

PLSC 212  
Introduction to International Relations  
Fall 2013  
TR 2:00-3:15 pm  
95 Quirk

Professor: Petra Hendrickson  
Office: 602H Pray-Harrold  
Office Hours: TR 12:30-1:30 (and by appointment)  
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### **Course Description**

This course introduces you to concepts, ideas and debates central to the study of international politics. You are provided with a lens through which to view international relations, involving both levels of analysis and theoretical approaches. These components will be utilized throughout the semester. The content of the course is divided into three parts. Part 1 is concerned with international conflict and war; Part 2 discusses globalization and the world economy; and Part 3 focuses on global forces for change, such as regional integration.

### **Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this class, you will be able to:

- Explain how different levels of analysis and theoretical approaches help to view and interpret international politics.
- Understand and critically reflect on the evolution and diversity of characteristics of the global system and international actors.
- Explore the social and historical dynamics that create and influence nations, governments, global alliances and global conflict

There are additional general education objectives associated with this course, including to:

- Acquire an understanding of social science methods and how they are used to engage in the systematic study of society and culture.
- Understand and compare formal and informal social and political structures, organizations and institutions.
- Explore and understand power relationships and the impact of social change on different groups and on society in general.
- Develop an appreciation of different interpretations of contemporary issues, institutions or structures.

### **Required Readings**

The required textbook for this class is the following:

Nau, Henry R. 2012. *Perspectives on International Relations: Power, Institutions, Ideas*. Third Edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press.  
ISBN: 9781604267327

The textbook is available from a number of online merchants in addition to the university bookstore.

### Course Requirements

Although the information bolded below is the most pertinent, it is vital that students read the entirety of the requirement to ensure they complete the task according to the guidelines. In this course students are expected to:

- Complete **Indiana University plagiarism test** and **turn in accompanying certificate of completion within the first two weeks of class (by September 17)**. Plagiarism is dishonest, unethical and unacceptable. This test requires students to identify instances of plagiarism, which will greatly reduce the possibility of unintentional plagiarism committed because of lack of knowledge of what qualifies as plagiarism. The test can be found at the following address: [https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism\\_test.html](https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism_test.html) (10%)
- Take **two exams** over the course of the semester (**Exam 1 will be on October 8** and **Exam 2 will be on October 31**). These exams will consist of approximately 40 multiple choice questions each. (Exam 1 worth 15%; Exam 2 worth 25%)
- Take a **final exam (December 19)**. The final exam will be non-cumulative. (35%)
- Engage two chapters in the textbooks from different Parts of the course (i.e., one chapter from Part 1 and one chapter from Part 3; both chapters may not be from the same Part) and write a **3-4 page analytical paper discussing linkages between the topics of the two chapters (due December 12)**. Ideas to consider when writing the paper are: Can the same level of analysis or theoretical approach be used to provide insight to both topics? If so, how? If not, why not? What are other possible ways to approach each of the topics? Do you think a particular level of analysis or theoretical approach would be especially useful in the study of either topic? (15%)

### Emailing the Instructor

Should you find it necessary to contact me by email, please include the course number (PLSC 212) in the subject line. This will help ensure a timely response. At the outside, I will respond within 36 hours. Frequently I will be able to respond more quickly. If you have not received a response within 36 hours, please email me again, as it likely means I did not receive your initial email.

### Make-Up Exams

The exams must be made up within one week of the original test date (by October 15 and November 7, respectively). The final exam must be made up by the end of finals week (by December 20). The format of make-up exams may differ from the format of the exam provided during the assigned class period.

### Attendance

I expect students to attend all classes, arrive on time, remain for the entire period, and bring the day's readings with you to class. Unexcused absences (including arriving late, leaving early, or coming unprepared) will affect your overall course grade as follows: 4-5 unexcused absences will result in a one-half-grade drop your overall grade (i.e., from A to A-, A- to B+, etc.); 6-8 unexcused absences will result in a whole-letter-grade drop in your overall grade (i.e., from an A to B+, A- to B-, etc.); 9 or more absences will result in a grade of an F for the course. Note:

excused absences include medical excuses, when a student's illness is sufficiently debilitating to warrant absence (usually requiring a health-care provider note), and emergencies, such as a death in the family, serious illness of a family member, court appearances, or hazardous weather that makes attendance impossible.

### **Paper Format**

All papers must conform to the following specifications: 1" margins on all sides, 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, last name and page number on each page and appropriate in-text citations. Because the only required source is the course textbook, it is not necessary to include a works cited page for the short analysis paper. However, it is necessary to include in-text citations when referencing specific points and arguments raised in the textbook. Students can use the citation format of their choice from the following list: APA, Chicago, MLA, and citation style should be consistent throughout the paper. Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>) has guides to the various citation styles available on their website. Papers must be submitted electronically via EMU-Online.

### **Writing Support**

The University Writing Center (115 Halle Library; 487-0694) offers one-to-one writing consulting for both undergraduate and graduate students. Students can make appointments or drop in between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. Students should bring a draft of what they're working on and their assignment sheet. The UWC opens for the Fall 2013 semester on Monday, September 9 and will close on Thursday, December 12.

The UWC also offers small group workshops on various topics related to writing (e.g., Organizing Your Writing; Incorporating Evidence; Revising Your Writing; Conquering Commas; Using APA or MLA). Workshops are offered at different times in the UWC. Visit the UWC page (<http://www.emich.edu/uwc>) to see our workshop calendar. To register for a workshop, click the link from the UWC page for the type of workshop you wish to attend.

The UWC also has several satellite sites across campus. These satellites provide writing support to students within the various colleges. For more information about our satellite locations and hours, visit the UWC web site: <http://www.emich.edu/uwc>.

The Academic Projects Center (116 Halle Library) also offers one-to-one writing consulting for students, in addition to consulting on research and technology-related issues. The APC is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays for drop-in consultations. Additional information about the APC can be found at <http://www.emich.edu/apc>. Students visiting the Academic Projects Center or any of the satellites of the University Writing Center should also bring with them a draft of what they're working on and their assignment sheet.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

In addition to being a wholesale bad idea, plagiarism is also forbidden by the EMU Code of Student Conduct. Any assignment that is plagiarized to any extent will receive a score of zero. Cheating on exams is also forbidden and will also result in a zero on the exam.

**Classroom Etiquette**

Laptops are permitted in class only for the purpose of taking notes. Other uses are not allowed, and if students are repeat offenders, i.e., caught more than once using their laptop for unauthorized purposes will have their in-class laptop privileges (yes, using a laptop in class is a privilege and not a right) revoked. Use of other forms of technology, *especially* cell phones, is absolutely not permitted.

**Disclaimer**

It may become necessary to alter the schedule provided below. In such an occurrence, students will be notified well in advance and provided with an updated electronic copy of the syllabus.

**Grading System and Scale**

The percentage values allocated to course components are listed after the description of the course component. The grading scale breaks down as follows:

Grade Value	Percentage Range	Grade Value	Percentage Range
A	93-100%	C	73-76.9%
A-	90-92.9%	C-	70-72.9%
B+	87-89.9%	D+	67-69.9%
B	83-86.9%	D	63-66.9%
B-	80-82.9%	D-	60-62.9%
C+	77-79.9%	F	below 59.9%

**Schedule of Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments**

*Reading assignments should be completed PRIOR to the class period for which they are listed.*

**Thursday, September 5:  
Syllabus Day**

**Tuesday, September 10 & Thursday, September 12:  
How to Think About International Relations: Perspectives and Levels of Analysis**

Reading: Chapter 1

**PART 1**

**Tuesday, September 17 & Thursday, September 19:  
Perspectives on World History: Change and Continuity  
DUE: INDIANA UNIVERSITY PLAGIARISM CERTIFICATE**

Reading: Chapter 2

**Tuesday, September 24 & Thursday, September 26:  
World War I: World on Fire**

Reading: Chapter 3

**Tuesday, October 1 & Thursday, October 3:  
World War II: Why Did War Happen Again?**

Reading: Chapter 4

**Tuesday, October 8:  
EXAM 1**

**Thursday, October 10 & Tuesday, October 15:  
The Origins and End of the Cold War**

Reading: Chapter 5

**Thursday, October 17 & Tuesday, October 22:  
From 11/9 to 9/11: The World of the 1990s**

Reading: Chapter 6

**Thursday, October 24 & Tuesday, October 29:  
Terrorism and the World after 9/11: Global and Local Conflicts**

Reading: Chapter 7

**Thursday, October 31:  
EXAM 2**

**PART 2**

**Tuesday, November 5:  
How Globalization Works in Practice**

Reading: Chapter 9

**Thursday, November 7 & Tuesday, November 12:  
Foreign Aid and Domestic Governance: Development in Africa and the Middle East**

Reading: Chapter 12

**Thursday, November 14 & Tuesday, November 19:  
Global Inequality, Imperialism, and Injustice: A Critical Theory Perspective**

Reading: Chapter 13

**PART 3**

**Thursday, November 21 & Tuesday, November 26:  
World Environment: Population, Pollution, and Pandemics**

Reading: Chapter 14

**Thursday, November 28:  
NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)**

**Tuesday, December 3 & Thursday, December 5:  
Global Civil Society: Nonstate Actors and Human Rights**

Reading: Chapter 15

**Tuesday, December 10 & Thursday, December 12:  
Global Governance: International and Regional Institutions**

Reading: Chapter 16

**Due: Analytical Paper**

**Thursday, December 19:  
FINAL EXAM (1:30-3:00 pm)**