



Political Science 1400

Introduction to International Relations

MW, 11:00 – 11:50am, Naka Hall, Room 102

Prof. Bryce Reeder

Email: reederbw@missouri.edu

Office Location: Professional Building, Room 201

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1pm – 3pm (and by appointment)

Office Phone: (573) 882 – 0056

This syllabus is subject to change at my discretion.

Teaching Assistants:

- *Bimal Adhikari*: 308 Professional Building, badhikari@mail.mizzou.edu
- *Kate Perry*: 304 Professional Building, kjnp7@mail.missouri.edu
- *Emir Yazici*: 315 Professional Building, eyvwf@mail.missouri.edu

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the scientific study of interstate interactions, and aims to provide students with the background and conceptual tools necessary to understand the contemporary international system. Students will be expected to acquire an understanding of mainstream theories of international politics and will be tasked with applying them to contemporary problems in international relations research – questions that deal with war and peace, international cooperation, economic interdependence, terrorism, among others. As the course progresses, specific cases will be isolated in order to highlight the importance and shortcomings of international relations scholarship.

Prerequisite(s): *none*

Note(s): Some topics, such as war, will be disturbing to all. Please speak to me if you have any questions/concerns.

Credit Hours: 3

Required Text(s):

- Mingst, Karen A. and Jack L. Snyder. “Essential Readings in World Politics” W.W. Norton & Company (2016). [ISBN: 9780393283662]
- Weber, Cynthia. “International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction” Routledge (2013). [ISBN: 9780415713061]
- Gourevitch, Philip. “We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda.” Picador (1999). [ISBN: 9780312243357]

- University of Missouri “Readings in International Relations” E-Reader (available via Blackboard)

Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, students will:

- be familiar with the scientific study of interstate relations.
- understand and be able to describe the dominant theories of international politics, as well as some popular alternatives.
- have an understanding of the topics of interest to scholars of international relations and how they relate to IR paradigms.
- have a basic understanding of the literature relating to interstate conflict, international organizations, and international political economy.
- understand how the scientific study of international politics relates to “real life” by having specialized knowledge of contemporary issues in the global system.

Course Requirements:

More details about each assignment will be provided as the course progresses.

- *Discussion Section:* Students are expected to attend class and be an active participant. Students will incur a 1% penalty for each class missed after 1 day (for a max of 10% of your final grade). In addition to the attendance requirement, quizzes and other assignments may be given.
- *Midterm Exam:* The midterm exam will consist of two parts. The first will be an online multiple choice exam (notes and texts may be used), and the second will be an in-class essay exam (no notes or books may be used). Details about both components will be provided to students prior to the exam date.
- *National Interest/Sovereignty Paper (must be submitted via Canvas; hard copies not accepted):* Students will be expected to write a 5-7 page paper that argues whether or not humanitarian intervention a) is in the “national interest,” b) should be done even if it violates the concept of state sovereignty, and c) is consistent with any of the IR theories discussed during the course. The case of Rwanda should be used to frame the argument (the film, required book, and lecture will serve as a guide).
- *Final Exam:* The final exam will be cumulative and will be in the same format as the midterm exam.
- *Extra Credit (optional):* There will be 2 extra credit opportunities made available to students. These will be announced in class.

Grade Distribution:

Discussion Section	15%
Midterm Exam	30%
National Interest/Sovereignty Paper	25%
Final Exam	30%
Extra Credit (optional)	up to 6% added to final grade

Letter Grade Distribution:

>= 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	<= 59.99	F

Course Policies:

- **General**

- Computers and other technology are only to be used for taking notes.
- All quizzes and exams are closed book, no notes (unless otherwise noted).
- No makeup quizzes or exams will be given. If you have a conflict you must discuss this with the instructor **before** the exam/quiz, not after.

- **Grades**

- Grades in the **C** range represent performance that **meets expectations**; Grades in the **B** range represent performance that is **substantially better** than the expectations; Grades in the **A** range represent work that is **excellent**.
- It is the responsibility of the student to follow up with their assigned teaching assistant with questions about grading. There are 4 steps to this process:
 - * Students **must wait 48 hours** before contacting their assigned teaching assistant.
 - * Grade inquiries **must occur within 2 weeks** after the assignment has been returned.
 - * Questions/concerns about grading **must be submitted in writing** to the teaching assistant, who will then respond in writing.
 - * If the dispute is not resolved, both written items will be given to the instructor and the assignment will be regraded. Note that during this process, **the assigned score may increase or decrease**.

- **Assignments**

- Students are expected to work independently, unless otherwise specified. **Offering and accepting** answers from others is an act of **plagiarism**, which is a serious offense and **all involved parties will be penalized according to the Academic Integrity Guide (below)**. Discussion amongst students is encouraged, but when in doubt, direct your questions to the instructor.
- **No late assignments will be accepted under any circumstances.**

- **Attendance and Absences**

- Students are allowed to miss 1 class without penalty. After 1 class, students will be penalized 1% off of attendance/participation grade for each additional day. **This policy applies to discussion section only. Attendance is not taken during lecture with the Professor.**
- Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence. It is also the absentee's responsibility to get all missing notes or materials.

- **Students with Disabilities**

- If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.
- If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Office of Disability Services, S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations.

- **Plagiarism and Other Violations of Academic Integrity**

- Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

- **Intellectual Pluralism**

- The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities; the MU Equity Office, or equity@missouri.edu.
- All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

- **Intellectual Property Notice**

- All course materials including but not limited to the syllabus, course assignments, study guides, learning guides, online lecture videos and content, and lab book (i.e. course pack) are property of the instructor and University and may not be shared online or distributed in any manner to others. Students are prohibited from posting course materials or notes online and from selling notes to or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course. Doing so will constitute both an academic integrity violation and a copyright violation. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to civil penalties and criminal liability. Violations of academic integrity may subject you to disciplinary action under University policies.

Weekly Schedule (subject to change)

I. Week 1

A. August 21

No Class

B. August 23

- i. *Topic*: Introduction to Course
- ii. *Readings*: none

C. Discussion Section

- i. *Topic*: Introductions
- ii. *Readings*: none

II. Week 2

A. August 28

- i. *Topic*: Basic Concepts and Definitions
- ii. *Readings*: skim book of IR definitions (on Canvas)

B. August 30

No Class – Gone to Conference

C. Discussion Section

- i. *Topic*: Primer on the “isms” debate
- ii. *Readings*: David Lake: “Why ‘isms’ are evil: Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding and Progress” (available via IR Reader or online)

III. Week 3

A. September 4

No Class – Labor Day

B. September 6

- i. *Topic*: Domestic v. International Politics
- ii. *Readings*: Waltz excerpt (available on Canvas)

C. Discussion Section

- i. *Topic*: Level of Analysis Problem
- ii. *Readings*: Singer article (available on Canvas)

IV. Week 4

A. September 11

- i. *Topic*: What Makes a theory “Good” or “Bad”?
- ii. *Readings*: none

B. September 13

- i. *Topic*: Introduction to Realism
- ii. *Readings*: Mingst and Snyder, pages 12-16, 17-19, 55-59; Weber, Chapter 2

C. Discussion Section

- i. *Topic*: Realism Discussion
- ii. *Readings*: none

V. Week 5

A. September 18

- i. *Topic*: Variants of Realism
- ii. *Readings*: Mingst and Snyder, pages 60-77

B. September 20

- i. *Topic*: Theories Derived from Realism
- ii. *Readings*: Mingst and Snyder, pages 124-130; Quackenbush: “Deterrence Theory: Where Do We Stand?” (available in IR Reader)

C. Discussion Section

- i. *Topic*: Case Study for Realism
- ii. *Readings*: none

VI. Week 6

A. September 25

- i. *Topic*: More Theories, Case Study Discussion, and Concluding Thoughts
- ii. *Readings*: Mingst and Snyder, pages 145-171

B. September 27

- i. *Topic*: Introduction to Liberalism
- ii. *Readings*: Mingst and Snyder, pages 32-34, 78-92; Weber, Chapter 3

C. Discussion Section

- i. *Topic*: Realism v. Liberalism: Who has the strongest case?
- ii. *Readings*: Mingst and Snyder, pages 300 – 309

VII. Week 7

A. October 2

- i. *Topic*: Variants of Liberalism
- ii. *Readings*: Moravcsik excerpt (available on Canvas)

B. October 4

- i. *Topic*: Theories Derived from Liberalism
- ii. *Readings*: Mingst and Snyder, pages 20-22, 223-236; Russett, Oneal, and Davis: “The Third Leg of the Kantian Tripod for Peace: International Organizations and Militarized Disputes, 1950-1985” (available in IR Reader or online)

C. Discussion Section

- i. *Topic*: Case Study for Liberalism
- ii. *Readings*: none

VIII. Week 8

- A. October 9
 - i. *Topic*: Case Study Discussion; Introduction to Constructivism
 - ii. *Readings*: Weber, Chapter 4; Mingst and Snyder, pages 93-114
 - B. October 11
 - i. *Topic*: Introduction to Marxism
 - ii. *Readings*: Weber, Chapter 7
 - C. Discussion Section
 - i. *Topic*: Constructivism and Marxism: An improvement?
 - ii. *Readings*: none
- IX. Week 9
- A. October 16
 - Extra Credit Opportunity #1 Due**
 - i. *Topic*: Introduction to Feminism
 - ii. *Readings*: Mingst and Snyder, pages 115-122; Drury and Peksen: “Women and Economic Statecraft: The Negative Impact International Economic Sanctions Visit on Women” (available in IR Reader or online)
 - B. October 18
 - i. *Topic*: Concluding Thoughts; Just How “Radical” are the Alternatives?
 - ii. *Readings*: none
 - C. Discussion Section
 - i. *Topic*: Study Game
 - ii. *Readings*: none
- X. Week 10
- A. October 23
 - Midterm Exam (Bluebook Required)**
 - B. October 25
 - i. *Topic*: Paper Preparation – Primer on Humanitarian Intervention
 - ii. *Readings*: Townsen and Reeder: “Where Do Peacekeepers Go When They Go?” (available in IR Reader or online)
 - C. Discussion Section
 - i. *Topic*: More on Humanitarian Intervention
 - ii. *Readings*: none
- XI. Week 11
- A. October 30
 - i. *Topic*: “Ghosts of Rwanda” Film Screening
 - ii. *Readings*: Mingst and Snyder, pages 263 – 283; Gourevitch book **must** be finished by today
 - B. November 1

- i. *Topic*: Explaining War and Conflict, Part 1
- ii. *Readings*: Mingst and Snyder, pages 345-349, 350-358

C. Discussion Section

- i. *Topic*: Film Discussion; Paper Workshop
- ii. *Readings*: none

XII. Week 12

A. November 6

- i. *Topic*: Explaining War and Conflict, Part 2
- ii. *Readings*: Mingst and Snyder, pages 374-397

B. November 8

- i. *Topic*: A Clash of Civilizations?
- ii. *Readings*: Mingst and Snyder, pages 208-214

C. Discussion Section

- i. *Topic*: The War on Terror: A clash of civilizations?
- ii. *Readings*: none

XIII. Week 13

A. November 13

Paper Due: Must be submitted via Canvas by 11:59pm

- i. *Topic*: Introduction to Nuclear Weapons
- ii. *Readings*: Mingst and Snyder, pages 398-401

B. November 15

- i. *Topic*: The Politics of Nuclear Weapons
- ii. *Readings*: skim Waltz and Sagan debate (available on Canvas)

C. Discussion Section

- i. *Topic*: Iran and North Korea
- ii. *Readings*: none

XIV. Week 14

No Class (11/20 – 11/24): Thanksgiving Break

XV. Week 15

A. November 27

- i. *Topic*: Basics of Political Economy
- ii. *Readings*: Mingst and Snyder, pages 468-475, 496-510

B. November 29

- i. *Topic*: Globalization
- ii. *Readings*: Weber, Chapter 6

C. Discussion Section

- i. *Topic*: Brexit: dangerous, or a move in the right direction?

- ii. *Readings*: NY Times Article (available on Canvas)

XVI. Week 16

A. December 4

Extra Credit Opportunity #2 Due

- i. *Topic*: International Institutions, Part I
- ii. *Readings*: none

B. December 6

- i. *Topic*: International Institutions, Part II
- ii. *Readings*: none

C. Discussion Section

- i. *Topic*: Study Game
- ii. *Readings*: none

Final Exam: Date and Time TBA