

Political Science 1300: Global Politics

Spring 2014

Online – No classroom component

Instructor: Kathleen Powers

Email: powers.276@osu.edu

Office Hours: Thurs 10:00am-12:00pm; in person AND Gchat; also available by appointment

Office: 2014 Derby Hall

Course Description

Who are the main actors in international politics? What are the best ways to understand international phenomena? How can knowledge of international relations theory contribute to our understanding of global issues like war, peace, economic relations, the environment, and human rights?

This course in global politics attempts to answer questions such as these by introducing students to the study of international relations (IR). The course begins with a general overview of IR as a discipline within political science. It then moves on to examine some of the core concepts in the field using the levels of analysis framework as a guide. Theories reviewed include realism, liberalism, constructivism, and those related to foreign policy decision-making. Next, we use these concepts to address issues such as the causes of war, the politics of economic relations, international organizations, the environment, and human rights.

Course Goals

Broadly speaking, the goal of this course is to provide students with the tools necessary to become *critical* and *informed* citizens when it comes to understanding global problems and foreign policy issues. In order to become more *informed*, students will learn about events in international politics, both modern and historical, as well as about contemporary perspectives on international relations from the scholarly community. *Critical* skills will be developed as students learn how to think analytically and assess arguments about international affairs, establishing a more sophisticated understanding of the political world. The course will also

provide a solid base of core material for students who wish to pursue more advanced courses in international relations or foreign policy.

Course Readings

There are two required textbooks for this course. Both are available at SBX or from online retailers. Please purchase the editions identified below (**NOTE: These are NOT the most recent editions; new editions were published for this year but I'd rather save you a bit of money as the material is largely the same**). Both texts are also on reserve at Thompson Library.

Karen Mingst & Ivan Arreguín-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, 5th Ed. (W.W. Norton) **ISBN: 978-0-393-93529-5**

Karen Mingst & Jack Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 4th Ed. (W.W. Norton) **ISBN: 978-0-393-93534-9**

All other readings for the course will be posted on Carmen under the content tab.

In order to help guide your note-taking and reading, each week I will post a reading guide identifying key terms and questions that you should be able to answer after completing the assignment. These guides will help direct your focus and will undoubtedly be a useful study tool, but are not necessarily a comprehensive list of reading material that you might be tested on (in other words, you should read the material in its entirety even if only one or two questions are listed). They are there for your benefit, but are not required.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to watch every lecture, to complete all of the required readings, and to read and keep up with any materials posted to the Carmen website. Students are responsible for all of these items, and should note that class lectures will sometimes cover material that is not included in the course readings; similarly, the readings may contain material that is not covered in lectures —**making both crucial to your success.**

There are 5 graded components to this course. These are: (1-2) 2 exams, (3) weekly quizzes, and (4-5) two response papers. The exams and quizzes will test material covered in course readings, lectures, and any supplemental items (e.g. videos, podcasts, or readings) posted to the Carmen website. If supplemental items are posted, they will be explicitly identified as required,

meaning that information from them might be included on exams or quizzes, or optional, meaning that interested students might simply find them helpful and/or informative. More information on each of these items is listed below.

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| <i>Exam 1</i> | 25% |
| <i>Exam 2</i> | 25% |
| <i>Weekly Quizzes</i> | 25% |
| <i>Response Paper 1</i> | 12.5% |
| <i>Response Paper 2</i> | 12.5% |
| <hr/> | |
| Total | 100% |

Extra Credit: There will be two opportunities to earn extra credit in this course. The first is through active participation in the discussion forum, information about which is listed in the ‘Communication and Discussion’ section below. Additionally, there will be an opportunity to earn an additional 1.5% for your final grade by participating in a political science experiment. More information about this will be provided after the course begins.

Lectures: Video lectures and accompanying Powerpoint slides (to ease note-taking) will be posted on Carmen, under the Content tab, each week by **the end of the day on Monday**.

Quizzes: Weekly quizzes will be posted on Carmen each week on **Tuesday**. The quiz will remain available **until 11:59pm on Sunday**. You will be allowed two attempts at each quiz, and your highest score will be recorded. Each student therefore has the freedom to watch the lecture(s), complete the readings, and take the quiz at any point between Tuesday and Sunday at midnight. However, **no exceptions** will be made for students who miss the quiz deadline—meaning that **students should use their time wisely to ensure that they can complete it on time**. The lowest quiz grade for the course will be dropped. The quizzes are open-book and open-notes, but are to be taken alone by the enrolled student; no collaboration between students is permitted. **There is a 25 minute time restriction on each quiz** – meaning that you would be wise to complete the material and ensure that your solid understanding of it prior to taking the quiz.

Midterm and Final: A midterm and a final will be administered through Carmen. They will be open-note and open-book but will be time-restricted, limiting the student's ability to rely on course materials. Students should prepare for these exams just as they would an in-class exam.

Response Papers: For each week of the semester, I will post a **response paper topic in the content section of Carmen**, usually containing news items or other references for you to read and a specific question to answer in a short analytical paper. Each student will submit their written responses to **2 of these questions** at some point in the semester. **You will sign up for your two topics/submission weeks at the beginning of the term – by Monday, January 13** using the Carmen discussion board. **The paper should be 1-2 pages, double-spaced (12 pt Times New Roman)**, and should respond to the question in a thoughtful, informed manner, integrating relevant course material to demonstrate your ability to apply concepts and think analytically about international politics. More detailed instructions are available in the administrative items section of the content tab on Carmen.

In order to be graded and considered on time, the paper should be submitted to the dropbox by Sunday at 11:59pm during the week that the relevant material was presented (for example, if you sign up to complete a paper in week 3, the paper will be due January 26 at 11:59pm). **You must complete the paper/assignment that you sign up for. Failure to submit the assignment by the deadline that you choose will result in a score of zero.**

Final Grades will be calculated based on the standard OSU grading scale.

| | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| A 93-100 | A- 90-92.9 | B+ 87-89.9 | B 83-86.9 | B- 80-82.9 |
| C+ 77-79.9 | C 73-76.9 | C- 70-72.9 | D+ 67-69.9 | D 60-66.9 |
| E Below 60 | | | | |

Communication and Discussion

I will use emails and News items on Carmen to communicate with students in the class. Please check Carmen frequently throughout the semester, as students are responsible for reading and understanding information and announcements. **If I post it to Carmen or put something in an email to the class, I expect that you have read and understood the information.**

You should feel free to email me with any questions about course materials or logistics (just like you would ask questions before, during, or after a normal class meeting). Please treat your email as a professional correspondence—be as clear and specific as possible. If I feel that the question and answer would be of interest to the class, I will post it as a news item on Carmen (but without pasting your email and without identifying information).

Additionally, I will hold weekly office hours in person and using Gchat Thursday mornings from 10am-12pm. You should feel welcome to use this as a time to drop in and ask questions, either in person or online. My gchat user name is powers.276@gmail.com. I am also available by appointment – simply send me an email and we can schedule a mutually convenient time to meet in my office (**2014 Derby Hall**).

Finally, each week on the Discussion tab of Carmen I will post a topic for discussion.

Participating in this forum is encouraged but not required. **However, students who do participate consistently and constructively will be eligible for up to 4 extra credit percentage points added to their final grade at the end of the semester.** I highly recommend that you participate early and often in the discussion forum – it will enhance your learning experience as well as help your grade at the end of the term.

Required Statements

Academic Honesty

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp). **I take this issue very seriously and will submit any cases of suspected academic misconduct to the committee—if you are confused *at all* about what constitutes dishonest practice, please consult with me.**

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil

Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

The course fulfills the following GEC requirements:

Category: Social Science: Human, Natural, and Economic Resources

Goals:

Students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of the use and distribution of human, natural, and economic resources and decisions and policies concerning such resources.
2. Students understand the political, economic, and social trade-offs reflected in individual decisions and societal policymaking and enforcement and their similarities and differences across contexts.
3. Students comprehend and assess the physical, social, economic, and political sustainability of individual and societal decisions with respect to resource use.

Category: Global Studies

Goals:

Students understand the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States and across the world in order to become educated, productive, and principled citizens.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.
2. Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

Course Outline and Readings (*Subject to change at the instructor's discretion; advanced notification will be provided for any changes)

Week 1 (starting Jan 6)

Introduction

- Introduction to the course
- Review Syllabus
- International Relations as a discipline
- Normative/positive theory

Readings: Mingst & Arreguín-Toft ch. 1

Week 2 (Jan 13)

Conceptual Foundations of IR I

- Levels of Analysis
- Realism

Readings: Mingst & Arreguín-Toft ch. 3 (only pp. 65-76)
Thucydides, in Mingst & Snyder
Morgenthau ("A Realist Theory of International Politics), in Mingst & Snyder

Week 3 (Jan 20)

Conceptual Foundations of IR II

- Liberalism
- Constructivism
- Marxism and Feminism

Readings: Mingst & Arreguín-Toft ch. 3 (pp. 76-91)
Kant, in Mingst & Snyder
Wilson, in Mingst & Snyder
Hopf, "The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations" on Carmen
Recommended: Wendt, in Mingst & Snyder

Week 4 (Jan 27)

The International System Level of Analysis

- Balance of Power
- Polarity, hegemony
- Interdependence
- Constructivism and Norms

Readings: Mingst & Arreguín-Toft, ch.4
Morgenthau ("The Balance of Power"), in Mingst & Snyder
Finnemore, in Mingst & Snyder
Recommended: Ikenberry, Mastanduno, and Wohlforth, in Mingst & Snyder

Week 5 (Feb 3)

The State and Society Levels of Analysis

- The state and state power
- Society and models of foreign policy decision-making

Readings: Mingst & Arreguín-Toft, ch. 5

Week 6 (Feb 10)

The Individual Level of Analysis

- When do individuals matter?
- belief systems and information-processing

Readings: Mingst & Arreguín-Toft, ch. 6 (pp. 155-172, 178-79)

Saunders, in Mingst & Snyder

Recommended: Jervis (“Hypotheses on Misperception”) in Mingst & Snyder

Week 7 (Feb 17)

Global Governance

- International Organizations
- Non-governmental Organizations
- The United Nations
- International Law

Readings: Mingst & Arreguín-Toft, ch. 7

Recommended: Mearsheimer “The False Promise of International Institutions,” in Mingst & Snyder

Week 8 (Feb 24)

Study! Exam 1 available Thursday, February 27 at 12:00pm (noon) through Saturday, March 1 at 11:59pm

Week 9 (Mar 3)

War and Violent Conflict

- Trends in War
- Types of war and armed conflict
- Causes of war and peace

Readings: Mingst & Arreguín-Toft, ch. 8 (pages 231-261 only)

Clausewitz, in Mingst & Snyder

Huntington, in Mingst & Snyder

Week 10 (Mar 10) **Spring Break! Enjoy.**

Week 11 (Mar 17)

War and Violent Conflict II

- Preventing War/Managing Instability
- Just War

Readings: Mingst & Arreguín-Toft, ch. 8 (pp. 261-281)
Jervis (“Cooperation under the Security Dilemma”), in Mingst & Snyder
Evans, in Mingst & Snyder

Week 12 (Mar 24)

Nuclear Weapons

- Nuclear deterrence and mutual vulnerability
- Non-proliferation treaty
- Case study: nuclear weapons and Iran

Readings: Sagan, Scott D. “Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons?: Three Models in Search of a Bomb.” *International Security* 21, no. 3 (December 1, 1996): 54-86. on Carmen
Posen, in Mingst & Snyder
Tannenwald, “Stigmatizing the Bomb: Origins of the Nuclear Taboo” on Carmen
Recommended: Waltz “Why Iran should get the bomb”, on Carmen

Week 13 (Mar 31)

International Political Economy

- Theories of IPE
- Free trade and globalization
- Regional integration
- International economic organizations (WTO, IMF, World Bank)
- International Development

Readings: Mingst & Arreguín-Toft, ch. 9
Mingst & Arreguín-Toft, ch. 3 (p. 81-84 only)
Gilpin, in Mingst & Snyder
Milner, in Mingst & Snyder
Recommended: Stiglitz, in Mingst & Snyder (pages 567-72 only)

Week 14 (Apr 7)

International Environmental Politics

- The global commons
- Cooperation over environmental problems
- Case study: The global climate change regime

Readings: Mingst & Arreguín-Toft 6th Ed, ch. 11 (pp. 385-409), **on Carmen**
Hardin, in Mingst & Snyder

Week 15 (Apr 14)

Human Rights

- Conceptualizing human rights

-Humanitarian interventions

Readings: Mingst & Arreguín-Toft, ch. 10 (only pp. 349-360)

Power, in Mingst & Snyder

Sen, in Mingst & Snyder

Week 16 (Apr 21)

Review for Exam

Exam 2 – Available Thursday, April 24 at 8:00am to Saturday, April 26 at 11:59pm.