

POLS 105: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Time: T/TH 8:00-9:20am
Location: MS 239
Instructor: Sarah Fisher, PhD
Email: sfisher@ehc.edu
Office: MS 330A
Office Hours: TBD

“This is the reason that the correct theorist is like a swimming master, who teaching on dry land movements which are required in the water, which must appear grotesque and ludicrous to those who forget about the water.” -Carl von Clausewitz

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

“International relations” or simply “IR” is essentially the study of interactions between states. This includes fighting of wars, the conduct of trade, the signing of treaties, and more. This course has two primary objectives. First, it will familiarize you with the major theories of international relations, decision making, and issues of conflict and cooperation in world politics. This introduction will serve as a baseline for future courses in the field. Second, you will be able to apply the theories and approaches to both historical and contemporary examples, including the trials of ancient Greece, the struggles of modern states in the 20th century, and the current simmering tensions between the US and China.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Goldstein, Joshua S. and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2013-2014. International Relations Update, 10th Edition. New York: Pearson.

-I highly recommend that you rent this text for the semester via Amazon or other retailer. This text is about \$130 new, but renting it for a semester is about \$30.

-I will create tests questions from the 10th Edition, update. I will not be responsible for discrepancies in versions, but previous versions of this text are very similar. These previous editions of the textbook are available for purchase at low prices.

Feldman, Noah. 2013. Cool War: The Future of Global Competition. New York: Random House.

-This text will come out with a new edition on September 1. Either edition will be fine. This text can be purchased used for a very reasonable price on Amazon (used for under \$10 including shipping).

-We will begin using this text on September 17.

Other readings for this course will be available from the library's web site, elsewhere on the internet, or via Moodle. You are expected to read, question, and understand every reading.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

20% Pre-Class Reading Quizzes

10% Attendance and Participation

25% Midterm Exam

20% Primary Source Perspective Paper

25% Final

20% Pre-Class Reading quizzes

More information will be provided in class.

10% Attendance and Participation

This chunk of your grade will be a reflection of your attendance in class and the **quality** of your class contribution.

25% Midterm Examination

More information will be provided in class.

20% Primary Source Perspective Paper

More information for this assignment will be provided in class. In short, you will choose one primary document- some sort of text, video, or visual- and then analyze the document from a theoretical perspective(s) we discuss in class.

25% Final

More information will be provided in class.

*Do not ask for extra credit. I will not offer any.

Grading Scale

93.00-100= A, 90-92.99= A-, 87.00-89.99= B+, 83-86.99= B, 80-82.99= B-, 77.00-79.99= C+, 73.00-76.99= C, 70.00-72.99= C-, 67.00-69.99= D+, 63.00-66.99= D, 60.00-62.99= D-, Below 60.00= F

COURSE POLICIES

1. Absences

Life can occasionally get in the way of attending every class. As such, you get **three unexcused** absences for the duration of this course. In addition, I grant excused absences for university sanctioned events (sports/conference), a documented medical excuse (you **must** have some sort note from a doctor or the health center), or proof of the death of a

deceased direct relative (unless your great uncle twice removed lived with you, going to his funeral doesn't count as an excused absence). Documentation of excused absences must be provided to the instructor **via Moodle dropbox** within **one week** of the absence. Unexcused absences beyond the three freebies will take an automatic 2 points off your final grade.

Missing a test requires advance notice (at least 48 hours in advance). Unless you are violently ill and can document this illness, you should be present for the test.

2. Attendance & Participation Grade

If you attend every class, but never say a word, you can expect to get a poor attendance & participation grade (a maximum of 30%). Participation entails **thoughtfully** asking questions, answering questions, providing feedback to classmates' questions, etc.

3. Classroom Etiquette

Turn your cell phone on silent and put it away when in class. I reserve the right to ban laptops from the classroom, but I generally do not have a problem with students who use laptops in class. If you use a laptop, use it for taking notes or viewing class material, not surfing YouTube or Facebook, however great the temptation might be.

The purpose of this course is to see every side of each issue, a goal achieved through civil, informed debate and discussion. In short, be kind to each other. We will discuss relatively controversial subjects throughout the course. Despite trespassing on some "hot button topics," you must remain respectful of your classmates' thoughts and (occasional) opinions.

4. Academic Honesty

When you matriculated to the Emory & Henry College, you signed and agreed to abide by the College's academic honesty policy. Your work must meet all requirements outlined in those documents. If you were unaware of breaking the honor code, I will still hold you accountable for the violation. If you have any questions or concerns about the academic honesty policy, please direct them to the instructor.

5. Disability Resource Center

If you have a documented disability and need special accommodation, let me know during the first week of the semester. We will work with the Disability Resource Center to accommodate your needs.

6. Communicating with the Instructor

The best way to contact me is via email at sfisher@ehc.edu. My office hours will be on XXX from XXX in the MS 330A. Feel free to stop by with any questions or concerns you have. If those times do not work for you, email me to set up an appointment.

7. The Fine Print

This syllabus is a general plan; it is possible that some deviations will occur. As such, it is crucial that you check your E&H email regularly and keep updated via moodle.

COURSE READINGS

PART I: Introduction

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| A. | Introduction I | Setting the Stage |
| | August 27 (TH) | This Syllabus. |
| | September 1 (T) | Introduction to IR, Theory, and Levels of Analysis - Baker, Peter. 2014. "As World Boils, Fingers Point Obama's Way." <i>The New York Times</i>. August 15. |
| | September 3 (TH) | Actors -G&P Chapter 1: The Globalization of International Relations 1-40 |
| | September 8 (T) | TBD |
| B. | September 10 (TH) | The Stage: Anarchy, Sovereignty, and Collective Action - Hobbes, Thomas. 1651. "Chapter 13: Of the Natural Condition of Mankind as Concerning Their Felicity and Misery." <i>Leviathan</i>. - Schiffman, Richard. 2014. "Are the Oceans Failed States?" <i>Foreign Policy</i>. July 8. |
| | September 15 (T) | Realism - Thucydides. "The Melian Dialogue." <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i>. 5.84-116. -G&P. "Chapter 2: Realist Theories." 42-63. |
| | September 17 (TH) | Realism Continued -G&P. "Chapter 2: Realist Theories." 63-82. -Feldman. "Introduction." xi-xiv. -Feldman. "Chapter Two: Doomed to Conflict." 16-34. |
| | September 22 (T) | Liberalism -Clinton, Hillary Rodham. 2010 (November/December). Leading Through Civilian Power: Redefining American Diplomacy and Development. <i>Foreign Affairs</i> . |
| | September 24 (TH) | Liberalism (continued) -G&P. "Chapter 3: Liberal and Social Theories." 84-96. -Feldman. "Chapter One: Bound Together." 3-15. - Roasa, Dustin. 2012. China's Soft Power Surge. <i>Foreign Policy</i>. November 18. |
| | September 29 (T) | Critical Theory: Constructivism -G&P. "Chapter 3: Liberal and Social Theories." 96-124. -Feldman. "Chapter Three: A One-Sided War of Ideas." 35-47. -Feldman. "Conclusion to Part One: The Contradiction of Cool War." 48-51. |
| | October 1 (TH) | No Class- Fall Break |
| | October 6 (T) | Other Critical Theories: Feminism and Marxism -G&P. "Chapter 12: The North-South Gap." 424-458. - Verveer, Melanne. 2012 (April). Why Women Are A Foreign Policy Issue. <i>Foreign Policy</i> . |

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| | October 8 (TH) | Midterm Review (optional) |
| | October 13 (T) | Midterm |
| C. | Decision Making | |
| | October 15 (TH) | Rationality and Game Theory -Listen: Dubner, Stephen J. 2013. "Jane Austen, Game Theorist." <i>Freakonomics Radio</i>. July 4. - Lombrozo, Tania. 2013. "The 'Prisoner's Dilemma' Tests Women In And Out Of Jail." <i>Cosmos and Culture</i>. NPR. July 29. |
| | October 20 (T) | Critiques of Rational Choice: Individuals -G&P. "Chapter 4: Foreign Policy." 126-150. Feldman. "Chapter Four: A Glimpse Into the New China." 55-70. |
| | October 22 (TH) | Critiques of Rational Choice: Groups -Feldman. "Chapter Five: China's Permeable Elite." 71-85. -Feldman. "Chapter Six: Legitimacy Without Democracy." 86-96. -Feldman. "Conclusion to Part II: Governance and Conflict." 97-98. |
| | October 27 (T) | Film- no readings |
| | October 29 (TH) | Paper Workshop Bring 3 copies of your rough draft to class |
| PART II TESTING THEORIES: CONFLICT & COOPERATION | | |
| A. | Conflict | |
| | November 3 (T) | Choosing War -G&P. "Chapter 5: International Conflict." 152-190. |
| | November 5 (TH) | Carrying Out War -G&P. "Chapter 6: Military Force and Terrorism." 192-230. -Feldman. "Chapter Seven: The Race for Allies." 101-116. |
| | November 10 (T) | Ethics & War - Thucydides. "The Mytilenian Debate." <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i>. 3.35-28 & 35-50. - Byman, Daniel. 2014. "An Eye for a Tooth: Israel's Problem with Deterrence." <i>Foreign Policy</i>. July 24. |
| B. | Cooperation | |
| | November 12 (TH) | The Democratic Peace G&P. "Chapter 10: International Integration." 354-384. Feldman. "Chapter Eight: Managing War, Building Peace." 117-130. |
| | November 17 (T) | International Trade -G&P. "Chapter 8: International Trade." 282-318. -Feldman. "Chapter Nine: Corporate Cool War." 131-146. |
| | November 19 (TH) | International Organization and Law -G&P. "Chapter 7: International Organization, Law, and Human Rights." 232-264. |
| C. | "New" Opportunities for Conflict and Cooperation | |
| | November 24 (T) | Human Rights |

- G&P. "Chapter 7: International Organization, Law, and Human Rights." 264-281.
- Feldman. "Chapter Ten: The Future of Human Rights." 147-161.

November 26
(TH)

No Class- Thanksgiving Break

December 1 (T)

Environment and Population

- G&P. "Chapter 11: Environment and Population." 386-422.

December 3 (TH)

Development

- G&P. "Chapter 13: International Development." 460-496.

December 8 (T)

Final Exam Review & Conclusions (optional)

- Feldman. "Conclusion: How Will It End?" 162-166.

TBD

Final Exam