

**Introduction to International Politics**  
**PLSC 212**  
**Summer 2017**

**Professor:** Nitya Singh  
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**Office Hours:** Online

**Section/CRN:** – PLSC 212 - 53221  
**Class Timing:** Online  
**Location:** <https://canvas.emich.edu/>

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### **Course Overview**

This course introduces major theories and approaches in the study of international relations. The course considers the character of the international system, causes of conflict and war, foreign policy decision-making, determinants of economic development, and global environmental degradation. It also examines current issues such as terrorism, the protection of human rights, and globalization. At the end of this course the students should have had developed a basic level of awareness of the major ideas and approaches adopted in the field of International Relations.

This course is part of the General Education Program. Some of the objectives of this course are:-

- Explore specific global issues influencing diverse nations and/or cultures, along with their interrelations within the global community.
- Explore their own culture and cultural practices and how these relate to the cultures and cultural practices of others in the global community.
- Explore the social and historical dynamics that create and influence nations, governments, global alliances, and global conflicts.
- Explore the causes and consequences of social, cultural, and racial intolerance in the world.
- Analyze and synthesize information from diverse sources to make informed decisions regarding global issues.

### **Materials**

There is one required text available for purchase at campus bookstores or through any online vendor:

1. International Relations. **9th Edition.** Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse. ISBN-9780205723904 (**G&P**)

An important component in understanding the ideas in global politics is being able to relate them to current political events happening across the world. Therefore, in this class we will regularly be discussing world events through the weekly online class discussions. As students you should be aware of them. I would encourage that you should daily read a major newspaper (New York Times, US News etc). Another resource that you can use are websites of major news networks. ([www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com), [www.bbc.co.uk/news](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news), [abcnews.go.com](http://abcnews.go.com) etc.)

## Course Requirements

The class will involve a combination of assignments, online discussions and exams. My expectations for a student taking this course are that you regularly participate in the online class discussions, stay current with the tests and other assignments, complete the exams in a timely manner, and regularly read news coverage of International Relations current events. The class has a Canvas link and all the class notes, assignment details, syllabus, online class discussions etc. will be posted online.

In addition to the articulated course specific policies and expectations, students are responsible for understanding all applicable University guidelines, policies, and procedures. The EMU Student Handbook is the primary resource provided to students to ensure that they have access to all university policies, support resources, and student's rights and responsibilities. Changes may be made to the EMU Student Handbook whenever necessary, and shall be effective immediately, and/or as of the date on which a policy is formally adopted, and/or on the date specified in the amendment. Please note: Electing not to access the link provided below does not absolve a student of responsibility. For questions about any university policy, procedure, practice, or resource, please contact the Office of the Ombuds: 248 Student Center, 734.487.0074, emu\_ombuds@emich.edu, or visit the website: [www.emich.edu/ombuds](http://www.emich.edu/ombuds)

## Grades, Assignments and Evaluation

The final grade in the class will be cumulative and will be calculated out of a total of 1000 points. The course letter grade assignment is mentioned below.

Course Letter Grades will be assigned as follows:

(100) – Test 1

(100) – Test 2

(200) – Midterm Exam

(200) – Final Exam

(400) – Online Weekly Discussions. Four Discussions each worth 100 points.

**(1000) – Total Class Points**

A = 93-100%

A- = 90-92%

B+ = 87-89%

B = 83-86%

B- = 80-82%

C+ = 77-79%

C = 73-76%

C- = 70-72%

D = 60-69%

D- = 55-59%

F = below 55%

A = 930-1000

A- = 900-929

B+ = 870-899

B = 830-869

B- = 800-829

C+ = 770-799

C = 730-769

C- = 700-729

D = 600-699

D- = 550-599

F = 549 & below

### *Exams (40% or 400 Points)*

The mid-term exam will occur after the major theories of international relations have been taught and will consist of multiple choice and True/False answer questions. The final exam will be cumulative and will have the same format as the mid-term exam. There will be no make-up examinations for the mid-term as well as the final, without medical documentation explaining the absence.

### *Tests (20% or 200 Points)*

We will also have 2 tests during the course of the semester. The format of the test will be a combination of multiple choices and True/False answer questions in any or all combinations. The dates of the quizzes are mentioned in the course schedule and there will be no make-up of these quizzes without medical documentation explaining the absence.

### *Online Assignments (40% or 400 Points)*

Over the semester of 7 and 1/2 weeks, we will have Four online class assignments. Each online class assignment is worth 100 points. The online assignment will involve students logging onto the canvas site and commenting on a new report related to a current international affairs event. Completion of all online assignments will result in full 400 points being awarded at the end of the semester. If a student fails to complete an online assignment, the student will be penalized 100 points for every assignment missed.

### *Academic Honesty*

I have a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty and every student is expected to adhere to Eastern Michigan University's policy on academic honesty. If caught cheating on exams, turning in someone else's written work, or plagiarizing another's work you will fail this course. Academic dishonesty, including all forms of cheating, falsification, and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this course. Penalties for an act of academic dishonesty may range from receiving a failing grade for a particular assignment to receiving a failing grade for the entire course. In addition, you may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal. The Student Conduct Code contains detailed definitions of what constitutes academic dishonesty but if you are not sure about whether something you are doing would be considered academic dishonesty, consult with the course instructor. You may access the Code online at: [www.emich.edu/student-conduct/](http://www.emich.edu/student-conduct/). I would like to emphasize that you should **not assume** what any of the policies imply. If you are in any doubt regarding any of the course policies I encourage you to come and talk to me. Furthermore you should **always check** with me whether it is acceptable to work together with another student on a project or assignment; until so assigned to by the instructor.

### *Students with Special Needs*

If you wish to be accommodated for your disability, EMU Board of Regents Policy 8.3 requires that you first register with the Students with Disabilities Office (SDO) in 240 EMU Student Center. You may contact SDO by telephone (734.487.2470). Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the SDO promptly as you will only be accommodated from the date you register with them forward. No retroactive accommodations are possible.

### *Note on Grading Methods and Syllabus*

All tests and papers will be graded blind by the instructor. If a student would like to appeal the grading of a question, he or she should submit to the instructor his or her grievance in writing, explaining why he or she feels that the *given response* was inadequately assessed. The status of students' scholarship, potential entrance into law school / grad school will not be taken into consideration in grading.

In addition, this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Such changes will be announced in a fair and timely manner.

## **Course Schedule and Assigned Readings**

### **Week 1 (May 1 to May 7): Theories of International Relations**

- See powerpoint slides posted on Canvas.
- Chapter 1 (G&P)
- Chapter 2 (G&P)
- Chapter 3(G&P)
- Chapter 4 (G&P)
- **Online Class Discussion 1**

### **Week 2 (May 8 to May 14): Globalization and Test 1**

- See powerpoint slides posted on Canvas.
- Economic Globalization (Chapter 8)
- Political Globalization
- Cultural Globalization (Chapter 10)
- **Test 1**

### **Week 3 (May 15 to May 21): Foreign Policy**

- **Online Class Discussion 2**
- Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy – The Relationship
- Foreign policy of United States and Iran will be discussed.
- Foreign policy of India and China will be discussed.

**Week 4 (May 22 to May 28): Midterm Exam and International Conflict**

- **Midterm Examination**
- Refer to powerpoints posted on Canvas.
- Chapter 5 (G&P)
- Intelligence Services in the United States (CIA/FBI/DHS etc.)

**Week 5 (May 29 to June 4): Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism**

- Refer to powerpoints posted on Canvas.
- Chapter 6 (G&P)
- **Online Class Discussion 3**

**Week 6 (June 5 to June 11): Test 2 and International Organizations**

- Refer to powerpoints posted on Canvas.
- Chapter 7 (G&P).
- **Test 2**

**Week 7 (June 12 to June 17): International Development**

- **Online Class Discussion 4**
- Refer to powerpoints posted on Canvas.
- Chapter 12 (G&P) – The North South Gap
- Chapter 13 (G&P) – International Development
- Models of Economic Development.

**Week 7 1/2 (June 18 to June 21): International Environment**

- International Environment (Refer to Powerpoint Slides on Canvas)

**Final Exam: Final Exam is Open from June 18 to June 21.**