

POLS 285 Introduction to International Relations

Northern Illinois University

Fall 2017

Instructor: Nicole Loring

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Class Meetings: Tues/Thurs 3:30 – 4:45 pm

Class Location: Dusable Hall 461

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 1:45 – 3:15 pm

Office Location: POLS Graduate Assistant Office, DuSable Hall 476

Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to international and global politics using the theories with which IR scholars study the world. Some of the questions we will ask include: What do we know about international and global politics? What do we still not know? How can we situate ourselves within global and international politics? How are global politics relevant in our everyday lives? We will examine examples from real-world current events, such as the Iran nuclear deal, foreign relations with North Korea, and the refugee crisis in Syria, as well as running simulations of hypothetical IR situations.

This course will be divided into three units. Unit one will cover the main theories and history of international relations; realist, liberal, and constructivist theories; and some of the concepts and vocabulary of IR. Unit two will focus on international policy and look at questions related to international political power, use of force, diplomacy, and foreign policy. Unit three will cover contemporary issues such as international political economy; globalization; human rights and international law; terrorism; migration and refugees; civil wars and intervention; and the environment.

Required texts:

Grieco, Ikenberry and Mastanduno. 2015. *Introduction to International Relations: Enduring Questions & Contemporary Perspectives*, Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 978-1137398802 (GIM in syllabus)

Drezner. 2011. *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*, Princeton University Press. ISBN: 978-0691163703

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard. Assigned readings are subject to change. I may occasionally ask for you to watch or listen to multimedia resources such as videos or podcasts in addition to reading. Both required textbooks are available for purchase in the NIU bookstore as well as online, where you can purchase used copies to keep the cost down. The GIM textbook also provides a website with resources that might help you in studying, including flash cards, chapter summaries, and quizzes. The website can be found at: <https://he.palgrave.com/companion/Grieco-Introduction-To-International-Relations/learning-resources/>

Requirements and Grading:

Attendance and Participation (10%)

Attendance *and* participation are required. I will take attendance, but merely attending the class is not enough – you will be expected to regularly and thoughtfully participate in class discussions as well. You are expected to complete the reading before class and you should be ready to answer questions if you are called upon. I expect you to refrain from using your phone and chatting during class. **Attendance and participation are worth equal weight**, and will comprise 10% of your grade for this class. I may give occasional in-class quizzes based on the reading, which will count as extra credit towards attendance.

Exams (3 x 15% = 45%)

This course is divided into 3 units. At the end of each unit, there will be an in-class exam, consisting of multiple choice, concept IDs, and short-answer questions. These exams may be cumulative, and they will include questions from the readings as well as lectures. The exams will comprise 45% of your grade (15% per exam). The first exam will take place on October 5, the second exam will take place on November 2, and the third exam will be held on the final exam day determined by the University.

Advising (5%)

I also require students to see an academic advisor during the semester. Meeting with an advisor regularly is critical for your success in college. You can see any academic advisor on campus for this assignment, and will need to get your advisor's signature on the form I provide. You can turn this in at any time during the semester, but you *must* turn in a **signed, hard copy of this form** to me by the final course meeting on December 7. This is worth 5% of your grade.

Zombie Apocalypse Simulation (10%)

During the second unit of the course, we will conduct an in-class simulation of a zombie apocalypse. This exercise will give you the opportunity to apply the international relations knowledge you have gained so far to a hypothetical example of an international crisis. We will discuss the details of the simulation during class time, as well as debating the possible recourses for stopping the problem (nuclear warfare, foreign aid, humanitarian intervention, isolationism, etc.). Students will then write a 2-3 page policy paper, which you will submit to me by October 17 **both on SafeAssign in Blackboard and as a hard copy in class**. This policy paper is worth 10% of your grade, and must address the following questions:

- 1) Which of the paradigms (realism, liberalism, constructivism, feminism, etc.) do you think is most useful for guiding the international response to a global zombie outbreak and why?
- 2) Which policy do you recommend (military intervention, humanitarian intervention, nonintervention, etc.) and why?
- 3) What are some strengths and weaknesses of your chosen paradigm and policy compared to the other options we discussed in class?

You may use Drezner's book as a resource for your policy paper, as well as drawing from our in-class discussion and outside readings if you wish, as long as you properly cite all the sources you use.

Final Paper (30%)

The remaining 30% of your grade is based on the final paper. In your final paper, you should choose a topic of your choice (from the subjects we discussed in class or current events) and analyze the topic using one of the theories from international relations and one of the levels of analysis we studied. Examples of final paper topics could include:

- Analyzing the topic of terrorism using human security and the individual level of analysis
- Looking at nuclear nonproliferation through constructivism and the state level of analysis
- Studying global warming through the point of view of realism and the system level of analysis

A short (one-paragraph) explanation of your paper topic and the theory and level you plan to use must be submitted **as a hard copy in class** to me by October 3 – this is worth 5% of your total grade.

You must also submit an annotated bibliography of *at least five* sources you plan to use for your paper by November 14 for an additional 5% of your total grade. Annotated bibliographies should include a full citation to the source you plan to use, as well as a couple sentences explaining why this source is appropriate for your paper. You may use sources we read in class or outside sources, as long as you cite them properly. This assignment must be submitted **as a hard copy in class**.

The final paper itself will be worth 20% of your total grade, and will be due by December 7. Papers must be 5-6 pages with correctly-cited references, Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, and **must be submitted on SafeAssign in Blackboard as well as a hard copy in class**.

Throughout the semester, we may use extra time in class to workshop your papers. I am happy to look over rough drafts and provide comments during these workshops, as well as during my office hours.

Grading Scale:

Final Average (%)	Final Grade
93-100%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
70-76%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

Grade Breakdown:

- Attendance and Participation: 10% (100 points)
- Advising assignment: 5% (50 points)
- Unit exams: 15% x 3 = 45% (150 points each)
- Zombie simulation: 10% (100 points)
- Final Paper: 30% (300 points)
- **TOTAL GRADE: 1000 Points**

Important Dates:

- October 3: Final Paper Topic due
- October 5: Exam #1
- October 17: Zombie policy paper due
- November 2: Exam #2
- November 14: Annotated Bibliography due
- December 7: Advising Assignment due
- December 7: Final Paper due
- TBA: Exam #3

Course Policies:

- If you need to contact me outside of class, the best way to do so is by email. During the week, I will try to get back to you within 24 hours. On the weekends and over holidays and breaks, it may take longer. I am happy to meet with students during my office hours or by appointment.
- I expect you to check your email and Blackboard on a regular basis for class updates, changes or additions to readings, etc. Readings should be completed prior to the class meeting for which they are listed in the syllabus. **You are responsible for knowing deadlines and exam dates.**
- You are required to attend class. If you cannot attend class you must let me know by email *before* the beginning of class that day. If your absence is excused (i.e. doctor's note, family emergency, etc.) you will be given details of a relevant make-up assignment. If your absence is not excused there will be **NO** makeup assignments. Makeup exams will be scheduled at my convenience, and **must be completed within one week of the missed exam**, after which the exam grade will be a zero. There will be no makeups of the in-class reading quizzes.
- Papers are due on the days indicated in the syllabus *before* class starts. Do not skip class to finish your paper. Late papers will be penalized by 5% each calendar day, which means your grade will drop by one letter grade every two late days. **Papers more than one week late will earn a zero.**
- Papers must be submitted as a hard copy on the date they are due, *including* assignments that are on SafeAssign. If you do not submit a hard copy at the start of class on the day the assignment is due, it will be assessed a 10% penalty *in addition* to any applicable late penalties. **Email submissions of any assignment will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.**
- I am happy to read drafts of your papers and provide feedback before the deadline. However, in the interest of fairness and time, I will not grade multiple drafts of an assignment.
- Classroom etiquette is important. I expect you to be respectful towards both myself and your fellow students. This applies to both in-class discussions as well as email.
- Use of cell phones in class is NOT permitted. If you must answer a call, I ask that you leave the class to do so. **If you are texting or chatting with friends, I will notice and will mark you as absent for that day.** This includes using your phone to take photos of the slides in class – I expect you to take notes, either on paper or on a computer. If I see your phone during an exam, you will receive an automatic zero on the exam.
- Please try to arrive to class on time. Two late arrivals will be considered one absence.
- Extra credit opportunities are rare and offered at the discretion of the instructor. Please keep in mind that all opportunities must be offered to the *entire* class.

Academic Honesty:

At NIU, plagiarism is considered cheating and constitutes a violation of The Student Code of Conduct defined as Academic Misconduct:

3-3.1 Academic Misconduct. Receipt or transmission of unauthorized aid on assignments or examinations, plagiarism, unauthorized use of examination materials, or other forms of dishonesty in academic matters (from The Student Code of Conduct, NIU).

Per university policy, I have the discretion to penalize plagiarism ***up to and including giving a failing course grade***. Punishments for plagiarism will be decided based on the severity of the crime. ***Ignorance is not a defense against plagiarism***. If you are unsure about something, it is better to ask me to look at it than to risk being caught for plagiarism. The Department of Political Science provides some resources to help you understand how to use citations and avoid plagiarism. These resources can be found at: <http://www.niu.edu/polisci/audience/plagiarism.shtml>

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities that may interfere with completing their coursework may consult with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodating your needs. You should also contact the NIU Center for Access-Ability Resources (CAAR) to discuss your individual needs. CAAR is located on the 4th floor of University Health Services and can be reached at 815-753-1303.

Religious Observances

You may be excused from class for religious observances. The Academic Policies and Procedures Manual states the following:

Northern Illinois University as a public institution of higher education in the state of Illinois does not observe religious holidays. It is the University's policy, however, to reasonably accommodate the religious observances of individual students in regard to admissions, class attendance, the scheduling of examinations and work requirements. If you wish to be excused from class for a religious observance please let me know in advance so that appropriate accommodations can be made. You may access the complete policy at <http://www.niu.edu/provost/policies/index.asp>

University Writing Center

It will benefit many of you to seek help from the Writing Center on campus when writing your paper. This is a free service available to all students. The Writing Center is extremely busy during finals time, so I recommend bringing your writing to them early in the semester for help. The Writing Center is located in the basement of Stevenson South. Appointments can be made by calling 815-753-6636. If you have read the syllabus to this point, please email me a meme from the show "The Office" for extra credit.

Course Schedule:

UNIT ONE: UNDERSTANDING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Week One

August 29 – Introduction, class expectations, syllabus, assignments

August 31 – Understanding International Relations

GIM – Chapter 1

Thucydides “The Melian Dialogue” on Blackboard

Week Two

September 5 – The Emergence of a Global System of States – 1500 to WWII

GIM – pages 32-51

September 7 – The Emergence of a Global System of States – The Cold War to Today

GIM – pages 51-69

Week 3

September 12 – Realism

GIM – pages 70-78

Lebow, “Classical Realism” on Blackboard

September 14 – Neorealism

Walt, “Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning” on Blackboard

Week 4

September 19 – Liberalism

GIM – pages 79 - 86

September 21 – Neoliberalism

Oye, “The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics” on Blackboard

Week 5

September 26 – Constructivism, Marxism, and Green Theory

GIM – pages 86 -95

September 28 – Feminism and Post-Colonialism

GIM – pages 96 - 102

Acharya, “An IR for the Global South or a Global IR?” on Blackboard

Busby & Hurlbert “Do women matter to national security?” on Blackboard

Week 6

October 3 – Review

Final Paper Topics Due

October 5 – **Exam #1**

UNIT TWO: INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Week 7

October 10 – Zombie Simulation
Drezner pages 1-45

October 12 – Zombie Simulation continued
Drezner pages 47-60, 67-76

Week 8

October 17 – The Analysis of Foreign Policy
Zombie Policy Paper due
GIM – Chapter 4

October 19 – Use of Force
Art, “The Four Functions of Force” on Blackboard
Kaplan, “The US Must Respond to the North Korean Nuclear Threat” on Blackboard

Week 9

October 24 – War and Its Causes
GIM – Chapter 5

October 26 – Pathways to Interstate Peace
GIM – Chapter 6

Week 10

October 31 – Weapons of Mass Destruction
GIM – Chapter 7
This American Life, “How I Learned to Start Worrying and Fear the Bomb,” (17.5 minutes),
available online at:
<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/620/to-be-real?act=1>

November 2 - **Exam #2**

UNIT THREE: INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Week 11

November 7 – International Economics
GIM – Chapter 8

November 9 – Power, Politics, and the World Economy
GIM – Chapter 9

Week 12

November 14 – Dilemmas of Development
GIM – Chapter 10
Annotated Bibliography Due

November 16 – Humanitarian Intervention & International Law

Pape, “When Duty Calls: A Pragmatic Standard of Humanitarian Intervention” on Blackboard
Beauchamp, “The War in Syria Explained” on Blackboard

Week 13

November 21 – Human Rights, Human Security, and Refugees

Film: *Syria: The World’s Largest Refugee Crisis*, Foreign Policy Association documentary (2016)

Grahl-Madsen, “Identifying the World’s Refugees” on Blackboard

Mooney, “The Concept of Internal Displacement and the Case for Internally Displaced Persons as a Category of Concern” on Blackboard

November 23 – NO CLASS – Thanksgiving break

Week 14

November 28 – Non-state Actors and Challenges to Sovereignty

GIM – Chapter 11

This American Life “I Am Not a Pirate” (1 hour), available online at

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/616/i-am-not-a-pirate>

November 30 – Terrorism

Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism” on Blackboard

Bloom, “Death Becomes Her: The Changing Nature of Women’s Role in Terror” on Blackboard

Week 15

December 5 – The Environment and International Relations

GIM – Chapter 12

December 7 – Wrap Up and Review

Final Paper due

Final day to hand in advisor form

Week 16

TBA - **Exam #3**