GVPT 200 International Political Relations

Young Scholar Program

Summer 2015 July 13-July 31

Mon-Fri 10AM -1PM

Tydings 2102

Instructor: Mr. Ping-Kuei Chen

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**Introduction**

This course will serve as a broad introduction to the analytical study of international relations.

It is designed to introduce important transnational issues and controversies around it. To this end, the course will start from three broad IR theories. The remainder of the course is devoted to the application of theoretical paradigm and concepts on various issue areas including power politics, war and peace, international trade, non-state actors, international institutions, and international governance.

The focus will be on state behavior and conceptualization of international problems, but we will include in our discussion of current affairs such as terrorism, trade, regulation, environmental policy, energy security and ethnicity. Coverage does not include every aspect, but it addresses the core problems animating international politics today.

**Course Requirements and Grading**

You are expected to do all work in this course unless otherwise noted.

Your grade will consist of four components:

Class participation                         20%

Foreign Policy Response (\*2)       30%

Game of Negotiation 20%

Final exam 30%

Grade Scale:

96-100 A+ 93-95 A 90-92 A- 88-89 B+ 83-87 B 80-82 B-

78-79 C+ 73-77 C 70-72 C- 68-69 D+ 63-67 D 60-62 D-

60 and below F

**Academic Integrity**

You are bound by the University’s Code of Academic Integrity. Please make yourself familiar with this Code (available at <http://studentconduct.umd.edu/aca/index.html>). Cheating and plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated, and any violation will be penalized to the maximum extent.

**General Class Rules:**

*If a student has a question or concern?* Should an issue arise, you should contact me. I will do my best to help you out.

*If a student cheats or plagiarizes?* One strike, you’re out. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University’s code regarding academic integrity.

*Lecture attendance* Regular attendance is the most important factor contributing to a student’s success in this class.

*Participation?* In this class you will need to hone your skills of expression. There will be many chances where you can exchange your opinions with your colleagues. To get full point of participation, you need to actively participate in these discussions. I encourage a lively and free exchange of ideas no matter how unconventional they are. But you must always be respectful of other students.

*Cellphone and laptop?* Please silence your cellphone. Please do not text during the class. It is a courtesy to pay respect to the instructor, your fellow colleagues, and yourself. Laptop or tablet is only allowed for note taking and class-related searching.

*Talking to my friend?* If I can hear you, it means you are too loud and disturbing the class.

**Medically necessitated absences**

The University of Maryland has a policy regarding medically necessitated absences from class. I will accept a self-signed note from the student attesting to the date of the illness as an excused absence. A student who experiences a prolonged absence or an illness preventing attendance at a major scheduled grading event (see below) is required to provide written documentation of the illness from the Health Center or an outside health care provider, verifying the dates of the treatment and the time period during which the student was unable to meet academic responsibilities.

There are four major scheduled grading events: the final exam; the days that the policy response is due, and the game day. It is necessary that you attend these events. Absence from these events without a legitimate reason will lower your participation grade significantly.

**Students with disabilities**

I will make every effort to accommodate students with disabilities. If you need accommodation, please let me know as early as possible; I will need written documentation from the Disability Support Service Office.

**Religious observances**

Please let me know in advance if a religious observance will cause you to miss a grading event. Provided you give advance notice, you will be given the opportunity to make up exams or other assignments.

**Readings**

All materials will be posted to the UMD CANVAS website or easily made available online. You will not have to purchase any books for this class.

**Resources**: these well-known resources will help you keep track on international affairs.

Virtual library: international affairs resources <http://www2.etown.edu/vl/>

BBC <http://www.bbc.com/news/>

NY Times <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Financial Times <http://www.ft.com/home/us>

The Wall Street Journal <http://online.wsj.com/home-page>

The Washington Post <http://www.washingtonpost.com/regional/>

Economist <http://www.economist.com/>

Foreign Policy <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/>

Foreign Affairs <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/>

CNN <http://www.cnn.com/>

CIA World Fact Book <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

**Class Organization**

**News discussion:** Students are expected to understand international relations well by the end of the course, and in pursuit of that goal the majority of your participation grade will be made up of participation in the discussion of current event in class. I will pick several news articles during the course period. Students will read them in class, and I will pose questions for discussion. Discussion is organized in small groups or one big group. The quality of your contribution will determine your grade.

**Lecture:**This is where I will introduce core concepts to the class via to power-point slides everyday, and for my part will endeavor to make it as interesting as possible!

**Break**: Three hours is pretty long for a class. We will take 15-20 minute break for you to stretch your legs before returning to the font of knowledge!

**Foreign Policy Response:**Because I want you to be engaged in current events and current debates in IR, you will need to visit foreign policy editorials in major new sources. Select two ANALYTICAL ARTICLES and write a critical response to each of them. The page limit is 2 pages, double space, and 12 points font. No additional citation needed. The paper is due by the beginning of the second and the third week of the class. Please submit your paper using ELMS.

In particular you should include:

#A quick (one paragraph) summary of the main points of the author

#Your critical response to the post:

Does the author consider all the most important aspects of the issue?

If not, what is the author missing?

Is the author’s logic sound?

What do you agree/disagree with about the post?

What do you think about the issue? How do states deal with it?

**Late Policy**

If assignments are turned in late, you will not be able to receive full credit for them. If turned in after the deadline, there will be a ceiling imposed on the highest grade achievable of 90%, which will be gradually reduced over time at a rate of 10% each day.

**The Game of Negotiation**

We will play a negotiation game in the end of the second week. Everyone will be assigned to a team. I will reveal the rules of the game prior the game day. Everyone will have the opportunity to participate in the game. I expect all of you to act like a civilized diplomat. Have fun!

**Final exam**

A cumulative final exam will be given at the end of the course. This is the final test to see how much you have learned from this class.

\*I reserve the right to change anything on this syllabus at any time, provided I give proper notice.

**Course Schedule**

7/13, Monday. Introduction to IR: what is it that we learn?

Level of analysis: system, state, and individual.

Readings:

Jack Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories” *Foreign Policy*,

Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*, conclusion, p.224-238.

7/14, Tuesday. System: Realism, Anarchy, Prisoner’s Dilemma, Balance of Power

Readings:

John Mearshimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, Ch. 5

K. J. Holsti, “The Concept of Power in the Study of International Relations*” Background*.

7/15, Wednesday. System: Liberalism, Cooperation, International Institutions, Battle of the Sexes

Readings:

Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, *Power and Interdependence*, Ch. 1, 2.

Robert Jervis, “Security Regimes”, in Kranser, *International Regimes*.

7/16, Thursday. System: Constructivism, Hierarchy, Theory of War

Readings:

Alex Wendt, “Anarchy is what states make of it”, *International Organization*.

Ted Hopf, “The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations Theory*”, International Security*

David Lake, “Anarchy, Hierarchy and the Variety of International Relations” *International Organization.*

7/17, Friday. War (continue); Individual: Foreign Policy & Groupthink

Readings:

Mark Schaefer and Scott Crichlow, *Groupthink vs. High-Quality Decision-Making*, Ch. 3, 8.

7/20, Monday. **First** **Foreign Policy Response Due**. State: Domestic politics of war, Democratic peace theory, Democratic victory theory.

Reading:

Patrick McDonald, *The Invisible Hand of Peace*, Ch. 1, 2

Sebastian Rosato, “The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory”, *American Political Science Review.*

7/21, Tuesday. International Trade and Political Economy, Free trade vs. isolationism, Varied impact of trade, WTO.

Readings:

Thomas Oatley, *International Political Economy: Interests and Institutions in the Global Economy* (New York: Pearson Longman, 2004), Ch. 7.

William Bernstein, *A “Splendid Exchange”,* introduction, ch14.

7/22, Wednesday, International Finance, Bretton-Woods System IMF. Euro-Crisis & 2008 Collapse

Readings:

Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, *Power and Interdependence,* ch.4.

Jeffry Frieden, “Exchange Rate Policies”, in Frieden & Lake, *International Political Economy*.

7/23, Thursday. International Organizations, UN, World Bank. Peacekeeping

Readings:

Joseph Nye, *Understanding International Conflicts,* Chapter 6: “Intervention and Institutions”.

Michael J. Glennon “Why the Security Council Failed", *Foreign Affairs*.

7/24, Friday. **The negotiation game is on.**

7/27, Monday. **Second** **Foreign Policy Response Due.** Non-State Actors: Terrorism, War on Terror

Readings:

Robert Pape, “The Logic of Suicide Terrorism”, *American Political Science Review.*

Barbara Walter and Andrew Kydd, “Strategies of Terrorism”, *International Security*

7/28, Tuesday. Non-State Actors: Transnational Networks and NGOs

Readings:

Joseph Nye, *Understanding International Conflicts,* “Chapter 8: The Information Revolution, Transnational Actors, and the Diffusion of Power”*.*

Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activist Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics,* Ch 3.

7/29, Wednesday. Environment, Energy and Food Climate Change Energy, Food Politics

Readings:

Congressional Budget Office, *Energy Security in the United States*, Summary.

Thomas Bernauer, “Climate Change Politics”, *Annual Review of Political Science*

Robert Paarlberg, Robert Pray, “Political Actors on the Landscape”, *AgBioForum*

7/30, Thursday. Changing landscapes: the rise of China and the future of international politics

Kenneth Waltz, “Structure Realism after the cold war”*, International Security*.

Susan Shirk*, China Fragile Superpower*, Ch3.

7/31, Friday. **Final exam**. Good luck!