

Introduction to International Politics
PLSC 212 -2
Fall 2017

Professor: Nitya Singh

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Office Hours: Mon/Wed 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

or by appointment.

Location: 601-F Pray-Harrold Hall

Section/CRN: – PLSC 212 - 15000

Class Timing: T/Th 12:30 – 1:45

Location: Porter 203

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, www.bbc.co.uk/news, 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 a Canvas link and all the class notes, assignment details, syllabus, group assignments etc. will be posted online. In addition, some classes will also be taught online. Students are required to access the Canvas to keep up-to-date with the class teachings. During the online classes, 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.

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

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:

- (500) – Tests 1 - 5
- (200) – Final Exam
- (200) – Online Assignments
- (100) – Class Participation and Attendance
- (1000) – Total Class Points**

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.

Tests (50% or 500 Points)

We will also have 5 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. Each test is scheduled after we finish a topic to test your understanding of the topic.

Online Assignments (20% or 200 Points)

To develop a further understanding of what is happening around the world, and how it ties in with the topic that we are discussing over the semester, we will have 4 online assignments each worth 50 points. I will inform you over the semester when the online assignments are posted, as well as their due dates. The online assignment will involve students logging onto the canvas site and **commenting on a story/new report that is posted**. Completion of all online assignments will result in full 50 points being awarded for each assignment. If you fail to complete an assignment before due date, you will not get points for that assignment.

Attendance and Class Participation Policy (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. 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. Students can miss three classes during the entire semester for personal reasons. Any absences beyond the third absence will count against the student's class participation and attendance grade. 20 points will be deducted for each absence, from the fourth absence onwards.

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/. 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.

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.

University Course Policies:

<http://www.emich.edu/studenthandbook/policies/academic.php#univ>

Student Handbook Link: <https://www.emich.edu/studenthandbook/index.php>

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

9/7 Thursday: Introduction to the class

- Chapter 1 (G&P)

Week 2: Theories of International Relations – Realism

9/12 Tuesday: Realism

- Chapter 2 (G&P)

9/14 Thursday: Realism (Continued)

- Chapter 2 (G&P)

Week 3: Theories of International Relations – Liberalism and Other Theories

9/19 Tuesday: Liberalism

- Chapter 3 (G&P)

9/21 Thursday: Social Theories

Chapter 4 (G&P)

Week 4: Globalization and Test 1

9/26 Tuesday: **Test 1**

9/28 Thursday: Economic Globalization

- Chapter 8 (G&P)

Week 5: Globalization Continued

10/3 Tuesday: Political Globalization

10/5 Thursday: Cultural Globalization

- Chapter 10 (G&P)

Week 6: Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy and Test 2

10/10 Tuesday: **Test 2**

10/12 Thursday: Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy – The Relationship

Week 7: Foreign Policy of Major Countries

10/17 Tuesday: Foreign policy of United States and Iran will be discussed.

10/19 Thursday: Foreign policy of India and China will be discussed

Week 8: Foreign Policy of Major Countries

10/24 Tuesday: Foreign Policy of North Korea will be discussed

10/26 Thursday: **Test 3**

Week 9: International Conflict and WMD

10/31 Tuesday: International Conflict and Intelligence Services

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

11/2 Thursday: Weapons of Mass Destruction

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

Week 10: Terrorism

11/7 Tuesday: **Test 4**

11/9 Thursday: Terrorism

Week 11: Terrorism and Test 5

11/14 Tuesday: Terrorism Continued

11/16 Thursday: **Test 5**

Week 12: International Environment

11/21 Tuesday: International Environment

11/23 Thursday: **Thanksgiving Break (No Class)**

Week 13: International Organizations

11/28 Tuesday: International Organizations

- Chapter 7 (G&P).

11/30 Thursday: International Organizations (Continued)

Week 14: International Development

12/5 Tuesday: International Development

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

12/7 Thursday: International Development (Continued)

- Chapter 13 (G&P) – International Development

Week 15: Conclusion

12/12 Tuesday: Conclusion

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

Week 16: Final Exams

Final Exams: TBD