POLS 285-1: Introduction to International Relations  
Department of Political Science  
Northern Illinois University  

Spring 2018  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:45pm  
DuSable Hall 276  

Instructor: Dr. Aarie Glas  
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-5pm & by appointment  
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Teaching Assistant: Medha Monjaury  
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Office Hours: TBA  
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I. Overview  

Can laws and treaties stem the proliferation of nuclear weapons? Does the rise of China present a security threat to the world? Why can’t global leaders come to an agreement to effectively tackle climate change? Why is global cooperation so difficult, even when most of the world shares similar goals of peace and prosperity? This class will help students answer these questions and more.  

This course is structured over three parts. We start with a historical overview of the international system, from the Peloponnesian War to the Cold War to ground our collective understanding of global affairs. Second, we turn to number of theories – or analytical lenses – that scholars and policy-makers make use of to understand our world. Third, we examine a number of current debates, including those concerning nuclear deterrence, terrorism, global financial crises, human rights, climate governance, and the rise of China.  

Students will come away from the course with a set of analytic frameworks and a depth of historical knowledge that will enable them to better understand current issues in global politics and will empower them to participate in the process of crafting solutions, whether that be as a future policymaker, an issue-advocate, or an engaged global citizen.  

II. Learning Objectives  

By the end of this course, students will:  
  • Be familiar with core theories of international relations (IR)  
  • Be familiar with current debates within the study of IR  
  • Be able to think critically about global politics and apply diverse analytical lenses to contemporary issues
• Be able to thinking critically about and critique scholarly work
• Be able to articulate their views confidently and competently in both discussions and written work

III. Class Format

Our course meets for 75 minutes, twice a week. Classes will mix lecture with discussions and group activities. It is, therefore, essential that students attend having read and reflected upon the required readings for each class. Active participation in a number of forms within each class is a requirement of this course.

IV. Grade Distribution

1. Class Participation: 15% (on-going)
2. Map Quizzes: 5% (see below)
3. Reading Check-Ins: 10% (on-going)
4. Written Assignment 1: 15% (March 20)
5. Written Assignment 2: 20% (April 24)
6. Midterm Exam: 15% (March 9)
7. Final Exam: 20% (TBD)

V. Requirements

1. Class Participation (15%): Students are expected to read, reflect upon, and be prepared to discuss the required readings for each class. Participation means active engagement in discussions, group activities, and other forms of interaction with your colleagues and Instructor. Missing one or two classes is less consequential than attending all classes but remaining quiet, distracted, or disengaged. If you have concerns about your performance or your ability to confidently engage within the class, please (at any time) speak with your Instructor in office hours.

Note that this course will rely on discussions that extend beyond our required readings and engage with current issues in global politics. It is therefore strongly recommended that students stay up to date with current global affairs by following a major news source (e.g. The Guardian, Washington Post, New York Times, or The Economist).

2. Map Quizzes (5%): Students will sit five (5) short map quizzes in the Tuesday classes of Weeks 2-6. Map quizzes require students to locate 5 countries on a blank map of a given continent or geographic area (Americas, Europe, Africa, Middle East, Europe – in that order). The five blank maps will be provided on Blackboard in Week 1. Students may consult your textbook, any up to date online map (e.g. GoogleMaps), or other resource to study the country names of each geographic location in advance.
3. **Reading Check-Ins (10%)**: These short assignments will be unannounced. They will be held in the first ten minutes of class as decided by the Instructor. Reading Check-Ins will consist of multiple choice questions based on the assigned reading for the day (and/or recent days) alongside widely reported current event issues. Questions will be straightforward, intended to reward students for completing required readings and having a sustained familiarity with current events discussed within and beyond the course. They will be potentially frequent, particularly if it is clear students in the course are not keeping up with readings. The Check-Ins will be equally weighted. For example, if there are 10 throughout the semester, each will be worth 1 point each. If there are 16, each will be worth 0.625 points.

Note that there is no opportunity to make-up either the Map Quizzes or the Reading Check-Ins without a formally documented (i.e. medical) absence and the approval from the Instructor. Make-ups, if offered, will vary from those held in class and may, necessarily, be more challenging.

Note also that no additional time will be provided (e.g. if you arrive to class a few minutes late to find a Reading Check-In or Map Quiz in progress, you will not be granted extra time to complete it).

4 & 5. **Written Assignments (15% and 20%)**: Students will write two short essays of 3-4 double-spaced pages. Further details and recommendations will be provided. Students are encouraged to speak to the Instructor and/or Teaching Assistant if they have questions or concerns regarding this assignment once full instructions are provided.

6. **Midterm Exam (15%)**: The midterm exam will be held in class (see below schedule). It will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or long-answer questions. Further details will be provided in advance. Students will have 65 minutes to complete the midterm. No extra time will be provided if students arrive late. Students should bring their own exam blue book to complete the exam. The exam book will be inspected before the exam is administered.

7. **Final Exam (20%)**: The final exam will be held during the designated exam period as decided by the Registrar. It will consist of multiple choice, short answer and/or long-answer questions. Further details will be provided in advance. Students should bring their own exam blue book to complete the exam. The exam book will be inspected before the exam is administered.

**VI. Submission of Assignments**

All course assignments are required both in hardcopy and electronically through Blackboard. Assignments are not accepted or considered submitted until both submission have been made (see late policy below).
Written Assignments must be double-sided, stapled, and clearly presented. Student names, student numbers, course code, and both the names of your Instructor name (Dr. Glas) and Teaching Assistant (Medha Monjaury) should be clearly visible on a title page or header, and page numbers are required. Failure to comply with these requirements will see a reduction of marks.

All work must be clearly and formally cited and a bibliography provided (bibliography does not count towards page length restrictions). Failure to comply with these requirements risks a failure of the assignment and/or further sanctions (again, see Academic Integrity below).

For a useful guide to one means of citation, please see:

A late penalty of 5% per day (including weekends) will be levied up to five (5) days at which point the assignment will not be accepted and will receive a zero. The application of penalties begins at 4:30pm on the due date, when the Department of Political Science closes (i.e. you fail to submit the assignment in class or office hours on the due date, and submit it the same day but after the Department is closed, you will receive a 5% deduction).

Late assignments are due in hardcopy to the Department of Political Science and electronically through Blackboard. Assignments are never accepted by email. Late penalties will be applied as per the notation by Departmental staff and/or when it is received electronically via Blackboard (i.e. if you submit your assignment on time to the Department or Instructor, but one day late [e.g. after 4:30pm on the due date] to Blackboard, you will be penalized 5%).

Note that the electronic and hardcopy submissions must be identical. Failure to do will result in a zero on the assignment and, potentially, further sanctions for presumed academic dishonesty.

Extensions and accommodations are possible for documented medical or family emergencies, or when agreed upon with the Instructor in advance. If you think you need to delay taking an exam or submitting a written assignment, you should talk to your Instructor generally at least three weeks before the exam/due date. Extensions are never guaranteed. They will be based on University policy, exigency of the circumstances, and timeliness of the request (i.e. the earlier the better).

VII. Assessment & Appeals

Written assignments and exams will be assessed by the Instructor and/or the Teaching Assistant. A common rubric will be used for the course, regardless of grader, and written commentary will be provided.
Both the Teaching Assistant and Instructor will make available office hour times to provide further feedback and guidance after the return of the midterm exam and written assignments. Students are encouraged to speak to their grader in office hours to this end, particularly after the return of Written Assignment 1.

**Grade appeals** are possible. To appeal a grade – whether the material is graded by the Instructor or the Teaching Assistant – the following steps must be undertaken:

a. Within one week of the return of the material *but not before 48 hours* students must provide an email to the Instructor indicating the intention to appeal a grade.

b. Within 24 hours of the emailed notice of appeal, the student must provide a typed **written appeal** outlining the rationale for the request. That written appeal must be provided to the Department of Political Science or the Instructor in class or in office hours **along** with the original graded material (and any supplemental rubric or commentary provided). The appeal must no more than 1 typed page single spaced, and should be detailed enough to justify the appeal and outline the particularities of the apparent disagreement.

c. The Instructor will review the appeal and, if appropriate, undertake a detailed review of the assignment. The grade offered on appeal may increase, decrease, or maintain the original score. The grade offered on appeal will be final.

d. Students will, after the conclusion of the appeal, be invited to discuss the assignment and the rationale for its grade in the Instructor’s office hours.

**VIII. Academic Integrity**

This course will take academic misconduct seriously. All work submitted must be a students’ own in full and must be cited properly.

Any student in this course found to have plagiarized (*accidentally* or otherwise) the work of another individual (including, but not limited to, other students or from existing scholarship) will receive a **failing grade** in this course and may be subject to additional sanctions by the University.

Students are expected to have read and to abide by NIU’s Student Code of Conduct ([http://www.niu.edu/conduct/student-code-of-conduct](http://www.niu.edu/conduct/student-code-of-conduct)). This is your responsibility and a requirement of this course.

Please take NIU’s Online Tutorial on Academic Integrity to re-familiarize yourself if you have doubts or concerns ([http://www.niu.edu/ai/students/](http://www.niu.edu/ai/students/)) and/or speak to your Instructor in office hours.

If you have any questions throughout the course relating to academic practices, academic integrity, and issues of plagiarism and/or citation please speak to the Instructor and/or consult the links noted above. Failure to understand these requirements does not constitute an excuse to deviate from them.
Note: With the above in mind, please ensure that all drafts, preliminary work, and research notes, as well as all graded and returned course assignments, are retained until course grades are finalized by the Registrar. Your Instructor may request to review either draft or finalized material at any point during the course and/or discuss student assignments in person.

IX. Course Materials

There are two required texts for the course. Please note the editions. It may be possible to utilize alternative editions of these textbooks for some readings. Students interested in doing so should consult the alternative editions to note and manage discrepancies (i.e. some readings may not be within older editions). Additional readings beyond these two texts will be provided via Blackboard (BB in the below schedule, and see the “Additional Readings” folder under “Content”) or via direct online links.


Beyond the two required texts, students are expected to follow current events. It is therefore required that students stay up to date with current global affairs by following a major newspaper or online news source (e.g. The Guardian, Washington Post, New York Times, or The Economist). I highly recommend getting in the habit of reading the news every day and consulting more than one source.

Note that familiarity with current issues in global affairs will be a component of assessment in this course in a number of ways, including the participation score in class, the Reading Check-Ins, and through questions on the Midterm and Final Exams.

Recommended readings: a small number of recommended readings are noted in the outline below. These are not required reading material, but provided for further reading should students so desire. If any student desires additional recommended material, please let me know as I will happy to provide suggestions on any and all topics!

X. Office Hours

Your Instructor will hold weekly Office Hours (as noted on page 1). These are drop-in times and all students are always welcome to attend to discuss anything related to the course, or anything else you feel that your Instructor could potentially help with.
No RSVP is required. Students are encouraged to visit as often as they like, and are invited to attend in small groups if you wish. If you cannot meet during this period, please email me well in advance to arrange an alternative time.

Your Teaching Assistant will hold Office Hours at set times after the return of graded material and in advance of the exams. Notice of these times and locations will be provided in class and via Blackboard.

XI. Email Contact

Both the Instructor and the Teaching Assistant will (try to) answer questions by email when appropriate. Please use the course code somewhere in the subject line and ensure you make use of your official NIU email address for all communications. Those two requirements help ensure that emails are received and read in a timely manner. A 24-48-hour turnaround time should be anticipated, so please do not leave questions to the last minute.

Substantive questions regarding course materials and discussions, or concerns or questions about the assignments are best discussed in class or in Office Hours and not by email. Please always feel free to raise questions at the onset of class for the benefit of all your colleagues in the course. As a rule of thumb, if a question or a welcomed response is longer than three or four sentences, it is likely a topic to chat about in Office Hours or in class.

XII. Our Space and Issues of Accessibility

Together, we will foster a comfortable, engaging, and accessible scholarly environment. All students should feel welcome to attend and speak freely in class and in Office Hours. To this end we will approach this course as colleagues, and we will treat each other with respect and dignity at all times.

NIU, and myself as your Instructor, are committed to making reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. If any disabilities may impact on coursework or other academic requirements, please notify both your Instructor and the Disability Resource Center (Tel. 815-753-1303) on the fourth floor of the Health Services Building as soon as possible, and within the first two weeks of the start of this course. If you would rather not speak to your Instructor, note that the Disability Resource Center can assist students in making appropriate accommodations with Instructors discretely.

If you have any concerns about the course or your ability to access or engage with the course material or our discussions – at any point throughout the course – please also feel free to contact me by email or speak to me in person. I will happy to assist as best as I am able. I am also happy to raise any issues or concerns you may have on your behalf with the Department or the University directly.
XIII. Laptops and Technology

I strongly recommend students take notes in class by hand and transcribe those into typed notes. That is an excellent way to begin your exam preparations in this and other courses. If students choose – or need – to make use of a laptop computer, please sit towards the back of the room to not distract your colleagues. Additionally, do not deviate from a productive use of your computer (e.g. typing notes or researching during group work) or any use of your phone for the duration of our time in class.

If I suspect that a student is misusing their computer, witness the use of a phone, or deem a student’s behaviour to be a distraction to myself or your colleagues in the class I will ask the student to leave the room for the remainder of the class.

XIV. Preferred Names and Pronouns

Class rosters and University data systems are provided to faculty with the student’s legal name and legal gender marker. As an NIU student, you are able to change how your preferred/proper name shows up on class rosters. This option is helpful for various student populations, including but not limited to: students who abbreviate their first name; students who use their middle name; international students; and transgender students. As your Instructor, I am committed to using your proper name and pronouns as you prefer it.

We will take time during our first class together to do introductions, at which point you can share with all members of our class what name and pronouns you use, as you are comfortable. Additionally, if these change at any point during the semester, please let me know and we can develop a plan to share this information with others in a way that is safe for you.

Should you want to update your preferred/proper name, you can do so by looking at the following guidelines and frequently asked questions:
http://www.niu.edu/regrec/preferredname/index.shtml
http://www.niu.edu/regrec/preferredname/preferrednamefaq.shtml

XV. Blackboard

This course will use Blackboard as our course webpage. This webpage will host readings that are not available in the above-mentioned textbooks, to document student grades, and to disseminate announcements. Blackboard will also host copies of all additional material provided in the course (e.g. assignment details).

Please check Blackboard before contacting the Instructor or Teaching Assistant for information regarding assignments or readings, and regularly visit the webpage to ensure you are up to date on announcements in the course.
XVI. Letter Grade Distribution:

Students will receive a percentage score for each assignment that can be totaled and translated into a letter grade according to the scale below.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;= 93.00</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90.00 - 92.99</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87.00 - 89.99</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>83.00 - 86.99</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80.00 - 82.99</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77.00 - 79.99</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>70.00 - 76.99</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>60.00 - 69.99</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;= 59.99</td>
<td>F</td>
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XVII. Class Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Historical Context</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>January 23</td>
<td>Thinking Critically About IR</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>Realism &amp; Liberalism</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>Neorealism &amp; Neoliberalism</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>Constructivism &amp; Marxism</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Feminism &amp; Foreign Policy Decision-Making</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Individual Psychology and Thinking Analytically About IR, again</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Review &amp; Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>No Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>The Cold War and the Nuclear Age</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Human Security, Terrorism, and Intra-State Conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>International Law &amp; Institutions</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>International Political Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Human Rights &amp; Non-State Actors</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Climate Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>The Future of the World Order &amp; Review</td>
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</tbody>
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Note: Topics and readings may be subject to change at the discretion of your Instructor. Any change in the above schedule (e.g. the cancellation or rescheduling of a class or the hosting of the class by a guest other than your Instructor) will be noted as soon as possible by your Instructor through Blackboard.
XVIII. Detailed Class Schedule

Part I. Introduction

Week 1. Introduction & Historical Context

Class 1: Introduction
   Read Syllabus in Full
   (start EIR Chapter 2)

Class 2: Whirlwind History!
   EIR Chapter 2

Week 2. Thinking Analytically About IR

Class 3: What is Theory?
   EIR 71-74
   Jack Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” from Foreign Policy (ERWP)

Class 4: Levels of Analysis
   EIR 5-18
   EIR 74-76
   EIR 271-277
   Recommended: David Singer (1961), “The Levels-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations” World Politics (BB)

Part II. IR Theory

Week 3. Realism & Liberalism

Class 5: Classical Realism
   EIR 76-83
   Thomas Hobbes, from Leviathan (ERWP)
   +Review EIR 21-38
   +Review EIR 271-275

Class 6: Classical Liberalism
   EIR 83-89
   EIR 305-312
   +Review EIR 38-40
   Woodrow Wilson, “The Fourteen Points” (ERWP)
   Michael W. Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics” (ERWP)
**Week 4. Neorealism & Neoliberalism**

Class 7: Neorealism  
EIR 109-116  
EIR 113-142  
EIR 275-277  
+ Review EIR 76-83  
John J. Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power,” from *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (**ERWP**)  
Thucydides, “Melian Dialogue,” from *The Peloponnesian War* (**ERWP**)  

Class 8: Neoliberalism  
EIR 116-118  
EIR 142-143  
+ Review EIR 83-89  

**Week 5. Constructivism and Marxism**

Class 9: Constructivism  
EIR 92-95  
EIR 144-145  
*Recommended*: Ba and Hoffmann (2005), “Making and Remaking the World for IR 101” (**BB**)  

Class 10: Marxism and Dependency Theory  
EIR 89-92  
EIR 143-144  
V. I. Lenin, from *Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism* (**ERWP**)  

**Week 6. Feminist IR and Foreign Policy Decision-Making**

Class 11: Feminist IR  
EIR 95-97  
J. Ann Tickner, “Man, the State, and War: Gendered Perspectives on National Security” (**ERWP**)  

Class 12: Models of Foreign Policy Decision-Making  
EIR 162-169
Week 7. Individual Psychology and Thinking Analytically About IR, again

Class 13: The Individual
EIR 181-207
Robert Jervis, “Hypotheses on Misperception” (ERWP)

Class 14: Thinking Analytically About IR, again
EIR 97-104
Drezner, “Theories of International Politics...and Zombies” (BB)
+Review: Jack Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” from Foreign Policy (ERWP)

Week 8. Review and Midterm

Class 15: Review Class

Class 16: Midterm Exam (March 8)

Week 9. Spring Break (no class)

Part III. Issues and Application

Week 10. The Cold War and the Nuclear Age

Class 17: The Cold War & The International System
EIR 58-59
+ Review EIR 44-56
George F. Kennan (“X”), “The Sources of Soviet Conduct” (ERWP)
G. John Ikenberry, from Liberal Leviathan: The Origins, Crisis, and Transformation of the American World Order (ERWP)

Class 18: Security Dilemmas & Nuclear Proliferation
EIR 297-305
Robert Jervis, “Cooperation under the Security Dilemma” (ERWP)
Kenneth N. Waltz, “Why Iran Should Get the Bomb: Nuclear Balancing Would Mean Stability” (ERWP)
Week 11. Human Security, Terrorism, and Intra-State Conflict

Class 19: Old & ‘New’ Wars, and Terrorism
EIR 277-291
Andrew H. Kydd and Barbara F. Walter, “The Strategies of Terrorism” (ERWP)

Class 20: Just War & Human Security
EIR 291-297

Week 12. International Law & Institutions

Class 21: International Organizations and the UN
EIR 208-228
Samantha Power, “Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen” (ERWP)

Class 22: Regional International Organizations and International Law
EIR 228-246

Week 13. International Political Economy

Class 23: History and Functions of the Global Economy
EIR 316-338

Class 24: International Development and Crises
EIR 339-359
Daniel W. Drezner, “The Irony of Global Economic Governance: The System Worked” (ERWP)

Week 14. Human Rights & Non-State Actors

Class 25: Human Rights
EIR 360-395
Recommended: Amartya Sen, “Human Rights and Capabilities” (ERWP)

Class 26: Human Rights and Non-State Actors
EIR 247-258
Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, “Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics” (ERWP)
Week 15. Climate Change

Class 27: Climate Change
EIR 397-417
Robert Kaplan, “The Coming Anarchy” (BB)
*Recommended:* Thomas Homer-Dixon (1994), “Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict” (BB)

For useful background, review:
(A) Climate Science Basics (per the 2016 EPA):
https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/climatechange_.html

(B) Global Limits TED Talk:
http://www.ted.com/talks/johan_rockstrom_let_the_environment_guide_our_development

Class 28: Climate Change Governance
Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons” (ERWP)
Scott Barrett, “Why Have Climate Negotiations Proved So Disappointing?” (ERWP)
*Recommended:* Steve Prins and Gwyn Rayner (2007), “The Wrong Trousers: Radically Rethinking Climate Policy” (available online: http://eureka.sbs.ox.ac.uk/66/)

Week 16. The Future of the World Order & Exam Review

Class 29: The Future of World Politics
Francis Fukuyama “The End of History?” (ERWP)
Samuel Huntington “The Clash of Civilizations” ERWP

Class 30: Review Class

**Final Exam:** Thursday, May 10, Noon-1:50 p.m.