POLS 285 Introduction to International Relations
Northern Illinois University
Spring 2017

Instructor: Nicole Loring
Email: nloring1@niu.edu

Class Meetings: Mon/Wed 2:00 – 3:15 pm
Class Location: Dusable Hall 246
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 12:15 – 1:45 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:


Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard. Assigned readings are subject to change. 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 \times 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 February 22, the second exam will take place on March 29, 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 May 3. 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 March 6 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 February 20 – 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 April 10 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 May 3. 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:

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<th>Final Average (%)</th>
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<td>94-100%</td>
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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:

- February 20: Final Paper Topic due
- February 22: Exam #1
- March 6: Zombie policy paper due
- March 29: Exam #2
- April 10: Annotated Bibliography due
- May 3: Advising Assignment due
- May 3: 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 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 six days late will receive 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 considered late and will receive a 5% penalty per day until a hard copy is provided. Email submissions of any assignment will not be accepted.
- 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](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](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 final 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 with a meme from the show “The Office”. 
**Course Schedule:**

**UNIT ONE: UNDERSTANDING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Week One**
January 16 – NO CLASS – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 18 – Introduction, class expectations, syllabus, assignments

**Week Two**
January 23 – Understanding International Relations
GIM – Chapter 1
Thucydides "The Melian Dialogue" on Blackboard
January 25 – The Emergence of a Global System of States
GIM – Chapter 2

**Week 3**
January 30 – Realism
GIM – pages 70-78
Lebow, “Classical Realism” on Blackboard
February 1 – Neorealism
Walt, “Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning” on Blackboard

**Week 4**
February 6 – Liberalism
GIM – pages 79 - 86
February 8 – Neoliberalism
Oye, “The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics” on Blackboard

**Week 5**
February 13 – Constructivism, Marxism, and Green Theory
GIM – pages 86 -95
February 15 – Feminism and Post-Colonialism
GIM – pages 96 - 102
Acharya, “An IR for the Global South or a Global IR?” on Blackboard

**Week 6**
February 20 – Review
**Final Paper Topics Due**
February 22 – **Exam #1**
UNIT TWO: INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Week 7
February 27 – Zombie Simulation
   Drezner pages 1-45

March 1 – Zombie Simulation continued
   Drezner pages 47-60, 67-76

Week 8
March 6 – The Analysis of Foreign Policy
   Zombie Policy Paper due
   GIM – Chapter 4

March 8 – 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 – NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Week 10
March 20 – War and Its Causes
   GIM – Chapter 5

March 22 – Pathways to Interstate Peace
   GIM – Chapter 6

Week 11
March 27 – Weapons of Mass Destruction
   GIM – Chapter 7
   Waltz, “Why Iran Should Get the Bomb” on Blackboard
   Film: How the Iran nuclear deal works, explained in 3 minutes, Vox (2015)

March 29 - Exam #2

UNIT THREE: INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Week 12
April 3 – International Economics
   GIM – Chapter 8

April 5 – Power, Politics, and the World Economy
   GIM – Chapter 9

Week 13
April 10 – Dilemmas of Development
   GIM – Chapter 10
   Annotated Bibliography Due
April 12 – Human Rights and Human Security

“The Universal Declaration of Human Rights” on Blackboard

Week 14
April 17 – Humanitarian Intervention & International Law
Hurd, “Is Humanitarian Intervention Legal? The Rule of Law in an Incoherent World,” on Blackboard

April 19 – Migration and Refugees
Film: Syria: The World’s Largest Refugee Crisis, Foreign Policy Association documentary (2016)
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

Week 15
April 24 – Non-state Actors and Challenges to Sovereignty
GIM – Chapter 11

April 26 – 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 16
May 1 – The Environment and International Relations
GIM – Chapter 12

May 3 – Wrap Up and Review
Final Paper due
Final day to hand in advisor form

Week 17
TBA - Exam #3