

International Politics (POSC 2601-101)

Spring 2024

T/TH 3:30-4:45 PM

Wehr Life Science 111

Instructor: Jackie Sirovina

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Office Hours: T/TH 1:00-2:00 PM; by appointment

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Course Description

This introductory course will provide students with a general overview of the field of international politics. No previous coursework or background in international relations or political science is required. We will discuss the basis of key approaches and perspectives (i.e. realism, liberalism, constructivism, Marxism), determine the role and interests of various actors (i.e. states, non-state actors), and review pressing topics, such as power, international conflict, terrorism, global trade, development, and environmental concerns, in the field of international relations. The objective of the course is for students to understand why and how actors interact with one another in the international arena and how this not only affects those actors involved, but the world itself.

Required Texts

Goldstein, Joshua and Jon Pevehouse. 2020. International Relations. 12th ed. Addison Longman. ISBN-13 9780135229255.

The required textbook is available online and via print. I recommend purchasing the textbook online for immediate access. Access to the textbook online will require a 4-month subscription, \$10.99 per month, to Pearson+ available here: <https://www.pearson.com/store/en-us/pearsonplus/p/9780137501328.html>.

All other required texts will be uploaded to D2L.

Course Requirements

In this course, you will prepare for and attend all lectures, take three exams, write two current events papers, and write ten discussion posts. Details of each task are listed below. For this three-credit course, it is estimated that you will undergo approximately 115 hours of reading, lectures, discussion posts, current events papers, and exams. Over the course of the semester, it is estimated that there will be about 30 hours of lecture, 45 hours of reading the textbook and other required material, 20 hours of

writing discussion posts and current event papers, and 20 hours of studying and taking exams. Although the exact breakdown will vary by student and by week, my expectation is that students will spend sufficient time preparing and executing the course requirements.

Lectures

This course will meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 4:45 PM in Wehr Life Science 111. If COVID-19 protocols emerge, causing a shift from face-to-face to an online format, an immediate email update will be sent on how the rest of the course will move forward.

Engagement 10%

Students are expected to prepare for and attend all class periods (with exceptions due to COVID-19, military duty, and religious observances). An attendance sheet will be presented each class period in which students must sign their name. Participation points will come from how engaged students are in classroom activities, such as questions asked, questions answered, current event presentations, and other additional contributions. Attendance and participation will make up 10% of the final grade.

Discussion Posts 30%

Over the course of the semester, students must complete ten of the eleven weekly discussion questions composing 30% of the final grade (3% each post). If all eleven discussion posts are completed, the lowest grade will be dropped. Discussion posts are due by 11:59 PM on the date listed in the Course Schedule (below). Late assignments will not be accepted without an approved university excuse.

Each week, one or more discussion question(s) will be posted to D2L's "Discussions" section. Each of the questions in the prompt must be addressed when completing the weekly discussion post assignment. Responses must demonstrate that you have attended the lectures and read the required materials and thus, understand the topic of the discussion. Be sure to include all relevant information from the course lectures, textbook, and other reading material to support your answer. Outside sources are not required, however, if choose to use any sources beyond the course material, correct citations must be included. Failure to properly cite outside material will result in a 0 for that week's discussion post. To attain full points for the weekly discussion assignment, discussion responses must be written in complete sentences and reach a minimum of 300 words (approximately just over a half-page single-spaced).

In addition to posting your own original response to the discussion questions listed, you must also comment on another student's post with a minimum of 100 words (approximately a quarter-page length single-spaced). Commenting on another student's post could include things such as why you agree or disagree with their answer (and provide evidence to support your argument) or explaining why you thought their response was interesting or unique (i.e. they addressed something you didn't think of). While you do not have to agree with your classmates, all responses must follow

appropriate forms of classroom behavior. Please be thoughtful of your responses to your classmates and treat them with respect. Any responses that are abusive, profane, or are personal attacks against another student will result in a loss of points for the weekly discussion assignment and will result in a warning. If attacks continue, you will be reported to the Dean of Students and will result in a loss of all points for the discussion posts portion of your final grade.

Current Event Papers 10%

Students must complete and present two current event papers worth 10% of their final grade (5% each paper). Current event papers will require students to engage with current events and apply these events to the course material. Students will choose two weeks of the course to complete their current event papers at the start of the semester. Papers must be uploaded by 11:59 PM the night before the class period they signed-up to present.

For each paper, students must summarize and analyze two to three related, reliable news articles that were published within two-weeks of the course topic chosen. News articles chosen must be from reliable news sources such as the Al Jazeera, BBC, CNN, the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and so forth. If unsure whether an article is considered a reliable source, please contact me prior to the start of your assignment. All news articles chosen must be properly cited in text and in a reference section at the end of the assignment.

In terms of the format for the current event papers, all assignments must meet a minimum of a 500 words (not including the reference page) and be written in an essay format. There must be a title, introduction, multiple body paragraphs, a conclusion, and a reference section.

In the body paragraphs, students will develop the core objectives of the assignment. The summary of the articles will discuss what the articles are about. Questions that must be answered in the summary portion of the assignment include: What is the event that occurred? Who are the main actors (i.e. states, individuals, international organizations, NGOs, MNCs, etc)? And what the most important facts or arguments of the articles? Following the summaries, the next task is to analyze the news articles. Analysis will examine why these articles are important for international relations and how it relates to the current topic of the course. In your discussion, you must include at least three different terms and theories from the textbook, additional readings, and lecture material surrounding the topic chosen at the beginning of the semester (i.e. if your topic is “Realism” you must choose terms and theories from Chapter 2 of the textbook or the lecture notes). As you write, you are required to **bold** and underline the term/theory chosen followed by a definition of the term/theory before applying it to the news article. In the application stage, you will explain why the article is a good example of the terms or theories chosen.

Once completed the summary and analysis of the two or three articles chosen, you must write a brief conclusion of what you have learned from this assignment. The

conclusion can address questions like, how these events may affect you (directly or indirectly), why it is important to keep up with current events, or anything else you have learned (or relearned) from completing the assignment.

After the paper is submitted to D2L (by 11:59 PM before the class period chosen to present on), students must prepare a two to three minute verbal presentation on their current event paper addressing what event took place and how it relates to the class topic of the week. Presentations will be at the start of each class period.

Exams 50%

A total of three exams will be administered throughout the semester. Exams are not cumulative. The first exam will cover the topics of the introduction to international relations, globalization, international relations theories (realism, liberalism, and other social theories), and foreign policy. The second exam will cover the topics of international conflict, military force and terrorism, and international organizations, law, and human rights. And the third exam will cover international trade, global finance and business, the North-South gap, international development, and various other international concerns. While the exams are not cumulative, each midterm exams will be worth 15% and the final exam will be worth 20% of the final grade.

The format of exams will consist of true and false, multiple choice, and short answer questions. A study guide will be distributed one week prior to the exam date listed below in the “Course Schedule” section of the syllabus. During exam weeks, Tuesdays will be for exam review while Thursdays will be designated for the exams. No make-up exams will be allowed without an approved university excuse.

Grading Policies

Consistent with the descriptions above, the course will be based on ten discussion posts (3% each), two current events papers (5% each), two midterms (15% each), a final exam (20%), and attendance and participation (10%). In other words, 10% of the final grade will consist of engagement, 30% discussion posts, 10% of current events papers, and 50% of exams.

Grades will be calculated on a 100-point scale (see below). There will be no other extra credit or grading curve.

A = 100-94

B = 86-84

C = 76-74

D = 66-64

A- = 93-90

B- = 83-80

C- = 70-73

D- = 60-63

B+ = 89-87

C+ = 79-77

D+ = 69-67

F = 59-0

Marquette University Policies

Information regarding several standing policies of Marquette University are available at <https://www.marquette.edu/central/registrar/academic-policies.php>.

Academic Misconduct

Students who engage in academic misconduct will receive a 0 for the assignment or exam under review and will be reported to the proper Marquette University authorities to face sanctions from the university. Academic misconduct is considered, but not limited to, cheating on exams or assignments, presenting work that is not your own (this includes not properly citing others), working with others on assignments and exams, and assisting other students in such acts. A full list of possible sources of academic misconduct is listed here: <https://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/#academiccensureprobationdismissalacademicalert>.

Resources for Students

Special Accommodations

Students who need special accommodations to the course should contact me as soon as possible.

Students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Services provides a variety of resources for faculty in helping to ensure that you offer necessary accommodations for students (<https://www.marquette.edu/disability-services/instructor-resources.php>).

If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact me early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Office of Disability Services. If you are unsure of what you need to qualify for services, visit the Office of Disability Service's website at www.marquette.edu/disability-services or contact the Office of Disability Services at 414-288-1645.

Students called to active military duty. Students with active military duty must contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements. Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty should be noted. <https://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/#militarycalltoactivedutyortraining>.

COVID-19. Students who become sick with COVID-19 must contact me within the first week of a positive test-result to discuss deadlines for assignments and exams. It is your responsibility as a Marquette University student to protect the health and safety of our community in this course. The University has mandated vaccination for all students for the academic year 2021-2022. COVID Cheq will still be used, but those fully vaccinated that provide documentation will no longer receive the daily symptom

screening survey. Instead, they will receive a daily email providing a green check. You may be required to show your automated green check to show clearance for entry into campus buildings. If you are experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19, you must follow the link in the automated email to report symptoms. Visit Marquette's [What to do if you are exposed to COVID-19 or test positive website](https://www.marquette.edu/coronavirus/what-to-do-if-you-are-exposed-or-test-positive.php) for university guidelines on the best course of action (<https://www.marquette.edu/coronavirus/what-to-do-if-you-are-exposed-or-test-positive.php>).

Academic Support

Research Support. Marquette's Raynor Memorial Libraries and Ray and Kay Eckstein Law Library support the university's teaching, research and service mission by providing access to vast collections of recorded knowledge as well as a variety of research services, friendly expertise, technology tools and collaborative spaces. For more information, visit <https://www.marquette.edu/library/>.

Writing Support. The Ott Memorial Writing Center offers free one-on-one consultations for all writers, working on any project, at any stage of the writing process. Marquette's writing center is a place for all writers who care about their writing, because every writer can benefit from conversation with an interested, knowledgeable peer. Writing center tutors can help you brainstorm ideas, revise a rough draft, or fine-tune a final draft. You can schedule a 30- or 60-minute appointment in advance (288-5542 or www.marquette.edu/writing-center), but walk-ins (in 240 Raynor or our other satellite locations) are also welcome. The Ott Memorial Writing Center also offers free workshops and hosts writing retreats.

Tutoring. The Office of Student Educational Services offers tutoring free of charge for Marquette students (1000-2000 level courses only) for a wide variety of undergraduate courses including many science, mathematics and foreign language courses. The tutoring program offers small-group tutoring only. Small groups meet for one hour each week and are divided by subject/instructor. Three requests for the same subject and instructor are necessary to form a group. In addition, groups are formed based on availability of tutors and student schedules. To sign up, go to the Coughlin Hall, Room 145, and complete a Tutor Request Form.

Course Schedule

Topic	Date	Readings/Assignments
Syllabus and Introduction to the Course	January 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post a brief introduction of yourself within the “Preparation Activities” Module on D2L by Sunday, January 21 at 11:59 PM - Current event sign-up due Sunday, January 21 at 11:59 PM
The Globalization of International Relations	January 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 1, The Globalization of International Relations (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020) - Discussion Post 1 due by Sunday, January 21 at 11:59 PM
Realism	January 23, 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 2, Realist Theories (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020) - Will China's Rise Lead to War? Why Realism Does Not Mean Pessimism. (Glaser 2011) - Discussion Post 2 due by Sunday, January 28 at 11:59 PM
Liberalism and Other Social Theories	January 30, February 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 3, Liberal and Social Theories (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020) - Recommended Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Relations: One World, Many Theories (Walt 1998) - Discussion Post 3 due by Sunday, February 4 at 11:59 PM
Foreign Policy	February 6, 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 4, Foreign Policy (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020) - The CNN effect (Strobel 1996) - Recommended Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis (Allison 1969) - International Decision Making: Leadership Matters (Hermann and Hagan 1998) - Discussion Post 4 due by Sunday, February 11 at 11:59 PM
Exam Week 1	February 13, 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Study Guide - Catch Up and Review Day: February 13 - Midterm 1: February 15

International Conflict	February 20, 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 5, International Conflict (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020) - Discussion Post 5 due by Sunday, February 25 at 11:59 PM - NOTE: there are videos required to watch for your discussion post: India-Pakistan Conflict (approx. 30 minutes)
Military Force and Terrorism	February 27, 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 6, Military Force and Terrorism (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020) - Nuclear Weapons Don't Matter: But Nuclear Hysteria Does (Mueller 2018) - The Good Enough Doctrine: Learning to Live with Terrorism (Byman 2021) - Discussion Post 6 due by Sunday, March 3 at 11:59 PM
International Organization, Law, and Human Rights	March 5, 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 7, International Organization, Law, and Human Rights (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020) - Recommended Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UN Charter - Discussion Post 7 due by Sunday, March 10 at 11:59 PM
Spring Break	March 10-16	
Exam Week 2	March 19, 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Study Guide - Catch Up and Review Day: March 19 - Midterm 2: March 21
International Trade	March 26, April 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 8, International Trade (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020) - The Toll of Economic War (Mulder March 2022) - The Collateral Damage of a Long Economic War (Mulder September 2022) - Discussion Post 8 due by Wednesday, April 3 at 11:59 PM

Global Finance and Business	April 4, 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 9, Global Finance and Business (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020) - Selections from Chapter 13, International Development (13.3 North-South Capital Flows, all subsections) (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020) - Discussion Post 9 due by Wednesday, April 10 at 11:59 PM
The North-South Gap	April 11, 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 12, The North-South Gap (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020) - More than 1 Billion People are Hungry in the World (Banerjee and Duflo 2011)
International Development	April 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selections from Chapter 13, International Development (13.1 Experiences, 13.2 Lessons, 13.4 Foreign Assistance, all subsections) (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020) - Discussion Post 10 due by Sunday, April 21 at 11:59 PM
International Concerns (Environment and Population)	April 23, 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 11, Environment and Population (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020) - With Great Demographics Comes Great Power: Why Population Will Drive Geopolitics (Eberstadt 2019)
International Concerns (Disease)	April 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Global Threat of New and Reemerging Infectious Diseases. Chapters 1 and 2 (Brower and Chalk 2013) - Do Pandemics Promote Peace? Why Sickness Slows the March to War (Posen 2020) - How the Coronavirus Sows Civil Conflict (Brown, Hurlburt, and Stark 2020) - Discussion Post 11 due by Wednesday, May 1 at 11:59 PM
Final Exam Review	May 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Study Guide - Catch Up and Review Day: May 2
Exam Week 3	May 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final Exam: Thursday, May 9 from 8 AM to 10 AM