



# PSC 431: International Relations

## Fall 2016

**Instructor:** Prof. Marc Hutchison  
**Office:** 223 Washburn Hall  
**Office Hours:** MWF 10:15-11:15am, or by appt.  
**Office Phone:** (401) 874-4054  
**Email:** [mlhutch@uri.edu](mailto:mlhutch@uri.edu)

**Class Time**  
T Th 12:30 – 1:45pm  
**Location:**  
311 Swann Hall  
**Class Website:** Sakai

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar will provide an overview and evaluation of core topics and theories in the study of international relations. In this course, we focus predominately on how states interact within the international system and the consequences of those interactions. In addition to examining competing theories, we will address topics and questions critical to understanding international relations. By reviewing theoretical and empirical literature, this course will also serve to socialize students with the process of contemporary political science research. The goals of this seminar are to both offer a broad overview of international relations generally and develop critical skills to engage in mainstream political science research through a semester-long paper project and several statistical assignments.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder. *Essential Readings in World Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.

- As an older edition, this book is only available to be purchased online. I recommend [Amazon](#). The bookstore does **not** carry this book.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES (not required)

- Greg Mahlon Scott and Stephen M. Garrison. *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual*. Princeton, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. *Principles of International Politics: People's Power, Preferences, and Perceptions*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICIES

**CLASS ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION (10%)**

**MIDTERM EXAM (20%)**

**APPLIED STATISTICS ASSIGNMENTS (30%)**

**FINAL RESEARCH PAPER (40%)**

### GRADING SCALE

A	100-94	B+	89-87	C+	79-77	D+	69-67
A-	93-90	B	86-83	C	76-73	D	66-60
		B-	82-80	C-	72-70	F	59 or below

### CLASS ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION (10%)

Daily attendance is expected. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain from another student any information or handouts provided during the class. This course is a seminar so participation is required. Students are encouraged to participate by asking questions and by answering questions addressed to the class by the instructor. The reading assignments should be completed PRIOR to the beginning of class for which they are assigned.

Participation	Attendance	Grade
Regular, insightful comments and questions	Daily	A
Comments and questions show general understanding of material	Frequent	B
Sometimes good comments and questions, occasionally tangential or sarcastic	Intermittent	C
Sarcastic or irrelevant comments and questions	Seldom	D
Never spoke	Rare	F

You will take one midterm exam on **Tuesday 10/18/16**. This exam will evaluate your knowledge of the concepts and theories covered in the lectures and readings. The exam is essay format. If you miss the exam, you automatically receive a 10 point grade deduction on the makeup. To avoid a grade deduction, you must (1) contact me no later than the day of the exam and, (2) later provide me the corresponding paperwork substantiating your claims of illness, disability, or family emergency. *Furthermore, no makeup exam will be given after 10 days following the original exam date.*

### APPLIED STATISTICS ASSIGNMENTS (30%)

All students will complete two assignments using basic statistical techniques to examine the relationship between important concepts and international relations. Each assignment will be worth 15% of your final grade. To facilitate student learning, *we will be holding two classes in a computer lab (240 Ballentine Hall) equipped with SPSS statistical software on **Tuesday 10/4/16** and **Tuesday 11/15/16**.* More detailed instructions regarding these assignments, including expectations, data sources, and techniques will be provided in class.

#### Assignment Due Dates

Assignment #1 - October 14<sup>th</sup>

Assignment #2 - December 2<sup>nd</sup>

### RESEARCH PAPER (40%)

You are required to complete a 20-25 page semester-long research project over the course of the semester. For this project, you will design and execute an original research project that attempts to address an important question in international relations (chosen from a list provided by me) using either a case study or quantitative analytical approach. You are required to submit a 3 page proposal for the research paper (**due on 11/4/16**) in which you will identify your topic/research question, provide a basic theoretical argument, and outline a basic design that you think could answer this question. All students are required to meet with the instructor to discuss their research paper proposal and have their project approved. I will provide a sign-up sheet to schedule the meetings. This meeting is a course requirement, no exceptions. More detailed instructions regarding this project, including format and expectations, will be provided in class.

*\*Please note: All papers and assignments are docked one letter grade for each day they are late.*

## **Cheating and Plagiarism**

Cheating and plagiarism are very serious crimes and will be handled in accord with university policy. Specific information regarding definitions of cheating and plagiarism can be found at <http://www.uri.edu/facsen/8.20-8.27.html>. For students caught cheating during an exam, you will, at minimum, receive a 0 for the exam. Depending on the infraction, further disciplinary action may ensue.

## **Classroom Decorum**

I require all students to treat everyone in the classroom with respect. At times, we may engage in discussion of topics for which students may possess strong opinions. While disagreement is crucial to healthy discourse, I will not tolerate behavior that either impinges learning or results in personal attacks on others. At no time may any student insult or single out any other person on the basis of gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, age, ethnicity, or nationality, etc. I will ask any student who commits such an offense to leave class and will dock their participation grade accordingly. Furthermore, students planning to use my class period to text with friends, surf the internet, read the newspaper, study for another class or in some other way be disruptive are encouraged to stay home. Although I allow laptops to be used in class, I reserve the right to ban laptops in the future if I feel that class is being disrupted by rampant internet usage during class.

## **Personal Electronic Devices**

You should turn off, not simply silence, all personal electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, PDAs, MP3 players, etc.) prior to the start of class. Answering a cell phone, checking messages, or text messaging is prohibited. **Furthermore, personal electronic devices are NOT allowed during an exam under ANY circumstances.** If you are caught using/looking at such a device during an exam, you will receive an automatic 0 on the exam.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Any student with a documented disability is welcome to contact me early in the semester so that we may work out reasonable accommodations to support your success in this course. Students should also contact Disability Services for Students, Office of Student Life, 330 Memorial Union, 874-2098. To learn more, you can also visit URI's Disability Services website at [www.uri.edu/disability/dss](http://www.uri.edu/disability/dss).

# COURSE SCHEDULE

(This schedule is tentative. I reserve the right to change the schedule with timely notification.)

## **Week 1 (9/8) – Course Introduction**

### **TOPIC: THEORY AND THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF IR**

#### **Week 2 (9/13 & 9/15)**

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. 2014. "Evaluating Arguments About International Politics," in *Principles of International Politics*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. [Sakai]

Sara McLaughlin Mitchell and John A. Vasquez. 2014. "Introduction," in *Conflict, War, and Peace: An Introduction to Scientific Research*, edited by Sara McLaughlin Mitchell and John A. Vasquez, pp. 1-4. [Sakai]

### **TOPIC: COMPETING THEORIES OF IR**

#### **Week 3 (9/20 & 9/22) – Realism**

Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories" - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 2-10

Hans J. Morgenthau, "Six Principles of Political Realism," in *Introduction to International Politics: A Reader*, edited by John S. Masker, pp. 11-19. [Sakai]

John J. Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power" - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 31-50

#### **Week 4 (9/27 & 9/29) – Liberalism**

Immanuel Kant, "To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch" - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 12-16

Michael Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics" - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 50-64

Russett, Bruce, and John R. Oneal. 2001. *Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. Chapters 1-2 [Sakai]

#### **Week 5 (10/4\* & 10/6) – Constructivism and the Feminist IR Perspective**

***\*Class will be held in 240 Ballentine Hall on 10/4/16***

Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics" - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 64-88

J. Ann Tickner, "Man, the State, and War: Gendered Perspectives on National Security" - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 89-97

#### **Week 6\* (10/11 & 10/13) – Alternative Theoretical Approaches**

Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 159-166

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. 2014. "The Strategic Perspective: When Foreign Policy Collides with Domestic Politics," in *Principles of International Politics*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. [Sakai]

**\*1<sup>st</sup> Applied Statistics Assignment Due in Sakai on 10/14/16**

## **TOPIC: COERCION AND CONFLICT**

### **Week 7\* (10/18 & 10/20) –Coercion**

#### **\*Midterm Exam held in class on 10/18/16**

Thomas C. Schelling, “The Diplomacy of Violence” - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 326-335

Robert J. Art, “The Fungibility of Force”, in *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues* 12<sup>th</sup> ed., edited by Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, pp. 174-188. **[Sakai]**

### **Week 8 (10/25 & 10/27) –War**

Carl von Clausewitz, “War as an Instrument of Policy” - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 322-326

James D. Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War” - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 349-375

Stuart A. Bremer, “Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate War, 1816-1965,” in *Conflict, War, and Peace: An Introduction to Scientific Research*, edited by Sara McLaughlin Mitchell and John A. Vasquez, pp. 5-34. **[Sakai]**

### **Week 9 (11/1 & 11/3) –Terrorism**

Andrew H. Kydd and Barbara F. Walter, “The Strategies of Terrorism” - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 392-416

Todd Sandler. 2014. “The Analytical Study of Terrorism: Taking Stock.” *Journal of Peace Research* 51(2): 257-271.

Boylan, Brandon M. 2016. “What Drives Ethnic Terrorist Campaigns? A View at the Group Level of Analysis.” *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 33(3): 250-272.

#### **\*Research Paper Proposal Due in Sakai on 11/4/16**

## **TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

### **Week 10 (11/8 & 11/10) – Cooperation**

Robert Jervis, “Cooperation under the Security Dilemma” - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 335-349.

Elinor Ostrom, “Collective Action and the Evolution of Social Norms,” in *Introduction to International Politics: A Reader*, edited by John S. Masker, pp. 96-105. **[Sakai]**

Robert O. Keohane, “From *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*” - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 292-308

## **Week 11 (11/15\* & 11/17) – International Trade**

**\*Class will be held in 240 Ballentine Hall on 11/15/16**

Robert Gilpin, “The Nature of Political Economy” - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 485-493

Helen V. Milner, “Globalization, Development, and International Institutions: Normative and Positive Perspectives” - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 493-516

## **Week 12 (11/22 & 11/25\*) – International Trade**

**\*No class on 11/25/16 for Thanksgiving Holiday**

Michael J. Hiscox, “The Domestic Sources of Foreign Economic Policies”, in *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues* 12<sup>th</sup> ed., edited by Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, pp. 227-235. **[Sakai]**

Dani Rodrik, “Why Doesn’t Everyone Get the Case for Free Trade?”, in *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues* 12<sup>th</sup> ed., edited by Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, pp. 235-241. **[Sakai]**

## **Week 13\* (11/29 & 12/1) – Interventions and Peacekeeping**

Elisabeth N. Saunders, “Transformative Choices: Leaders and the Origins of Intervention Strategy” - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 206-222

Martha Finnemore, “From *The Purpose of Intervention: Changing Beliefs about the Use of Force*” - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 459-484

Virginia Page Fortna, “From *Does Peacekeeping Work?*” - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 224-233

Alex De Waal, “Darfur and the Failure of the Responsibility to Protect,” in *Introduction to International Politics: A Reader*, edited by John S. Masker, pp. 273-281. **[Sakai]**

**\*2nd Applied Statistics Assignment Due in Sakai on 12/2/16**

## **Week 14 (12/6 & 12/8) – International Law and IGOs**

Kenneth Roth, “The Case for Universal Jurisdiction” - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 270-274

Henry A. Kissinger, “The Pitfalls for Universal Jurisdiction” - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 265-270

Kenneth A. Rodman, “Is Peace in the Interests of Justice? The Case for Broad Prosecutorial Discretion at the International Criminal Court” - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 274-292

John J. Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions” - Mingst and Snyder, *Essential Readings*, pp. 308-320

**Final Research Paper Due in Sakai on 12/18/16**