

# 351 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

*Spring 2009*

*Department of Political Science*

*Muskingum College*

Dr. Ivan Dinev Ivanov

Class meets MWF 1-1:50 pm in WS Library

Office Hours: Mon & Wed noon-12:50 pm

Tue & Thu noon -1:50 pm

Or by appointment

Location: 106 Cambridge Hall

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course surveys various conceptual and theoretical frameworks for studying contemporary international relations. By combining theoretical and issue-specific approaches, the course intends to offer contending explanations about power, security, economic development, war and strife. Special attention will be paid on three different levels of analyzing international relations – the individual, the state and the international system. Furthermore, we will examine traditional theories of international relations such as realism, liberalism and novel approaches (e.g. constructivism), as well different methods of inquiry that they employ.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The students are expected to become familiar with major arguments in the literature, develop different analytical skills and apply them to contemporary cases of international politics. For this purpose, students should be able to identify core concepts such as relative and absolute gains, rationality, anarchy, etc and different components of each theory such as core assumptions, variables and explanatory models. Furthermore, they should become familiar with arguments in favor or against the relevance of variables such as military and economic power and strategy, democracy, economic interdependence etc. Lastly, the students should be able to relate policies and contemporary cases to theoretical models and present persuasive arguments based on the strengths and weaknesses of the various arguments

## **REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

<i>Course Requirements:</i>	<u>% of final grade</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Two In-Class Exams	40% (20% each)	2/16 and 4/3
Take-home final paper	30%	Exam Week
In-class Debates	15%	3/20; 3/27;

4/15; 4/24

Attendance and article discussions	10%	throughout the semester
Participation in article discussions	5%	See tentative schedule

*Grading Scale:*

93-100%	A	73-76%	C
90-92%	A-	70-72%	C-
87-89%	B+	67-69%	D+
83-86%	B	63-66%	D
80-82%	B-	60-62%	D-
77-79%	C+	0-59%	F

Please note that grades represent **NON-NEGOTIABLE** assessments of a student's comprehension of course material.

**POLICIES AND CAVEATS:**

If you have a disability that affects your performance in class, please notify the instructor **at the beginning of the term** in order to find an accommodation that meets best student's interests. Also, for advice and assistance you may contact the college's disability services office [need to check with Muskingum policies on disabilities!!!].

Students are expected to attend class, and attendance will be recorded at each class meeting. In the case of medical or other extraordinary circumstances, I should be informed **PRIOR** to the test about the student's impending absence by email and documentation must be provided when you return to class. Absences due to illness or injury will not be excused retroactively unless documentation is provided to the instructor. A student who misses a total of **FOURTEEN** (1/3) or more class meetings will receive a class participation grade of zero (0), and may also have his or her overall course grade reduced. A student who has a total of **TWENTY** (1/2) or more unexcused absences will receive a course grade of F.

I do **NOT** plan makeup examinations or quizzes. Missing an exam without prior permission of the instructor *may* result in a zero on that exam. Make-up tests will only be arranged in special cases, so please be sure to let me know as soon as possible if you will not be able to attend at the scheduled time.

Please note that the article discussions are important components of this course. Their purpose is to have the students familiarize themselves with original pieces of research and the presentation of the different arguments in the field of IR. Prior to the class discussion, a reading guide will be posted and the discussion will be organized around it. Please note that the students have a leading role assigned in the article discussion and the instructor's involvement is limited only to facilitating the discussion.

Lastly, I need to remind you that all of the work you submit in this course is expected to be your own. Students should review the Muskingum code of student conduct and be aware of all activities defined as academic dishonesty. Although I do

encourage students to exchange ideas and/or work together on certain assignments, *each student is responsible for completing and submitting his or her own homework*. Please be advised that according to Muskingum Code of Student Conduct “all forms of dishonesty and misconduct including, but not limited to the following are prohibited:

- a. Cheating plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty (these cases are adjudicated through the processes administered by the Vice-President for Academic Affairs)”<sup>1</sup>

For further information on plagiarism and appropriate citation visit the University of Wisconsin-Madison website and check a detailed instructional brochure about references on my webpage:

[http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocAPSA\\_PC.html](http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocAPSA_PC.html)

Please do not forget that all cell phones and pagers should be **turned off completely** (not muted!!!) during class time and I will be very disappointed to hear ring tones during our class.

#### **READINGS:**

1) The following two textbooks are required. They are available as a package at discounted price:

Karen A. Mingst, Essentials of International Relations, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (New York: W.W. Norton, 2008); ISBN 978-0-393-92897-6 (pbk)

Karen A. Mingst and Jack Snyder, “Essential Readings in World Politics,” 3<sup>rd</sup> ed (New York: W.W. Norton, 2008); There are 2 ISBN numbers ISBN –10 0-292-93114-5 and ISBN-13 0-393-93114-3.

3) There are readings in addition to the required textbook. Most readings will be available on the Internet via the class web page on Blackboard or links from Blackboard. When electronic versions of readings are not available, paper copies will be distributed in class or course pack will be available in the library and/or one of the university bookstores.

#### **PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

Why study international relations (IR)? Defining and conceptualizing IR: ontology and epistemology; methods and scope; levels of analysis; testing theories.

Mingst, pp. 1-15 (Approaches to International Relations)

Mingst and Snyder, (Jack Snyder, One World Rival Theories)

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<sup>1</sup> See Code of Student Conduct: General Regulations;” also available on the Internet: <http://www.muskingum.edu/home/campuslife/downloads/studenthandbook.pdf>, 06/04/2008.

## **PART 2: LEVELS OF ANALYSIS**

Mingst, pp. 139-161 (The Individual)

Mingst, pp. 99-138 (The State)

Mingst, pp. 81-98 (The International System)

J David Singer, "The Levels of Analysis Problem in International Relations," *World Politics*, Vol. 14 (1961), pp. 77-92.

## **PART 3: POWER, SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Mingst and Snyder, (Hans Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory")

Mingst and Snyder, (Hans Morgenthau, "The Balance of Power")

Waltz, "The Stability of a Bipolar World" and Deutsch and Singer "Multipolar Power Systems and International Stability)

Kenneth Waltz, "The Emerging Structure of International Politics," *International Security*, Vol. 18, No 2, pp. 44-79 (recommended).

Mingst and Snyder, (John Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and Struggle for Power")

Conversations with History: Kenneth Waltz, Ford Professor Emeritus of Political Science, UC Berkeley, February 10, 2003:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9eV5gPIPZg>

## **PART 4: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY, GLOBALIZATION AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Mingst, pp. 249-287 (International Political Economy)

Mingst and Jervis, (Helen Milner, Globalization and International Institutions)

Robert Keohane, "Power and Interdependence," pp. 4-22 (Recommended)

Critique:

\*\*Kenneth Waltz, *Globalization and Governance*, PS: Political Science and Politics, Vol. 32, No. 4. (December 1999), pp. 693-700.

Mingst and Jervis, (Immanuel Wallerstein, "The Rise and Future Demise of World Capitalist System")

## **PART 5: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, LAW AND INSTITUTIONS**

Mingst, pp. 163-208

Kenneth Oye, "Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies," *World Politics*, Vol. 38, No. 1. (Oct., 1985), pp. 1-24.

Mingst and Jervis, (John Mearsheimer "The False Promise of International Institutions,")

Lisa Martin and Robert Keohane, "The Promise of Institutional Theory," *International Security*, Vol. 20, No 1 (Summer 1995), pp. 39-51.

Mingst and Jervis, ("The Nature of Political Economy")

Mingst and Jervis, (Helen Milner “Globalization, Development and International Institutions)

## **PART 6: WAR AND STRIFE: THE ROLE OF DEMOCRATIC STATES IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

Mingst, pp. 209-248

Mingst and Jervis, (Barry Posen, “The Security Dilemma in International Politics”)

Mingst and Jervis, (Michael Ross, “Oils, Drugs and Diamonds”)

Michael Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics,” APSR, Vol. 80, No 4 (December 1986), pp. 1151-69.

David Lake, “Fair Fights: Evaluating Theories of Democracy and Victory,” International Security, Vol. 28, No1 (Summer 2003), pp. 154-167.

Christopher Layne, “Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace,” International Security, Vol. 19, No. 2. (Autumn, 1994), pp. 5-49.

Michael Desch, “Democracy and Victory: Why Regime Type Hardly Matters,” International Security, Vol. 27, No. 2 (Fall 2002), pp. 5–47.

## **PART 7: DOMESTIC AND BUREAUCRATIC SOURCES OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

Mingst and Jervis, (Robert Jervis, “Hypotheses on Misperception”)

Graham Allison, “The Essence of Decision,” Chapter 3 (Organizational Process), pp. 67-100 and Chapter 4 (Governmental/ Bureaucratic Model), pp. 144-84.

## **PART 9: NATIONALISM AND IDENTITY: THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

Mingst and Jervis, (Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It”)

Fireke and Joergensen, Chapter 1, pp. 3-10 (Recommended)

## **PART 10: MAJOR THEMES IN IR: GLOBALIZATION, U.S. HEGEMONY AND TERRORISM**

Mingst, pp. 288-328.

William Wolforth, “The Stability of the Unipolar World”

John J. Ikenberry, “The Stability of the Post-Cold War Order”

Christopher Layne, “The Peace of Illusions,” Cornell University Press, Chapter 7, pp. 234-58.

Mingst and Snyder, (Scott Sagan, “How to Keep the Bomb from Iran”)

Mingst and Snyder, (Robert Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism”)

**Additional Literature:**

Hans Morgenthau (1948) "Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace," Alfred Knopf, New York

Kenneth Waltz (1997), Evaluating Theories, The American Political Science Review, Vol. 91, No 4, pp. 913-17.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1979), "Theory of International Politics," New York: McGraw-Hill.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1999), Globalization and Governance, PS: Political Science and Politics, Vol. 32, No. 4, pp. 693-700.

John Mearsheimer (2001), "The Tragedy of Great Power Politics," WW Norton and Co.

Robert Keohane (1977), "Power and Interdependence: World Politics in Transition," Little Brown and Company.

Michael Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," APSR, Vol. 80, No 4 (December 1986), pp. 1151-69.

\_\_\_\_\_, Bruce Russett, Christopher Layne, David Spiro "The Democratic Peace" (In Correspondence), International Security Vol. 19, No 4, December 1986, pp. 164-84.

Christopher Layne, "Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace," International Security, Vol. 19, No. 2. (Autumn, 1994), pp. 5-49.

Lisa Martin and Robert Keohane, "The Promise of Institutional Theory," International Security, Vol. 20, No 1 (Summer 1995), pp. 39-51.

Christopher Layne, The Peace of Illusions, Cornell University Press, Chapter 7, pp. 234-58.

Robert Jervis, "Hypotheses on Misperception," World Politics Vol. 20, No 3 (April 1968), pp. 454-479.

Graham Allison, "Bureaucratic Politics: A Paradigm and Some Policy Implications," World Politics Vol. 24 (Supplement: Theory and Policy of International Relations), Spring 1972, pp. 40-79.

\_\_\_\_\_, "The Essence of Decision," Little Brown and Co, Boston, MA.

Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," International Organization, vol. 46, Spring 1992, pp. 391-426.

\_\_\_\_\_, *Social Theory of International Politics*, New York: New York University Press, 1995.

Fireke and Joergensen (2001), “Constructing International Relations: the next generation,” Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, c2001.

David Lake, “Fair Fights: Evaluating Theories of Democracy and Victory,” *International Security*, Vol. 28, No1 (Summer 2003), pp. 154-167;

Michael Desch, “Democracy and Victory: Why Regime Type Hardly Matters,” *International Security*, Vol. 27, No. 2 (Fall 2002), pp. 5–47.

J. John Ikenberry “Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of American Postwar Order,” *International Security*, Vol. 23, No. 3. (Winter, 1998-1999), pp. 43-78.<sup>2</sup>

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week One 1/12-1/16	1/12 Introduction to the course	1/14 Introduction to international relations	1/16 Major sub-fields and topics of IR
Week Two 1/19 – 1/23	1/19 <i>MLK Jr. Day (no classes)</i>	1/21 Levels of analysis: the individual	1/23 Levels of analysis: the state
Week Three 1/26 – 1/30	1/26 Levels of analysis: the international system	1/28 Introduction to international security (IS): the role of power	1/30 <b>Article discussion:</b> J. David Singer, The Levels of Analysis Problem
Week Four 2/2 – 2/6	2/2 IS: alliances	2/4 IS: appeasement & accommodation	2/6 IS: deterrence & containment
Week Five 2/9 – 2/13	2/9 Realism in IR	2/11 Classical Realism	2/13 Defensive Realism
Week Six 2/16 – 2/20	2/16 Conversations with History: Kenneth Waltz (youtube.com)	2/18 <b>Midterm One</b>	2/20 Offensive Realism I
Week Seven 2/23 – 2/27	2/23 Offensive Realism II <b>Early assessment grades due</b>	2/25 Realism: Concluding Remarks; Q&A	2/27 <b>Article discussion:</b> Waltz, Realism and Globalization
3/2 – 3/6	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
Week Eight 3/9 – 3/13	3/9 Introduction to International Cooperation and	3/11 International Institutionalism	3/13 <b>Article Discussion:</b> Arguments in support of int’l institutions

<sup>2</sup> This syllabus is subject to change. I reserve the right to add supplementary readings if necessary.

	Institutions		
Week Nine 3/16 – 3/20	3/16 Introduction to International Political Economy	3/18 Neo-liberalism: globalization and interdependence	3/20 <b>Debate One:</b> Do international institutions make difference in international politics and why? Compare two different cases.
Week Ten 3/23 – 3/27	3/23 Democratic Peace Theory (DPT)	3/25 Democratic Victory Theory (DVT)	3/27 <b>Debate Two (Part One):</b> Do Democracies make a difference in IR? Discuss the explanatory power and consequences of DPT
Week Eleven 3/30 – 3/4	3/30 <b>Article discussion:</b> M. Desch, Criticism of DPT & DVT	4/1 Individual Sources of Int'l Politics	4/3 <b>Midterm Two</b>
Week Twelve 4/6 – 4/10	4/6 Organizational Sources of Int'l Politics	4/8 Bureaucratic Sources of Int'l Politics	4/10 <i>Easter Holiday break (no classes)</i>
Week Thirteen 4/13 – 4/17	4/13 Constructivism I (Approaches to ontology and epistemology)	4/15 Constructivism II	4/17 <b>Debate Two (Part Two):</b> Do Democracies make a difference in IR? Discuss the explanatory power and consequences of the DVT (Desch – Lake debate).
Week Fourteen 4/20 – 4/24	4/20 <b>Article Discussion: Alex Wendt</b> , Social Construction of Int'l Politics	4/22 Power and Imbalance: the conceptualization and approaches to hegemony.	4/24 <b>Debate Three:</b> Is U.S. power beneficial to world politics (how is it and how is it not)? Will American power remain significant for the next 50 years? Why will it or why will not?
Week Fifteen 4/20 – 4/24	4/27 Final paper: paper instructions, in-class discussion Q&A	4/29 Conclusion: IR, sovereignty and the war on terror	