

**Introduction to International Politics**  
**PLSC 212**  
**Winter 2016**

**Professor:** Nitya Singh  
**Email:** nitya.singh@emich.edu  
**Office Hours:** Mon/Wed 1:45 PM –3:00 PM  
or by appointment.  
**Location:** 601-F Pray-Harrold Hall

**Section/CRN:** – 23014 - PLSC 212  
**Class Timing:** 12:30 – 1:45 Mon/Wed  
**Location:** PH 317

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**Course Overview**

This course provides an introduction to 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 and 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 lectures, assignments, discussions and presentations. My expectations for a student taking this course are that you regularly attend class, stay current with the Reading Assignments, and regularly read news coverage of International Relations current events. The class also has an Canvas link and all the class notes, assignment details, syllabus, group assignments etc. will be posted online. Students are required to access the Canvas to keep up-to-date with the class teachings. Two sections of the class will be taught online and the instructor will be available to interact with the students as he teaches the class. In case you have any problem accessing Canvas please inform the instructor in advance so that necessary corrective measures can be taken.

### **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:

- (200) – Test 1 and 2
- (100) – Discussion by student of Assigned Reading
- (200) – Midterm Exam
- (200) – Final Exam
- (200) – Policy Presentation by Groups
- (100) – Class participation and attendance

A = 93-100%	A = 930-1000
A- = 90-92%	A- = 900-929
B+ = 87-89%	B+ = 870-899
B = 83-86%	B = 830-869
B- = 80-82%	B- = 800-829
C+ = 77-79%	C+ = 770-799
C = 73-76%	C = 730-769
C- = 70-72%	C- = 700-729
D = 60-69%	D = 600-699
D- = 55-59%	D- = 550-599
E = below 55%	E = 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 essay type, multiple choices, fill in the blanks and True/False answer questions in any or all combinations. 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.

### *Policy Presentation (20% or 200 Points)*

As a part of this assignment all the students will be divided into groups. Each group will be given a major international incident taking place during the course of the semester, and they would be expected to analyze the issue, do critical analysis, and provide solutions that the international community can adopt to resolve that particular incident. At the end of the presentation, the rest of the class, along with the instructor will ask cross-examine the group members. The grades for this assignment will be based on the quality of the presentation as well as the manner in which the policy group holds up to cross examination and questioning. Further details regarding this assignment will be given in class.

### *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.

### *Discussion by Students of Assigned Reading (10% or 100 Points)*

Each Group will be assigned an article that they will present in the class. The Groups will collectively read the article, and then are expected to discuss the assigned article in class. Each member of the group is expected to talk about an aspect of the article.

### *Class Participation and Attendance (10% or 100 Points)*

You are expected to participate in class and interact with me as well as other students on topics that we discuss in class. I will also keep attendance records for the course and attendance will be taken regularly in class. If you have more than 3 unexcused absences during the semester you will be penalized on your class participation and attendance grades.

Absences will be excused only in case of illness, family emergency, or any legitimate academic or university obligation. In case of absence due to illness a doctor's note from the University Health Center or your doctor would be required. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to let me know of the circumstances of your absence, prior to the class period if at all possible. Your class participations grades will be determined based on your attendance in class as well as the quality of the presentation made by your groups on the country of your choice. Current

University policy recognizes the rights of students to observe religious holidays without penalty to the student. Students will provide advance notice to the instructor in order to make up work, including examinations; they miss as a result of their absence from class due to observance of religious holidays. If satisfactory arrangements cannot be made with the instructor, the student may appeal to the school director or head(s) of department(s) in which the course(s) is / are offered.

### *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/studentconduct/](http://www.emich.edu/studentconduct/). 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: Historical Background and Introduction to Class

1/6 Wednesday: Introduction to the class  
- Chapter 1 (G&P)

### Week 2: Theories of International Relations – Realism

1/11 Monday:  
- Chapter 2 (G&P)

1/13 Wednesday:  
- Chapter 2 (G&P)

### Week 3: Theories of International Relations – Liberalism and Social Theories

1/18 Monday: **No Class MLK Jr. Day**

1/20 Wednesday: Liberalism  
- Chapter 3 (G&P)

### Week 4: Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy

1/25 Monday: Social Theories  
Chapter 4 (G&P)

1/27 Wednesday: Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy  
- **TEST 1**

### Week 5: Foreign Policy of US

2/1 Monday:  
- US Foreign Policy will be discussed.

2/3 Wednesday: *Policy Presentation 1*

**Topic:** A critical analysis of the U.S. foreign policy under President Obama.

### Week 6: Foreign Policy of Other Countries

2/8 Monday: Foreign policy of India and Iran will be discussed.

2/10 Wednesday: Foreign policy of China will be discussed.

## **Week 7: Economic Globalization**

2/15 Monday:

- Chapter 8 (G&P)
- Robert Gilpin, "The Nature of Political Economy" (A&J)

2/17 Wednesday: *Policy Presentation 2*

**Topic:** Why do US companies outsource to the rest of the world? Are we sending jobs abroad, or does economic globalization also create job in the US?

## **Week 8: Winter Break**

**2/22 – 2/28 – No Class (Winter Break)**

## **Week 9: Political Globalization and Cultural Globalization**

2/29 Monday: Political Globalization

3/2 Wednesday: Cultural Globalization

- Chapter 10 (G&P)

## **Week 9: Midterm Exam**

3/7 Monday: **Midterm Exams**

3/9 Wednesday: *Policy Presentation 3*

**Topic:** Are we truly exceptional (American Exceptionalism), and if yes then why does the world not understand our point of view?

## **Week 10: International Conflict and Intelligence Services**

3/14 Monday: International Conflict and Intelligence Services

- Chapter 5 (G&P)
- Intelligence Services in the United States (CIA/FBI/DHS etc.)

3/16 Wednesday: *Policy Presentation 4*

**Topic:** US Intelligence Services – A Critical Analysis. How successful have they been in promoting our foreign policy objectives and safeguarding us.

### **Week 11: Weapons of Mass Destruction**

3/21 Monday: Weapons of Mass Destruction

- Chapter 6 (G&P)
- Iran and North Korea: Why they want WMD's

3/23 Wednesday: **Make Up Class**

### **Week 12: Terrorism**

3/28 Monday: Terrorism

3/30 Wednesday: Terrorism Continued

- **TEST 2**

### **Week 13: Student Article Presentation Week**

4/4 Monday: Article Presentations by Group 1 and 2

4/6 Wednesday: Article Presentations by Group 3 and 4

### **Week 14: International Organizations and Development**

4/11 Monday: Chapter 7 (G&P).

- The following international organizations will be discussed by the Instructor:
  - The United Nations, The IMF, The World Bank, Regional Organizations.
  - Non-governmental Organizations (NGO's)

4/13 Wednesday: International Development

- Chapter 12 (G&P) – The North South Gap
- Chapter 13 (G&P) – International Development

### **Week 15: Last Day of Class and Conclusion**

4/18 Monday: Conclusion

- Conclusion. Will tie in everything that we studied in the semester and how it relates to International Politics.

**Final Exams: Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup> (11:30 AM to 1:00 PM)**