



Government 204
Introduction to International Politics

Dr. Marcus Holmes
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Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-1:50pm; 2:00-3:20pm
Room: Morton 1

Office: Morton 24
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30-4:30pm
(and by appointment)

Course description: This course provides a broad introduction to the study of international politics. The course begins with an overview of the international system and the rise and functions of nation-states. We then turn to theory and examine various levels of analysis and perspectives on international relations, including Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, and Feminism. Next we will examine the nature of foreign policy decision-making and psychological processes that may affect political outcomes. The second half of the course applies these concepts to such issues as war and peace, the politics of economic relations, the environment, human rights, genocide, terrorism, transnational crime, and globalization among others. In each case our goal is to apply the theories we have learned to problems of international politics. Students will also have an opportunity to conduct such an analysis of their own in a short written assignment, the policy memo.

Requirements: Students are expected to attend every class session and to keep themselves updated on current events involving international affairs. We will spend a considerable amount of time discussing on-going international political events. I may also “cold call” on individuals during class to answer questions about the readings and help to spur the class discussion.

Graded assignments include: (1) an in-class midterm exam on **October 27**, (2) a take-home final exam due **December 16**, (3) a quiz on **September 29** and another on **November 17**, and (4) a 5 page policy memo analyzing a contemporary international relations topic of your choosing (more detailed instructions on this assignment will be forthcoming in class) due **November 24**. The quizzes and exams will test course readings and information covered during class sessions. Class lectures and discussion will often cover material that is not covered in the course texts.

Grades: The course grade will be determined as follows:

Midterm: 15%
Memo: 15%
Quizzes: 20% (10% each)
Final exam: 25%
Participation: 25% (including on call participation)

Readings: There are two required books for the course. They are available for purchase at the bookstore and are available through the library. The Drezner book is also available in digital form:

- Robert Art and Robert Jervis, *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, Pearson, 11th edition. (Hereafter simply “IP”).
- Daniel Drezner, *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*, Princeton University Press. (“TIPZ”)

It is **highly** recommended that you get the editions of the book listed. The readings and chapters are not the same in previous versions.

All other readings will be available online through Blackboard (designated by BB on the reading schedule). If you have trouble accessing a reading, please let me know ASAP so I can make it available, since it is likely that others are having trouble as well.

It is highly recommended that you do the readings in the order they are listed on the syllabus. Many of the readings represent parts of debates that will not make sense if read out of sequence.

Course Policies: You are expected to turn in your assignments on time. Late work will be penalized, and extensions will only be granted for emergency cases. All students are expected to arrive to class on time, silence cell phones, iPhones, etc. The add/drop deadline for the course is September 4 and the withdraw deadline is October 23.

All students are responsible for understanding W&M’s academic integrity rules and the honor process. These can be reviewed at: <http://www.wm.edu/offices/deanofstudents/services/studentconduct/>

Students are required to read these rules by the end of the first week of classes. Ignorance of the rules is not an excuse if violations occur. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Good research requires combining your own thoughts and analysis with the thoughts and analysis of others. Documenting your sources is critical. When in doubt as to whether you should cite something, cite it! If you use an idea that belongs to someone else without attribution, you are plagiarizing their work. Papers will be automatically submitted to plagiarism detection websites such as turnitin.com. If you have any questions about the guidelines, please see me or the Swem librarians, who provide excellent support.

Students should use the “author-date” Chicago Manual of Style citation system for all written work. More information is available at the following link and further instructions will be provided in class: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during this academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with me before the end of the second week of the term to discuss appropriate accommodations.

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Student Accessibility Services directly:
<http://www.wm.edu/offices/deanofstudents/services/studentaccessibilityservices/>

Please note that the syllabus is subject to change over the course of the semester. Changes will be announced in class or via e-mail.

Course Schedule

8/27 (Th): Objective vs. Subjective

- Peter Vanderwicken “Why the News is Not the Truth,” *HBR*, May-June 1995 (BB)
- Benjamin Valentino, YouGov Poll Results from April 26-May 2, 2012 (BB)

9/1 (T): Philosophical Foundations of Anarchy

- Rosa Brooks, “Making a State by Iron and Blood” (BB)
- Thomas Hobbes, “Leviathan” (BB)
- Thucydides, “The Melian Dialogue” (IP)

9/3 (Th): Classical Realism

- Hans J. Morgenthau, “Six Principles of Political Realism” (IP)
- J. Ann Tickner, “A Critique of Morgenthau’s Principles of Political Realism” (IP)

9/8 (T): Structural Realism: Defensive and Offensive

- Kenneth Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics” (IP)
- John Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power” (skip Intro) (BB)
- *Skim* John Mearsheimer, “The Case for a Ukrainian Nuclear Deterrent” (BB)

9/10 (Th): Balancing and Bandwagoning

- Stephen M. Walt, “Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning” (IP)
- Randall L. Schweller, “Bandwagoning for Profit: Bringing the Revisionist State Back In” (BB)

9/15 (T): Realism and U.S. Grand Strategy

- Barry Posen, “Pull Back: The Case for a Less Activist Foreign Policy” (BB)
- Stephen Brooks, John Ikenberry, and William Wohlforth, “Lean Forward: In Defense of American Engagement” (BB)

9/17 (Th): Realpolitik Conclusions and Zombies

- James Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War” (IP)
- *TIPZ*, Chapters 1-5

9/22 (T): Liberalism and Institutions

- John Locke, “Second Treatise of Government” (BB)
- Robert Keohane, “International Institutions” (IP)
- John Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions” (IP)

9/24 (Th): NO CLASS – PROFESSOR HOLMES AT CONFERENCE

- Catch up on readings, study for quiz
- *TIPZ*, Chapter 6
- Suggested overview reading for quiz:
 - Jack Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories” (BB)

9/29 (T): Quiz #1

- No readings

10/1 (Th): Structural Constructivism

- Steven Pinker, excerpt from “The Blank Slate” (3 pages) (BB)
- *Skim* Immanuel Kant, “To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch” (BB)
- Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy Is What States Make of It” (IP)

10/6 (T): Agentic Constructivism (I)

- Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, “Transnational Activist Networks” (IP)
- Joshua Busby, “Bono Made Jesse Helms Cry” (BB)

10/8 (Th): Agentic Constructivism (II)

- Nina Tannenwald, “The Nuclear Taboo” (BB)
- *TIPZ*, Chapter 8

10/13 (T): NO CLASS – FALL BREAK

10/15 (Th): Feminist Critiques (I)

- Cynthia Enloe, “Bananas, Beaches and Bases” (excerpts) (BB)

10/20 (T): Feminist Critiques (II)

- Carol Cohn, “Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals” (BB)

10/22 (Th): Ontological Security and Habit

- Jennifer Mitzen, “Ontological Security and World Politics” (BB)
- Ted Hopf, “The Logic of Habit” (BB)

10/27 (T): MIDTERM EXAM

- Suggested overview reading for midterm:
 - Ian Hurd, “Constructivism” (BB)

10/29 (Th): Understanding and Responding to Terrorism (I)

- Bruce Hoffman, “What Is Terrorism?” (IP)
- Robert A. Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism” (IP)

11/3 (T): Understanding and Responding to Terrorism (II)

- John Mueller and Mark Stewart, “The Terrorism Delusion” (BB)
- John Mueller, *Atomic Obsession* (selections) (BB)

11/5 (Th): The Drones Debate

- Daniel Byman, “Why Drones Work” (BB)
- Audrey Cronin, “Why Drones Fail” (BB)

11/10 (T): The Rise of China

- John Mearsheimer, “Can China Rise Peacefully?” (BB)
- John Ikenberry, “The Rise of China and the Future of the West” (BB)

11/12 (Th): Genocide (I)

- Samantha Power, “Bystanders to Genocide” (BB)
- *Skim* Christian Davenport and Allan Stam website, “4 Things about Rwanda 1994” (<http://genodynamics.weebly.com/4-things-about-rwanda-1994.html>)

11/17 (T): Quiz 2 and Genocide (II)

- “Triumph of Evil” to be shown in class
- Kofi Annan, “Reflections on Intervention” (IP)
- Jon Western and Joshua Goldstein, “Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age” (IP)
- Benjamin Valentino, “The True Costs of Humanitarian Intervention” (IP)

11/19 (Th): International Political Economy (I)

- Robert Gilpin, “The Nature of Political Economy” (IP)
- Dani Rodrik, “Why Doesn't Everyone Get the Case for Free Trade” (IP)

11/24 (T): International Political Economy (II)

- Mary Lovely, “Thinking Locally, Acting Globally” (BB)
- Memo Due via e-mail (hard copy required by November 30)

11/26 (Th): NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING

12/1 (T): Class chooses the topic & readings (I)

12/3 (Th): Class chooses the topic & readings (II)

- Final Exam Handed Out

12/16 (W): Final Exam Due via Blackboard Assignments Submission at 5:00pm

Have a great winter break!