

POS 202: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Spring 2019 Parkland College
SYLLABUS (subject to revision)

Dr. Dale Gardner
Parkland College

Office: D184
Office hours: T Th, 11:00 – 1:00 pm
or by appointment
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This course introduces students to International Relations. It is designed to cover a wide range of topics in the field of international relations. The discipline traditionally focuses on political relationships between sovereign nation-states in the modern world. This course will include coverage of major historical developments in international relations beginning with World War I. Students will be introduced to a range of theoretical approaches for analyzing interstate politics in an anarchical world political system. These theoretical approaches include realism, liberalism, Marxism, and constructivism. The theories will be applied to current and past issues in foreign policy, including recurrence of war, economics and trade, human rights, population management, and environmental degradation.

Additionally, students will analyze a series of real world cases in order to take the perspective of actual decision-makers in international politics. Finally, we will consider developments in the area of global governance in recent years, and consider whether or not interstate anarchy remains the most useful model for understanding international political events.

OBJECTIVES

International politics is inherently complex. Theories permit us as observers and participants in world affairs to develop a simplified understanding of why things happen the way they do. All understandings are not equally valid; they must be rested against empirical evidence to establish their plausibility. Accordingly, this course has three specific goals focused on empowering students to understand the international political world. They are:

- To promote analytical reasoning about issues in international affairs
- To introduce analytical approaches and concepts frequently used to understand international affairs
- To build a base of knowledge about past and present issues in international affairs

APPROACH

There are readings, essay quizzes, chapter quizzes, an exam, a presentation/critique, and a series of short weekly papers. Extra credit is available.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades are based on the following:

- Chapter Quizzes 6%
- Short Essay Quizzes 12%
- 12 Weekly, 2+ page papers, 3% each, 36% total
- Topic Presentation and Critique of 3 others, 10% total
- Final Exam, 30%
- Participation, 6%
- Various bonus possibilities

Required Text:

Nau, Henry R., Perspectives on International Relations: Power, Institutions, Ideas, Sixth Edition, 2018, CQ Press, Sage Publications

Powerpoint lectures on the chapters will be available on COBRA. Also, you may be required to read other materials as assigned.

PAPERS

Each paper should probably be around 500 words in length and submitted electronically. Please remember, short papers can be better than long ones. The papers should show some original research on the topic area and thoroughly apply ideas and techniques learned from class. ***Be careful to avoid plagiarism!*** Papers can be reworked for more credit. More details on how to do the papers is on COBRA.

QUIZZES

Chapter quizzes are fill-in-the-blank. The automatic scoring is very touchy with spelling or word order, so I inevitably audit and rescore appropriately. You can retake the fill-in-the-blank quizzes up to 5 times. The short essay quizzes should be around a paragraph or so. You may retake a short essay quiz after reading the feedback.

PRESENTATIONS & EVALUATIONS

Each student will make a PowerPoint presentation on their topic. You will be given very specific questions to address, including history, perspective, specified model, and predictions. Students are encouraged to be part of small groups helping each other with the PowerPoints. Students will then assess a subset of these presentations, comparing and contrasting them with their own topic. More details on both of these assignments are on COBRA.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam will be multiple choice and multiple response, and will cover the entire textbook. An extensive study guide will be available. The test will be timed, but open book.

Student-Faculty conference

Everyone should consider at least one appointment with the instructor. It would be useful to help with paper topics as well as any difficulty with the text materials. Such appointments need to be made as early as possible.

Center for Academic Success

The Center for Academic Success provides a wide range of academic support services to enable you learn well, grow as a student, succeed in your classes, and excel at what you do. These services include the following:

1. **Tutoring and Learning Assistance:** Make use of walk-in tutoring services provided by faculty, staff and trained peer tutors, Monday through Friday. Many students come to get help in study skills, reading, writing, math (all levels), and many other subjects.
2. **For-credit Modules and Tutorials:** Enroll in one-credit hour Tutorials to supplement classroom instruction in reading, writing, ESL, math, chemistry, and study skills. Modules are available for eligible students to complete certain developmental coursework requirements.
3. **Advising and Advocacy:** Work with our team of advocates and academic advisor to plan a semester schedule, understand transfer requirements, or manage issues that stand in the way of school.

Core Values

We believe strongly in the Core Values espoused by Parkland College: Honesty and Integrity, Fairness and Just Treatment, Responsibility, Multiculturalism, Education, and Public Trust. Essentially, these values set guidelines for how we should treat you and how you should treat each other (and us). Failure to be respectful of one another or to maintain ethical behavior will not be tolerated (“See Working Relationship Below”).

Drops/Withdrawals

On the ten-day roster, I am required to assess your attendance. If you have not participated regularly by that point, you will be dropped with no refund of tuition or fees. After the ten-day roster, you should not plan on an instructor withdrawal if you want to withdraw from the course. You are ultimately responsible for your own withdrawal by the withdrawal date. Non-participation after the ten-day mark will result in an F if you don't withdraw yourself.

Academic Honesty

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Papers must be in the student's own words and not copied from the internet or books nor contracted out to a service. Complete and thorough references are required for all sources used. When quoting from sources, detailed references are required. Any quotes should form only a minor proportion of a paper. During exams, students must do their own work, and unless explicitly allowed for, must not be using notes in any written or electronic form. If dishonesty occurs, expect no credit for the assignment and it will be reported up the academic chain of command for possible additional penalties. See www2.parkland.edu/studentpolicy/honesty.html

Working Relationship

Given the emphasis placed on group interaction, student-to-professor and student-to-student interaction at Parkland College, disruptive students will not be tolerated in any manner. Each student will be given the highest level of respect. Therefore, I expect the same in return. If you are deemed disruptive, you will be dropped from the course and disciplinary action could result from your conduct.

Extra Credit

You will be given the opportunity to earn extra credit. However, you should be forewarned that all extra credit assignments are subjected to a heightened level of scrutiny and may take longer to grade (because I grade all of the required work first).

Course Withdrawal

We are REQUIRED to withdraw students by midterm who has not been attending class. After midterm, withdrawal becomes THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY of the student.

Disability:

If you believe you have a disability for which you may need an academic accommodation (e.g. an alternate testing environment, use of assistive technology or other classroom assistance), please contact: Cathy Robinson, Room X148, 217-353-2082, crobinson@parkland.edu

Mass Notification System

In the event of a significant campus emergency, Parkland College will activate its mass notification system. We encourage you to sign up for this free service and select how you would like to be notified: text message, audio message, or email message. Sign up at <http://www2.parkland.edu/publicsafety/alerts.htm>

Computer Related Technology Assistance for Students

"Parkland College offers help with technical questions and issues regarding Email, COBRA, My.Parkland and Wi-Fi access. Visit the **STAR (Student Technical Assistance & Resources)** office in D-248, contact the STAR Hotline at 217-353-3333, or email star@parkland.edu for technical assistance."

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings	Quiz Due	Paper Due
Jan 15	Syllabus & IR	Syllabus	Bonus	
Jan 17	Why We Disagree about International Relations			Paper Topic
Jan 20			Quiz Intro, Short Essay Intro	
Jan 22				
Jan 24	How to Think about International Relations	Chapter 1		Paper 1
Jan 27			Quiz 1, Short Essay 1	
Jan 29				
Jan 31	World War I	Chapter 2		Paper 2
Feb 3			Quiz 2, Short Essay 2	
Feb 5				
Feb 7	World War II	Chapter 3		Paper 3
Feb 10			Quiz 3, Short Essay 3	
Feb 12				
Feb 14	Origins and End of the Cold War	Chapter 4		Paper 4
Feb 17			Quiz 4, Short Essay 4	
Feb 19				
Feb 21	Realism on International System	Chapter 5		Paper 5
Feb 24			Quiz 5, Short Essay 5	
Feb 26				
Feb 28	NO CLASS			
Mar 3				
Mar 5	Liberalism on International System	Chapter 6		Paper 6
Mar 7				
Mar 10			Quiz 6, Short Essay 6	
Mar 12	Identity Perspectives on International System	Chapter 7		Paper 7
Mar 14				
Mar 19	SPRING BREAK			
Mar 21	SPRING BREAK			
Mar 24			Quiz 7, Short Essay 7	
Mar 26	Realism & Liberalism on Globalization	Chapter 8		Paper 8
Mar 28				

COURSE SCHEDULE continued				
Mar 31			Quiz 8, Short Essay 8	
Apr 2	Identity Perspectives on Globalization	Chapter 9		Paper 9
Apr 4				
Apr 7			Quiz 9, Short Essay 9	
Apr 9	Critical Theory Perspectives	Chapter 10		Paper 10
Apr 11				
Apr 14			Quiz 10, Short Essay 10	
Apr 16	Applying Perspectives	Conclusion		Paper 11
Apr 18				
Apr 21			Quiz Conclusion, Short Essay Conclusion	
Apr 23	Presentations			Paper 12
Apr 25	Presentations			
Apr 30	Presentations			
May 2	Presentations			
May 7	Presentations			
May 9	Review for Final			Bonus Paper
May 10	FINAL			FINAL