

Political Science 212
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

T TH 9:30 – 10:45

Winter 2016

419 Pray Harrold

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Course Description – From EMU’s General Education Course Rationales

Political Science 212 introduces students to the study of international relations (IR), one of the main fields of political science. This course emphasizes how political scientists acquire and share knowledge about the world. The course requires students to use the theoretical frameworks of the study of IR – realism, neo-realism, liberalism, and feminism – to pose and address questions about contemporary issues and problems, including interstate disputes and wars, economic globalization, the increasing inequality among rich and poor nations, protection of human rights, threats to environmental quality, and population growth. Through examination of research on such topics, students become familiar with the process of research and acquire the ability to critically evaluate the design of, and results from, research. The course also provides students with the opportunity to gather, examine, and interpret data, and to report the findings of their research, thus contributing to their understanding of how inquiry is conducted and knowledge is disseminated in political science. In sum, the course prepares students for citizenship in a global community by not only giving them basic factual knowledge of international relations and global processes, but also by providing them with the tools necessary to understand and explain international events and global patterns of change.

Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives

1. Acquire an understanding of social science methods and of how they are used to engage in the systematic study of society and culture.
2. Understand and compare formal and informal social and political structures, organizations, and institutions.
3. Explore and understand power relationships and the impact of social change on different groups and on society in general.
4. Develop an appreciation of different interpretations of contemporary issues, institutions, or structures.
5. Use social science methods and content to interpret and analyze data and reports in the media and to make informed decisions regarding local, national, and international issues.
6. Use basic social scientific research techniques to examine and present information in a clear and concise manner.
7. Understand the relation between qualitative and quantitative research.

Required Textbook

Shirayev, E., Zubok, V. International Relations. 2014 Oxford University Press.
ISBN 978-0-19-974651-4

Course Requirements

The course grade will comprise of three exams and participation. Grading breaks down as follows:

Assignments		
Exam I	11 Feb	30%
Exam II	22 Mar	30%
Exam III	26 Apr	30%
Participation	All semester	10%
TOTAL		100%

GRADING SCALE			
A	92+	C	69-75
A-	89-91	C-	67-68
B+	86-88	D+	64-66
B	82-85	D	60-63
B-	79-81	D-	55-59
C+	76-78	F	<55

Evaluation and Grading Policy

Exams 90%

It is expected that you will be present for exams. . **Make-up exams will be considered only for extreme circumstances, determined by the instructor.**

Tardiness to an exam is unacceptable. If you are more than 15 minutes late to an exam, you will not be allowed to take it.

All exams will be multiple choice/short answer essay. Due to the amount of information in the textbook, the exams will not be cumulative but rather cover the material presented for the appropriate period.

The final exam is required. Students who chose not to take the final will receive a failing grade for the course. **The final for this course will be 26 April from 7:30-9:00**

Attendance Policy/Participation 10%

There is quite a bit of information to be covered and attendance to lecture is the best way to absorb and retain the material presented. However, understanding life can sometimes bring disruptive events, you are each allowed 3 absences. More than three absences will result in a deduction of 1/3 a letter grade (e.g., you could have had an “A” but it is now reduced to an “A-“). Each additional accumulation of 3 absences further reduces the grade (e.g., 6 absences results in a B+ for participation and so on) Any absences due to religious holidays should be made known to me at the beginning of the semester and will not count.

Tardiness Tardiness in excess of 15 minutes will be regarded as an absence. If you have special circumstances or a situation, please discuss them with me.

Participation is a portion of your grade and discussion is highly encouraged. That being said, there are a few “rules” I would like to implement:

1. Arrive on time or endure the above mentioned consequences
2. Do not depart prior to the end of the discussion. Your attendance will not be honored.
3. Be respectful and open minded to other opinions (in political discussions, this can be a struggle!) In other words, please behave civilized.
4. Side “chatter” is prohibited. This includes cell phone use and “texting”. **Please have cellular phones turned off.**

Access to Course Material

All course material, including syllabi, PowerPoint slides and reviews, will be posted on EMU Canvas.

Eastern Michigan University Code of Conduct/Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty of any sort (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is strictly prohibited and is not tolerated. Violators will be reprimanded appropriately. Please reference the University Academic Integrity website for unacceptable behavior.

<http://www.emich.edu/campuslife/myfy/academics/academicintegrity.php>.

Special Needs/Accessibility

If you are registered with the EAS office and require special accommodations, please see me so that we can set up appropriate arrangements.

Assignments

CLASS	DATE	ASSIGNMENT
1	12 Jan	Introduction
2	14 Jan	Chapter 1
3	19 Jan	Chapter 1
4	21 Jan	Chapter 2: The Realist Perspective
5	26 Jan	Chapter 2: The Realist Perspective
6	28 Jan	Chapter 2: The Realist Perspective
7	2 Feb	Chapter 3: The Liberalist Perspective
8	4 Feb	Chapter 3: The Liberalist Perspective
9	9 Feb	Chapter 3: The Liberalist Perspective
10	11 Feb	Exam I
11	16 Feb	Chapter 4: Marxism/Alternative Views
12	18 Feb	Chapter 4: Marxism/Alternative Views
13	1 Mar	Chapter 4: Marxism/ Alternative Views
14	3 Mar	Chapter 5: International Security
15	8 Mar	Chapter 5: International Security
16	10 Mar	Chapter 5: International Security
17	15 Mar	Chapter 6: International Law
18	17 Mar	Chapter 6: International Law
19	22 Mar	Exam II
20	24 Mar	Chapter 7: Political Economy
21	29 Mar	Chapter 7: Political Economy
22	31 Mar	Chapter 7: Political Economy
23	5 Apr	Huntington – Clash of Civilizations
24	7 Apr	Huntington – Clash of Civilizations
25	12 Apr	Huntington – Clash of Civilizations
26	14 Apr	Documentary: 5 Broken Cameras
27	19 Apr	Documentary: 5 Broken Cameras
FINAL EXAM IS 26 APRIL 7:30-9:00		

Please be advised that the syllabi dates, topics, readings, and related activities, may be subject to change and readjustment at my discretion.

Please note these important dates:

January 12: last day to add a class on line (after that until March 7 requires department permission)

January 18: MLK Holiday (campus events; no classes)

March 23: last day to withdraw from a class with a "W" grade