gone for a university-sponsored event.

Daily quizzes (10%): There will be quizzes due on D2L every day class is held. Quizzes will be multiple choice and cover the lecture and discussion for the day. Quizzes will be available to take starting at noon. after class are due by 11:59 p.m. that day. Quizzes cannot be made up. The lowest five quizzes will be dropped.

Grading notes: Proper spelling, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure will be assessed as part of your exam and paper grades. Developing the ability to write clearly is an important skill for your future careers. You are expected to carefully read, edit, and proofread their written work. If you would like help with your writing skills, there are on-campus resources that are there to help you. The university offers help in various subjects through the Academic Support Center. Assistance is free and is available in the Student Union Building. Drop-in writing help and tutoring for this course is available from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Friday. Appointments are also available for writing help.

Laptop/Cell Phone Policy

I understand many of you use your computers and tablets to take notes. If you do so, you will need to choose a seat along the walls so your screens will not be distracting to others. I do not allow cell phones in class, so if you need to text, please step out for a moment (but don't make it a habit). I will stop class and wait if I see any texting.

Email etiquette

I try to answer emails the same day they are received, but in some cases, you may have to wait 48 hours for a response. For emails, please use an appropriate subject and appropriate salutations (e.g. Dr. Adkins or Prof. Adkins). Professors do not like it when you start with "Hey!" or "Yo!" Keep emails as short as possible and please do not email about the details of an assignment on the day it is due. I hold five office hours per week and am available by appointment outside of those hours and my other classes if needed.

Assignment and late work policy

All papers should use 12-point Times New Roman font, be double-spaced, and use 1-inch margins. You must use APA style for citations All assignments must be turned in on D2L unless noted. No exceptions will be made. All assignments must be in a Word file (.doc or .docx). Any other file format such as .pdf, .rtf, or Apple Pages will not be accepted and returned with a zero. Google Docs and Pages can export to a Word format. Late work will generally **not** be accepted. However, life happens. I allow **one** no-questions asked late pass good for a 48-hour extension on

the paper assignments. You just need to email me if you need to use one. If you run into issues in completing assignments, visit me during office hours, especially 1-2 weeks before papers are due. Be proactive instead of reactive. I cannot do much to help once due dates have come and gone.

Registration Requirement

University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Please confirm enrollment in MyInfo. Registration errors must be corrected prior to university deadlines. After the deadline for withdrawing for the class without instructor permission, I will only give permission to those who experience a documented emergency such as serious illness or death in the family that occurs after the deadline.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

Use of the intellectual property of others without attributing it to them is considered a serious academic offense. I will either give a zero for an assignment or you will fail the course if I detect academic misconduct. It can also lead to a disciplinary hearing where sanctions can suspension or expulsion from the university. I report **all** instances of plagiarism to Student Affairs. The university's policy on academic misconduct can be found in Section B of the student handbook. I will provide links to how to avoid plagiarism on D2L. I am available to help. However, you are responsible for learning how to properly cite your sources and avoid plagiarism.

Student Accessibility

MSU Billings is committed to providing equal access. If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me so that we can discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that disability-related accommodations are necessary, please contact Disability Support Services (657-2283) located in Room 135 in the College of Education). We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

Class Schedule

Readings will come from the textbook and other readings I may post on D2L. They will be organized in D2L by week. You should be prepared to discuss the assigned reading on the day listed below. I may make changes to the schedule as needed.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading/Assignments
1	1/15	Intro/Syllabus	None
	1/17	Introduction to IR	Chapter 1 Syllabus quiz
2	1/20	MLK Jr. Birthday	No class
	1/22	Origins of IR	Chapter 2, pgs. 19-33 Machiavelli, "The Prince" (Read Chapters

			14-15)
	1/24	WWI and WWII	Chapter 2, pgs. 33-46 Robert J. Beck, <i>International Security</i> , “Munich’s Lessons Reconsidered” Stephen Van Evra, <i>International Security</i> , “The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of the First World War”
3	1/27	Cold War and after	Chapter 2, pgs. 46-63 Samuel P. Huntington, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , “Clash of Civilizations?” Sean Illing, Vox, “How the Cold War can explain our current standoff with Russia”
	1/29	Realism	Chapter 3, pgs. 67-80 John J. Mearsheimer, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , “Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West’s Fault” Kenneth N. Waltz, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , “Why Iran Should Get the Bomb”
	1/31	Liberalism & Constructivism	Chapter 3, pgs. 81-92 Michael McFaul, NY Times, “Confronting Putin’s Russia” Jack Snyder, <i>Foreign Policy</i> , “One World, Rival Theories” Alexander Wendt, <i>International Organization</i> , “Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics” IR theory paper proposal due
4	2/3	Marxism & Feminism	Chapter 3, pgs. 92-104 Ben Norton, Salon, “U.S. imperialism was the real winner of the presidential debate” Charlotte Graham-McLay, NY Times, “Jacinda Ardern Embraces Dual Role: New Zealand Prime Minister and Mom”
	2/5	International System	Chapter 4, pgs. 107-123 Richard N. Haass, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , “The Age of Nonpolarity” Charles Krauthammer, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , “The Unipolar Moment”
	2/7	The State	Chapter 4, pgs. 124-131 Stephen M. Walt, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , “ISIS as a Revolutionary State: New Twist on an Old Story”
5	2/10	The Individual	Chapter 4, pgs. 132-146 Dina Badie, <i>Foreign Policy Analysis</i> ,

			<p>“Groupthink, Iraq, and the War on Terror: Explaining US Policy Shift toward Iraq”</p> <p>Stephen Benedict Dyson, <i>Foreign Policy Analysis</i>, “Personality and Foreign Policy: Tony Blair's Iraq Decisions”</p>
	2/12	Exam #1	
	2/14	State and Nation	Chapter 5, pgs. 149-164 NY Times, “The Administration Gets Tough on Russia”
6	2/17	President’s Day	No class
	2/19	Models of Decision Making	Chapter 5, pgs. 165-172
	2/21	Challenges to the State	Chapter 5, pgs. 173-182 Gerald B. Helman and Steven R. Ratner, <i>Foreign Policy</i> , “Saving Failed States” Raphael Minder, NY Times, “A Year After Catalonia Secession Vote, New Unrest and Still No Resolution”
7	2/24	Types of War	Chapter 6, 187-197 David Axe, <i>National Interest</i> , “Here's How A Conventional War Between NATO And Russia Could Go Down” Michael C. Horowitz and Elizabeth N. Saunders, <i>Washington Post</i> , “Why Nuclear War With North Korea is Less Likely Than You Think.”
	2/26	Types of War	Chapter 6, pgs. 198-211 Peter Bergen and Swati Pandey, <i>Washington Quarterly</i> , “The Madrassa Scapegoat” C.J. Chivers, NY Times, “War Without End”
	2/28	Preventing War/Laws of War	Chapter 6, pgs. 212-230 Steven Forde, <i>American Political Science Review</i> , “Hugo Grotius on Ethics and War” IR theory paper due
3/2 – 3/6 – Spring Break			
8	3/9	International Cooperation	Chapter 7, pgs. 233-246 The Economist, “Green light: What to expect after a deal that exceeded expectations”
	3/11	What is International Law?	Chapter 7, pgs. 246-258 Eugene A. Korovin, <i>American Journal of International Law</i> , “The Second World

			War and International Law” Steven R. Ratner, <i>Foreign Policy</i> , “Think Again: Geneva Conventions”
	3/13	International Law Enforcement	Chapter 7, pgs. 258-266 Payam Akhavan, <i>Human Rights Quarterly</i> , “Are International Criminal Tribunals a Disincentive to Peace?: Reconciling Judicial Romanticism with Political Realism”
9	3/16	Economic Institutions	Chapter 8, pgs. 269-283 Peter D. Sutherland, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , “Transforming Nations: How the WTO Boosts Economies and Opens Societies”
	3/18	Trade & Development	Chapter 8, pgs. 283-303 Douglas Irwin, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , “The False Promise of Protectionism” Indira A.R. Laskshmanan, <i>Boston Globe</i> , “Trump won. Globalization lost. Now what?”
	3/20	Economic Challenges	Chapter 8, pgs. 303-316 Neil Irwin, NY Times, “Globalization’s Backlash Is Here, at Just the Wrong Time”
10	3/23	Exam #2	
	3/25	IGOs	Chapter 9, pgs. 319-340 United Nations Charter
	3/27	IGOs	Chapter 9, pgs. 340-353 Peter S. Goodman, NY Times, “The Border Dividing Ireland Has Long Been Invisible. Brexit Threatens to Make It Real.” Jennifer Rankin, The Guardian, “Brexit deal explained: backstops, trade and citizens’ rights” Model UN simulation country pick due
11	3/30	NGOs	Chapter 9, pgs. 353-362 Yves Engler, Huffington Post, “NGOs Put A Progressive Face On The Exploitation Of Haiti”
	4/1	Foundations of Human Rights	Chapter 10, pgs. 365-379 Lily Kuo, The Guardian, “China says UN criticism of human rights record is ‘politically driven’”
	4/3	Spring mini-break Specific Rights/Role of States in Human Rights	Chapter 10, pgs. 379-390 Tony Blair, “The Blair Doctrine”

12	4/6	Debate on Human Rights	Chapter 10, pgs. 390-399 Stephen Hopgood, Washington Post, "The end of human rights" David Rieff, NY Times, "R2P, R.I.P."
	4/8	Migration & Health	Chapter 11, pgs. 401-417 Alexander Betts and Paul Collier, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , "How Europe Can Reform Its Migration Policy" Laurie Garrett, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , "The Challenge of Global Health"
	4/10	Spring mini-break	No class
13	4/13	Environment	Chapter 11, pgs. 417-441 Jeffrey Ball, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , "Tough Love for Renewable Energy" Brian Deese, <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , "Paris Isn't Burning: Why the Climate Agreement Will Survive Trump"
	4/15	MPSA Conference	No class – Climate policy movie
	4/17	MPSA Conference	No class – Climate policy movie
14	4/20	Model UN simulation	
	4/22	Model UN simulation	
	4/24	University Day	No class
15	TBA	Final exam	TBA