

Eastern Michigan University
PLSC 212 – Intro to International Politics – 3 Credits
M/W 2:00 - 3:15 Pray-Harrold 421
Winter 2018 – CRN: 26639

Instructor Information

Connor Sutton

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Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 12:30 – 1:45 pm or *by appointment*

Course Description:

“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.”

Course Objectives: At the end of the course, you will be able to...

- *Develop a knowledge of the concepts central to international relations and world politics, as well as the various actors and problems in the world political arena;*
- *Interpret and analyze recent and historical events using theories and concepts central to world politics;*
- *Apply learned knowledge and critical thinking skills to a variety of questions which arise from the multitude of problems facing the modern world;*
- *Argue through persuasive and informed writing on a topic relative to world politics.*

Course Expectations

Students are expected to critically engage evidence presented in class lectures, discussions, and films. You will need to regularly attend classes, participate fully in class, and complete all assigned readings and assignments. This course will consist of weekly lectures and class discussions. The course will engage a range of topics central to international relations – including the topics of international relations theory, basic actors and concepts, X, international organizations, war, terrorism, and climate change, among other topics. Final grades in this class will be earned from two take-home exams, a term paper, and three term-paper related assignments (paper proposal, lit review, rough draft).

Exams:

This class will have two exams. These exams will be **take-home** exams. Exams will consist of short answers and essay questions. The second exam will be due on the scheduled ‘final’ date per the EMU final exam schedule and must be turned in at that time. Each exam is worth 50pts

Essays:

Each student will complete two essays responding to a prompt germane to the topics discussed in class. Each paper will be a minimum of five pages in length (double spaced). All papers must be properly cited, using a proper academic style of citation (i.e. APSA, MLA, Chicago), use normal fonts, standard margins, and 10-12 point font. Please see the detailed essay instructions on Canvas. Essays will each be worth 25 pts each (50pts), for a total of 25% of the final grades.

Assignments:

Students must complete 5 reading guides, found on canvas, worth 2pts each for a total of ten points. See Canvas for reading guide prompts. Guides must be completed by the date that the assigned reading is due.

Course Materials

REQUIRED:

Current Debates in International Relations

Eds. Eric B. Shiraev; Vladislav M. Zubok

ISBN: 978-0-19-934851-0

Other Required/Optional Readings:

Throughout course of the semester, several other texts may be provided, either as required or suggested, and will be posted electronically.

Communication Policy:

- If at any point during the semester questions, comments, concerns arise, please do not hesitate to contact me. Email is the fastest and easiest way to reach me. I will always respond within 24-48 hours, except for weekends, breaks, and holidays. When emailing, **please put PLSC 212 in the subject line.** Please also be sure to identify yourself in your email. Finally, remember that emailing is not text messaging. Be sure to use full sentences, punctuation, and all formalities you would use in academic writing. If for whatever reason you do not receive a response from me within 48 hours, please send another email. *Please note that I may not respond if there is not a specific question due to the volume of emails I receive but that does not mean I have not made note of your comment.*
- I also encourage students to make use of office hours (times listed above). If these hours do not work, please inform me and we will make other arrangements to meet.

Technology Policy:

- In today's classroom, technology plays an integral role. With that in mind, you may use laptops, electronic note taking devices, etc... **However, if at any point your electronic device becomes a distraction to you, those around you, or to me, I will ask that you cease to use it.** Please refrain from cell phone usage in the class. Keep cell phones on silent in class.

Grading Policies:

% 15 Participation (15 pts)

% 10 Reading Responses (2pts x 5; 10pts)

% 25 Essay Assignment (25pts for each essay)

% 25 Midterm Exam 50 pts

% 25 Final Exam 50 pts

%100

- **A = 94-100 A- = 91-93 B+ = 88-90 B = 84- 87 B- = 81-83 C+ = 78-80 C = 74-77 C- = 71-73 D+ = 68-70 D = 64-67 D- = 59-63 F = Less than 58**

Late Policy:

- **For each calendar day an assignment, exam, or paper is turned in late, it will be marked down a full letter grade – Do not be late.**

Attendance:

- Attendance is mandatory. You may miss two classes without penalty to your participation grade. If you must miss for a Eastern Michigan University event (athletics, music, club etc...) please notify me well in advance, especially when concerning tests, papers, and assignments. Exceptions to this policy may be made on a case-by-case basis.
- If you must miss class on the day of an assignment, you may turn it in early electronically. Otherwise all assignments must be turned in during class time (hardcopy).

Religious Holidays

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

EMU Extreme Weather Policy

- It is the policy of Eastern Michigan University that the President or his/her designee, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety and the Physical Plant, has the authority to temporarily modify class and/or work schedules in the event of extreme weather conditions including but not limited to snow, freezing rain, floods, and hazardous winds. This decision may include the temporary cancellation of all or part of scheduled academic programs and closure of the University.

Student Exchange Visitor Statement (SEVIS)

- Please see following link: <http://www.emich.edu/oiss/immigrationstatus.html>

Student with Disabilities

- Statement from EMU DRC:
 - The Disability Resource Center (DRC) views disabilities as an integral part of the rich diversity at Eastern Michigan University. To that end, we work collaboratively with students, faculty, and staff to create an inclusive educational environment for students. **We are available to faculty and students to explore how best to implement accommodations or to think in terms of inclusive course design.** The DRC acknowledges that classroom and campus accessibility needs and considerations is expanding as more classes and campus experiences incorporate online and technological components. We are happy to discuss any course or campus barriers that may be preventing access to education and an equitable campus experience for students.
- Disability Resource Center Link: <http://www.emich.edu/drc/>

Academic Dishonesty

Engaging in academic dishonesty in any form with respect to examinations, course assignments, research projects, grades, and/or academic records, including, but not limited to the following:

- *Cheating* - using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic assignment. Examples of cheating are: looking on someone else's paper; using any kind of "cheat" sheet or other enhancement during a test; allowing someone else to take an exam in your place; submitting the same work more than once for credit; using someone else's homework or lab assignments; collaborating with another student on any assignment or take-home test if told that collaboration was not allowed; assisting another student in committing an act of academic dishonesty by allowing another student to copy homework or an exam; taking an exam for someone else; or giving test information to students in other sections of the same class.
- *Falsification* - intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic assignment. Examples of falsification are: making up data on an assignment; making up a source to cite in a paper; altering then resubmitting returned academic work; giving false information to a faculty or staff member to increase one's grade; or attempting to change, actually changing, altering grades or any other unauthorized tampering with grades.
- *Plagiarism* - deliberate and knowing use of someone else's work or ideas as one's own. Examples of plagiarism are: quoting a source verbatim, or paraphrasing text from a given source, without properly citing the source; turning in a research paper that was written by someone else; or in any other way passing off someone else's work as one's own; or failing to give credit for ideas or materials taken from someone else.

EMU Writing Center

- 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. The UWC opens for the Fall 2016 semester on Monday, September 12 and will close on Thursday, December 15. Students are encouraged to come to the UWC at any stage of the writing process. The UWC also has several satellite locations across campus (in Owen, Marshall, Pray-Harold, and Mark Jefferson). These satellites provide drop-in writing support to students in various colleges and programs. Satellite locations and hours can be found on the UWC web site: <http://www.emich.edu/uwc>.

- UWC writing consultants also work in the Academic Projects Center (116 Halle Library), which offers dropin consulting for students on writing, research, and technology-related issues. The APC is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. Additional information about the APC can be found at <http://www.emich.edu/apc>.
- Students seeking writing support at any location of the University Writing Center should bring a draft of their writing (along with any relevant instructions or rubrics) to work on during the consultation.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading (* = Canvas; + = Textbook; @ = suggested)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Syllabus	1/3	Syllabus and writing expectations	Read, then reread the syllabus!	
The World Stage	1/8 1/10	Basic Concepts and the world stage	*Kagan 2015, <i>The Weight of Geopolitics</i>	
Paradigms in World Politics	1/17	Paradigms and Inquiry in International Relations	*Kuhn 1970, <i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i> (Chapters 1-4) @*Vasquez 1997, <i>The Realist Paradigm and Degenerative versus Progressive Research Programs: An Appraisal of Neotraditional Research on Waltz's Balancing Proposition</i> @*Waltz 1997, <i>Evaluating Theories</i>	NO Class 1/15 – MLK Day See https://www.emich.edu/mlk/ For campus schedule of events
	1/22	Classical Realism	+ Hobbes, 44 +Carr, 45 +Morgenthau, 49 @Hobbes, <i>the Leviathan</i> @Carr, <i>The Twenty Years Crisis</i> @Morgenthau, <i>Politics among Nations</i>	

	1/24	Neorealism	+Waltz, 53 @Waltz, <i>Man, the State, and War</i> @Waltz, <i>Theory of International Politics</i>	
	1/29	Offensive Realism, balance of power, and regional Hegemony	+Mearscheimer, 55 +Walt, 58 @Mearscheimer, <i>Tragedy of Great Power Politics</i> @Walt, <i>the Origin of Alliances</i>	
	1/31	Classical Liberalism and Idealism	+Kant, 62 +Angell, 65 @Kant, <i>Perpetual Peace</i>	
	2/5 2/7	Neoliberalism, Soft power, and the information environment	+Doyle, 67 +Keohane, 73 +Nye, 38 @Keohane, <i>Theory of World Politics: Structural Realism and Beyond</i> +Nye, <i>The Paradox of American Power</i>	
	2/12	Alternative Paradigms	+Wallerstein, 81 +Wendt, 85 +Tickner, 87 +Etzioni, 93 +McDermott, 96 @Wallerstein, <i>World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction</i>	
History of the International System	2/14	Historical-Setting I (1648-1945 multipolarity)	TBD	Essay 1 due @ start of class
	2/26	Historical-Setting II (Bipolarity 1945-1991)	TBD	2/19 & 2/21 No Class – Winter Break
Conflict in the international system	2/28 3/5	Interstate War	+Waltz 1998, <i>The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory</i> *	***Exam I due 3/5 at start of class**

	3/7 3/12	Democracy and War	+Russett 1995, <i>The Fact of the Democratic Peace</i> +Layne 1994, <i>Kant or Can't: the Myth of the Democratic Peace</i> +Reiter and Stam 1998, <i>Democracy, War Initiation, and Victory</i> +Desch, 2002, <i>Democracy and Victory: Why Regime Type Hardly Matters</i> @Singer, and Wildavsky 1996, <i>The Real World Order: Zones of Peace, Zones of Turmoil</i>	
	3/14 3/19	Terrorism	+Kydd, 124 +Wieviorka, 133 +Kello, 140 +Geller and Saperstein 2015, <i>A Dynamic Model of Suicide Terrorism and Political Mobilization</i>	
	3/26 3/28	Responsibility to Protect (R2P)	+Cowley, 246 +Hafner-Burton, 247 +Evans, 252 +Luck, 255 +Mchangama, 261 @Roth and Luck, R2P Ford School Debate	
International Political Economy	4/2	IPE and the North-South Gap	TBD	
Climate Change	4/4	Anarchy and Climate Change	TBD	
The Future of World Politics	4/9 4/11	International Relations in the 21 st Century: New World Order or	+Molder, 270 +Muller, 277 +Wendt, 295 +Ikenberry, 303 +Goldstone, 309	4/9 Essay 2 due @ Start of class

		Back to the Future?		
	4/16	"Make-Up Day"		
Exam	4/18			Exam II Due