

College of William & Mary
Government 204, Spring 2019

Introduction to International Politics
Prof. Maurits van der Veen

Class

MWF 10-10:50 or 11-11:50
334 Blow Hall

Office

355 Tyler Hall
Office hours: Wed 2-4pm
maurits@wm.edu

Course description

This course presents an introductory survey of international relations theory and practice. It is assumed that you have a basic exposure to world affairs, and that you keep up with current events by following the international news. The course builds on this basic background by presenting in much more detail the theories and concepts that help us analyze international relations.

One way to think about the study of international relations is to see it as examining the following question: “How do states manage their exposure to the rest of the world in such a way as to make themselves both safer and better off?” In terms of security, this question raises issues of war and peace, of international alliances, offensive and defensive strategies, and so on. In economic terms, it prompts us to look at way in which international cooperation and exchange benefits (or hurts) states and actors within those states.

More generally, the question highlights the importance of analyzing how *states* behave in world politics, and thus, by implication, of analyzing how foreign policy decisions are made within states. Simultaneously, it makes clear that international interaction needs to be *managed* since states cannot decide upon their actions without taking into account the international environment they face and the actions taken by other states as well as non-state actors (most notoriously: terrorists).

This is an exciting time to study world affairs, as events over the past few years have made it clear that the future of the world political system is far from settled. We will have occasion to consider the implications of different theoretical models as well as of past historical experiences for our understanding of current issues such as terrorism, superpower unilateralism, nuclear proliferation, a president who tweets, etc.

Over the course of the semester, we will follow a two-track approach. The first track will concentrate on providing the theoretical framework and the historical/empirical context for the various topics listed above, while the second track will focus on analyzing contemporary events in each of these areas. You will find that the two tracks reinforce each other and that your ability to analyze current events will grow considerably over the course of the term.

Course policies & requirements

Doing the assigned reading before class will greatly increase what you get out of the lectures and class discussions. Moreover, it allows you to ask questions about anything that was unclear in the readings during class. To help encourage you to do the reading when it is most useful, there will be occasional quizzes on that day's readings (see *participation*, below).

There will be two mid-term exams and an 8-10 page paper that will serve as your final exam. Each mid-term exam is worth 25% of your final grade, and the final paper is worth 30%. The remaining 20% of your grade is based on class participation.

The mid-term exams will be given in class on February 27th and April 17th. They will be identical in set-up, and each will consist of a multiple choice section and an essay question. The final paper will be a critical analysis of some aspect of United States foreign policy. More information on the paper will be provided as the time gets closer.

Participation

Your participation grade is constructed from three separate components:

- Participation in class discussions, which will be judged in terms of the quality, not the quantity, of your contributions. Class discussions are crucial opportunities to critically analyze the material covered in the readings and lectures, and to share your own ideas and insights. Your participation will not just improve your own learning; it also helps that of all your fellow students.
- Quizzes: There will be five unannounced quizzes given in class, based on the reading for that day as well as on major current events
- Extra credit: you can boost your participation grade one full letter grade by any combination of 8 of the following "assignments":
 - Online discussion: From time to time I will post recommended readings, along with some comments, on our class discussion board. Make a thoughtful contribution to the ensuing discussion
 - Over the course of the semester, I will identify outside speakers or events relevant to our course. Attend such an event and write a brief comment/response on the discussion board for that particular event
 - Participate in the government department omnibus survey program. You will receive information from the survey organizer once it is set up for the semesterSo, attend 8 events, or contribute to 8 discussions, or do some combination of events and discussions summing to 8, or to 7 plus the survey.

Additional policies & comments

Please let me know ahead of time if you cannot make a class, midterm exam, or due date. Given advance warning I am likely to be quite accommodating. On the other hand, flimsy excuses, especially after the fact, are unlikely to garner you much sympathy. Unapproved late submissions of the paper will be penalized one half of a full grade per day.

Failure to complete any single component of the course (never showing up to class, missing all quizzes, missing a midterm, or not submitting a final paper) will result in failing the course — in other words, you cannot make up for it by excelling in all other components.

I take violations of academic honesty very seriously. All academic work must meet the standards set out in the Honor Code. In particular, if you cheat on a test or commit plagiarism on your paper and I discover it, I will report the violation to the Dean's office, with all the potential repercussions that implies. The key point is that the work you submit must be your own — not that of a fellow student, nor that of someone whose work you found in the library or online.

Office hours &c

My regular office hours are Wednesdays, 2-4pm. Please do come see me if you have any questions on or problems with the reading material, the writing assignments, or the course in general. If you need to reach me to make an appointment, I am most easily reached by e-mail.

Readings

The following three books are available for purchase at the W&M Bookstore. They can also be purchased and/or rented from online sources (sometimes rather more cheaply). It is important that you get the correct edition of the Mingst & Snyder readings. You can probably make do with another recent edition of Mingst & Arreguin-Toft, but if you do so it is *your responsibility* to figure out whether and where there are differences with the edition listed below (in other words: I recommend against it).

- Drezner, Daniel W. 2014. *Theories of international politics and zombies: Revived edition*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Mingst, Karen A., and Ivan Arreguin-Toft. 2016. *Essentials of international relations*. 7th edition. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Mingst, Karen A., and Jack L. Snyder. 2016. *Essential readings in world politics*. 6th edition. New York: W.W. Norton.

All additional readings are available online or through the electronic journals feature of the W&M library website (not Blackboard!). There will be also be occasional reading assignments of brief articles on current events, in newspapers such as the *New York Times* and the *Economist*. Links to these will be provided on the course website.

Caveat!

The calendar below is not final. As events happen in international politics, I may need to change or add a few readings here and there. Any such changes will be announced in class and on Blackboard.

Calendar

I. Concepts and Theories in International Relations

Wed. Jan. 16 ***Introduction***

Fri. Jan. 18 ***Why worry about theories?***

- “Approaches to international relations.” Chapter 1 in Mings & Arreguin-Toft
- Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” pp. 3-11 in Mingst & Snyder.

Mon. Jan. 21 *No class (MLK Jr. Day)*

Wed. Jan. 23 ***Zombies and international relations***

- Drezner, pp. 1-36.
- Hobbes, “From *Leviathan*,” pp. 17-19 in Mingst & Snyder.

Fri. Jan. 25 ***The logic of anarchy***

- Thucydides, “The Melian dialogue,” pp. 12-16 in Mingst & Snyder.
- Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power,” pp. 60-77 in Mingst & Snyder.
- Wendt, “Anarchy is what states make of it,” pp. 93-114 in Mingst & Snyder.

Mon. Jan. 28 ***Rationality & Strategy***

- Schelling, “The Diplomacy of Violence,” pp. 350-358 in M&S.
- Putnam, “Diplomacy and Domestic Politics,” pp. 173-190 in M&S.
- Keohane, “From *After Hegemony*,” pp. 284-299 in M&S.

Wed. Jan. 30 ***Realism: Power & Force***

- Drezner, “The *Realpolitik* of the Living Dead,” pp. 37-50.
- von Clausewitz, “War as an instrument of policy,” pp. 345-349 in M&S.
- Morgenthau, “A realist theory of international politics,” pp. 55-59 in M&S.

Fri. Feb. 1 ***Peace among friends, wars among enemies?***

- Kant, “From *Perpetual Peace*,” pp. 20-22 in Mingst & Snyder.
- Huntington, “The clash of civilizations?” pp. 208-214 in M&S.
- Drezner, “Neoconservatism and the axis of evil dead,” pp. 89-94.

Mon. Feb. 4 ***Liberalism: Interdependence & Alliances***

- Doyle, “Liberalism and world politics,” pp. 78-92 in M&S.
- Ikenberry, “From *Liberal Leviathan*,” pp. 131-144 in M&S.
- Drezner, “Regulating the undead in a liberal word order,” pp. 51-64.

Wed. Feb. 6 ***Gender and international relations***

- Tickner, “Man, the State, and War,” pp. 115-122 in M&S.
- Hudson & Den Boer, “Missing women and bare branches,” pp. 660-665 in M&S.
- Drezner, “The supergendered politics of the posthuman world,” pp. 75-86.

Fri. Feb. 8 ***Constructivism: Ideas & Beliefs***

- Fukuyama, “The end of history?” pp. 41-52 in M&S.
- Yarhi-Milo, “In the eye of the beholder,” pp. 237-260 in M&S.
- Drezner, “The social construction of zombies,” pp. 65-74.

Mon. Feb. 11 ***Domestic sources of foreign policy***

- Rogowski, “Political cleavages and changing exposure to trade,” pp. 496-510 in M&S.
- Drezner, “Domestic politics: Are all zombie politics local?” pp. 95-108.
- Drezner, “Bureaucratic politics: The ‘pulling and hauling’ of zombies,” pp. 109-120.

Wed. Feb. 13 ***People, psychology and international relations***

- Jervis, “Hypotheses on misperception,” pp. 223-236 in M&S.
- Hoerber Rudolph & Rudolph, “Modern hate,” pp. 215-221 in M&S.
- Drezner, “We’re only human: psychological responses to the undead,” pp. 121-131.

Fri. Feb. 15 ***International Relations Theories***

- “International relations theories.” Chapter 3 in Mingst & Arreguin-Toft
- Drezner, Conclusion & Epilogue, pp. 131-146.

II. Two Centuries of International Relations

Mon. Feb. 18 ***From Westphalia to World War I***

- Chapter 2, pp. 20-36 in M&A
- Morgenthau, “The balance of power,” pp. 124-130 in M&S.
- Lebow, Richard Ned. 2014. “What can international relations theory learn from the origins of World War I?” *International Relations* 28(4) 387-410.

Wed. Feb. 20 ***Collective security and World War II***

- Chapter 2, pp. 38-43 in M&A
- Wilson, “The Fourteen Points,” pp. 32-34 in M&S.
- Goddard, Stacie E. 2015 “The rhetoric of appeasement: Hitler’s legitimization and British foreign policy, 1938-39.” *Security Studies* 24(1) 95-130.

Fri. Feb. 22 ***The Cold War: Dr. Strangelove***

- Watch the movie before class! It is available at Swem or the Law library, as well as for online rental (usually for a small fee) through Amazon, Youtube, Google Play, etc.
- Chapter 2, pp. 44-55 in M&A
- Schelling, Thomas C. 1960. “Meteors, Mischief, and War.” *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* 16(7).

Mon. Feb. 25 ***Global Politics since the Cold War***

- Finish chapter 2 in M&A

Wed. Feb. 27 **Midterm 1**

III. Enduring issues in international relations

Fri. Mar. 1 *The Fog of War*

- We will begin watching the movie during class. Finish watching it over Spring Break! It is available at Swem or the Law library, as well as for online rental (usually for a small fee) through Amazon, Youtube, Google Play, etc.

March 4, 6, 8: Spring Break

Mon. Mar. 11 *Security and war*

- First part of chapter 8 in M&A: pp. 260-290

Wed. Mar. 13 *Nuclear weapons and global security*

- Kennan, “The sources of Soviet conduct,” pp. 35-40 in M&S.
- Waltz, “Why Iran should get the bomb,” pp. 398-401 in M&S.

Fri. Mar. 15 *Managing insecurity*

- Second part of chapter 8 in M&A: pp. 291-315
- Barnett and Finnemore, “The politics, power, and pathologies of international organizations”, pp. 321-342 in M&S.

Mon. Mar. 18 *States in IR 1: Rising powers*

- First part of chapter 5 in M&A: pp. 132-150
- Christensen, “From *The China Challenge*,” pp. 145-171 in M&S.

Wed. Mar. 20 *States in IR 2: Rogue states*

- Second part of chapter 5 in M&A: pp. 151-179
- Cho, Youngwon. 2014. “Method to the madness of Chairman Kim: The instrumental rationality of North Korea’s pursuit of nuclear weapons” *International Journal* 69(1) 5-25.

Fri. Mar. 22 *States in IR 3: Russia*

- Marten, Kimberly. 2015. “Informal political networks and Putin’s foreign policy: The examples of Iran and Syria.” *Problems of post-Communism* 62(2): 71-87
- Laruelle, Marlene. 2015. “Russia as a ‘divided nation,’ from compatriots to Crimea: A contribution to the discussion on nationalism and foreign policy.” *Problems of post-Communism* 62(2): 88-97

Mon. Mar. 25 *The international system & the tragedy of the commons*

- First part of chapter 4 in M&A: pp. 106-123
- Hardin, “The tragedy of the commons,” pp. 638-648 in M&S.

Wed. Mar. 27 *International governance & international law*

- From chapter 7 in M&A: pp. 240-245, 254-259.
- Frieden, “The governance of international finance,” pp. 511-525 in M&S.

Fri. Mar. 29 *Politics in the global economy*

- From chapter 9 in M&A: pp 316-344

Mon. Apr. 1 ***Crises in the liberal economic order***

- From chapter 9 in M&A: pp 345-358
- Griffin, Penny. 2017. "Financial governance 'after' crisis: On the liminality of the global financial crisis and its 'afterwards', through a gender lens." *Politics* 37(4): 402-417.

Wed. Apr. 3 ***International human rights***

- From chapter 10 in M&A: pp 360-387
- Mutua, "Savages, victims, and saviors," pp. 558-582 in M&S.

Fri. Apr. 5 ***Refugees***

- From chapter 10 in M&A: pp 388-393
- Allen, William, et al. 2018. "Who counts in crises? The new geopolitics of international migration and refugee governance." *Geopolitics* 23(1):217-243.

Mon. Apr. 8 ***International humanitarianism?***

- Keck & Sikkink, "Transnational advocacy networks," pp. 310-320 in M&S.
- Power, "Bystanders to genocide," pp. 263-284 in M&S.

Wed. Apr. 10 ***International environmental politics***

- From chapter 11 in M&A: pp 396-417
- Barrett, "Why have climate negotiations proved so disappointing?" pp. 649-659 in M&S.

Fri. Apr. 12 ***Global health concerns***

- From chapter 11 in M&A: pp 418-425
- Garrett, "Ebola's lessons." pp. 680-688 in M&S

Mon. Apr. 15 ***Terrorism***

- Kydd and Walter, "The strategies of terrorism," pp. 402-424 in M&S.
- Fortna, "Do terrorists win?" pp. 425-444 in M&S.

Wed. Apr. 17 **Midterm Exam 2**

IV. Foreign policy challenges today

Fri. Apr. 19 ***Statehood***

- Fazal, Tanisha M., and Ryan D. Griffiths. 2014. "Membership has its privileges: The changing benefits of statehood." *International Studies Review* 16(1) 79-
- Caspersen, Nina. 2015. "The pursuit of international recognition after Kosovo." *Global Governance* 21: 393-412.

Mon. Apr. 22 ***The public and foreign policy***

- From chapter 6 in M&A: pp. 200-206.
- Baum, Matthew A. and Philip B.K. Potter. 2019. "Media, public opinion, and foreign policy in the age of Trump." *Journal of Politics*.

Wed. Apr. 24 *U.S. foreign policy under Trump*

- Yarhi-Milo, Keren. 2018. “After credibility: American foreign policy in the Trump era.” *Foreign Affairs* 97(1):68-77.
- Additional reading to be added

Fri. Apr. 26 *U.S. foreign policy: looking beyond 2020*

- Sullivan, Jake. 2018. “The world after Trump: How the system can endure.” *Foreign Affairs* 97(2): 10-19.
- Additional reading to be added

=> Final paper due on the day our final exam is scheduled.