Introduction to International Politics (PSC 332.001)
Stephen F. Austin State University Summer 2023

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Phone: 468-2380
Email: please contact me through the D2L email.
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9:00-10:00; and by appointment

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”
Aristotle

Purpose:
The post 9-11 world is constantly changing and our understanding of this continues to evolve. This course introduces tools that will help us grapple with the changing nature of international politics. This is not a course about current events, but about cause and effect in world affairs. We want to know what occurred, but also why. As such this course will focus on theories, or models, that help us link cause and effect. Various themes in international relations including the importance of the state, the causes of conflict, the role of economic factors, globalization, terrorism, and the struggle in the developing world will be considered in this course. International relations is complicated and requires a sophisticated understanding of current events. Hopefully you will find this class exciting, as you begin to apply theories to political events around the world!

Required Text:

Course Requirements:
Exams 75%
In Class Assignments/Participation 25%

Grading:
All assignments are due on the date listed on Brightspace. Late work is generally not accepted. Once the Dropbox closes, the assignment can no longer be submitted. If you know you are going to be absent due to a university excused event, notify your instructor in advance and you will be allowed to schedule a substitute assignment EARLY. Exceptions MAY be made with medical documentation, provided that you contact the instructor in advance.

If you think that an error has been made in calculating your grade, it is your responsibility to provide me with all of your work. To that end, it would be prudent to save anything that is handed back to you until you get your final grade report. You should also always make and keep a copy of a paper/assignment prior to handing it in to me.
Reading:
Study skills are developed with practice. It is unlikely that you can merely read an assigned chapter and fully absorb all the concepts contained in that chapter in one sitting. Rather, it is often the case that to truly understand new material, you have to read it more than once, spend time contemplating the material, and even discussing it with your peers. Success is significantly more likely if you keep up with the course requirements throughout the semester, rather than cramming the day before the exam. It is your job to keep up with the reading.

In Class Assignments:
Throughout the semester I will give in-class assignments over the assigned readings and lectures. These assignments will presume that you have critically read all of the assigned material up to that point. They may consist of group or individual work or reading quizzes. There are no make-up assignments. You will not do well in this class if you do not regularly sign in to the class, take notes, and do the assigned readings.

This course emphasizes theories of international politics and the application of those theories to real world events. We will make a concerted effort in this course to use names when referring to theories. You should always give credit to the person whose theory you are citing in class discussions, in assignments, on papers and on exams. Thus, for example, you should refer to “Huntington’s theory of Clash of Civilizations”, “Russett and ONeal’s theory of the Kantian Triangle”, “Fukuyama’s Theory of the End of History”, etc. For every reading you should be able to identify the thesis and identify at 2-3 arguments/evidence the author uses to support the thesis.

Success in this course:
To succeed in this course you need to keep up with the reading and the lecture. Keep in mind that you need to allow time for class and time to study. In a ‘live’ class you should spend 1-2 hours studying outside of class for every hour you spend in class. An online course is no different. You should put aside time to read or listen to the lecture and hand write notes, time to read the textbook that corresponds to that module and fill out the relevant review questions, and time to study your notes and lectures. If you do this with every unit as you go, then studying prior to the exam will be much more effective.

Participation:
Understanding international politics generally involves keeping up with the news and engaging in an exchange of ideas. As such, the online course will often feature discussions to help students integrate the material. Participation specifically refers to offering your view or opinion and actively talking about the assigned readings and concepts from class. I ask that you respect the diverse backgrounds and views of your fellow students, and employ common courtesies during class discussions.

Attendance:
Online courses require regular attendance and attention. You cannot ghost the class for days at a time and expect to succeed. You cannot participate if you are not regularly logging in to the course and working through the material. Your attendance will be weighted as one daily grade in your course calculation.
Other Important Policies:
Anyone having problems in this course is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor as early as possible. I will be happy to meet you and help you in anyway possible. I may be able to help you study more effectively or recommend other assistance. **Remember – I want you to do well in this course.**

This syllabus should be seen as a rough guide of the coming semester. I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus throughout the semester.

Email inquiries should employ professional language including a subject line that indicates the nature of the email, your full name, which course and section you are enrolled in, and appropriate salutations. I will not respond to emails that are answered in the syllabus or requesting extra credit or any other adjustment in your grade. I am happy to answer questions and meet with you to help you, but you should be sure you have been keeping up with the reading and the modules.

Acceptable Student Behavior
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members must promote the components of academic integrity in their instruction, and course syllabi are required to provide information about penalties for cheating and plagiarism as well as the appeal process.
Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class;
falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assignment; and/or,
helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.
Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own.
Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another;
submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and,
incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper or presentation without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

Students who plagiarize in this course will receive a course grade of an F and will be reported for academic dishonesty.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)

**Course Description (per SFA Bulletin):**

Forces and forms of international politics. Restraints on the struggle for power, balance of power, morality, law. Problems of world stability, peaceful change, international interdependence, global governance, structure and dilemmas of the international political economy, nature and influence of non-state and transnational actors.

**General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes:**

No specific general education objectives or outcomes are addressed in this course.

**Program Learning Outcomes:**

Students will demonstrate written communication skills.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

Communicate with effective language and avoid colloquialisms
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<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Mingst and McKibben 1</td>
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<td>Theories of IR</td>
<td>Mingst and McKibben 3</td>
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<td>Mearsheimer Tragedy</td>
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<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Finish Theories of IR</td>
<td>Russett &amp; Oneal Vicious</td>
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<td>History</td>
<td>Mingst and McKibben 2</td>
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<td>Rational Actor Model</td>
<td>Mingst and McKibben 4</td>
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<td>Foreign Policy</td>
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<td>Conflict and Peace</td>
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<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
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<td>Finish Conflict and Peace</td>
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<td>Tuesday Exam #2</td>
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<td>International Regimes</td>
<td>Mingst and McKibben 7</td>
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<td>International Organizations</td>
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<td><strong>Week 5</strong></td>
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<td>Human Rights and NGOs</td>
<td>Mingst and McKibben 10</td>
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<td>IPE</td>
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<td>Environment</td>
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<td>Friedman Petropolitics</td>
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<td><strong>Comprehensive Oral Exam Thursday June 29</strong></td>
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