

Political Science 160
Introduction to World Politics
Fall 2009

Professor James Morrow
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Course website: ctools.umich.edu

Lecture: TTh 10:00-11:00
Natural Science Auditorium

Office Hours: T 2:00-4:00 and by Appointment

Administrative Assistant

Neill Mohammad
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Office Hours: M 10:00-11:00,
Th 11:00-12:00, and by Appointment

Graduate Student Instructors

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The Content of the Course

This course provides an introduction to the scientific study of world politics. It focuses on theories used to explain international and domestic politics central to world politics in its full generality. The evidence for such theories lies in patterns of behavior over time, although extensive examples and cases will be presented both to illuminate the concepts of the theories and to help the student see how theories try to explain individual events.

The course begins with an introduction to world politics. The central concepts of actors and their power, preferences, and perceptions are explained in detail. The course uses these three concepts to explain why war occurs, how states prepare for the possibility of war, and the consequences of war afterwards. After this section on security and conflict, the course turns to analyze cooperation and conflict in the international political economy. Specific issues of trade, monetary affairs, and the environment are discussed next. The course ends by examining questions of values and the state system in world politics.

Course Objectives

This course has the following objectives:

- To explain the strategic logics of world politics so the student can understand why events occur.
- To develop the ability to use the concepts and arguments presented in the course to analyze current issues in world politics in paper assignments and discussion in section.
- To improve the student's ability to write effective short pieces through paper assignments and essay exams.

Administrative Guidelines

Students are expected to attend all of the lectures and all of the meetings of their discussion section. The lectures will present material beyond that presented in the readings. Students are also expected to submit their papers by the due dates and take the examinations at the scheduled times. **Late papers will suffer a reduction of at least one grade.** Alternate times for the midterm and final examinations are possible only for students who can demonstrate that taking the exam at the scheduled time would impose a serious hardship on them. Students who cannot take examinations at the scheduled times for medical reasons must produce a valid medical excuse. Students who will be out of town on the day of an exam on university business must provide documentation of the need to travel that day in advance.

All administrative matters will be handled by Mr. Neill Mohammad, the administrative assistant. These matters include drop/adds, make-up exams, and complaints about grading. Only if an issue cannot be resolved with Mr. Mohammad should it be brought to Professor Morrow.

There is a strict limit of 25 students in each discussion section and 20 in the honors section. He will be available immediately after the first three lecture classes to address administrative issues.

Course Requirements and Grading

Students will write two in-class examinations and two 1000-word papers for this class. Additionally, each discussion leader will grade his or her students on the basis of other activities in section. The assignments will have the following weights in the calculation of final grades for the course:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Date</u>
First Paper	15%	October 8
Midterm Examination	20%	October 22
Second Paper	20%	December 3
Final Examination	25%	December 21
Section Assignments	20%	Various Times

The section leaders and the professor will meet weekly to insure consistency of grading across the sections.

We collect bluebooks in advance of the examinations and redistribute them the day of the exams. You will need to provide three bluebooks for the two exams, and we will announce when we will begin collecting them.

Those students who have been approved by the Office of Student Services for special considerations in taking examinations should bring that paperwork to me or Mr. Mohammad as soon as possible so we can make arrangements to accommodate your needs.

Any complaints about the grading of an assignment must be made in writing and submitted first to the leader of your discussion section. In the event that the disagreement cannot be resolved, you may appeal to the administrative assistant to have your assignment regraded by another reader. Your GSI will inform you of the dates when you can file a grade appeal when graded work is returned.

Intellectual Honesty

As some students are entering college, a brief review of two important issues of intellectual honesty are in order. First, the examinations are closed book; you are not allowed to use any notes or books when writing them. You should bring several pens to the examinations in case one fails. You may write the examinations in pencil, but then you forfeit your right to contest your grade if you do.

Second, you must use quotation marks and provide proper citations when you use the exact words of another author. You also need to cite an author whose argument you summarize or paraphrase in your papers. Your papers must provide citations and a list of references for the sources of facts you use in them. Your GSI will explain his or her preferred form of citation before the papers are due. Appropriate sources for papers will be discussed in class.

Required Reading

This course does not use a textbook. There is a course pack of chapters I have written for this course, which will be available for purchase at Ulrich's. I will also place several coursepacks on reserve in the library. Several chapters of the text are still in preparation at this time. They will be made available in electronic form through the CTools site for the course. These chapters are marked on the syllabus with an asterisk for lectures late in the semester.

For some lectures, we may assign topical news articles for discussion in section. As these articles will cover current events, I will choose them during the term and distribute them electronically.

Section/discussion leaders may also require additional readings as part of their section activities.

The course website is available through your personal page in UM CTools. This page contains outlines and presentations for each class lecture in advance of class and links to additional web sources that you may find useful for the course.

Outline of Lecture Topics and Required Readings

September 8: Introductory Meeting

September 10: What is World Politics?

Chapter 1, What is World Politics?

September 15: Actors in World Politics

Chapter 2, Actors in World Politics

September 17: The Logic of Threats and Promises

Chapter 3, The Logic of Threats and the Problem of Credibility and Chapter 4,
The Logic of Promises and the Problem of Commitment

First Paper Assignment out

September 22: Military Power and Its Limits
Chapter 5, Military Power and Its Limits

September 24: Preferences
Chapter 6, Preferences

September 29: Perceptions and Their Role in Decisions
Chapter 7, Perceptions and How They Matter in Decisions and Chapter 8,
Persuasion and How Perceptions Change

October 1: Strategic Theories of War: Bargaining
Chapter 9, War and the Problem of Bargaining

October 6: Strategic Theories of War: Commitment
Chapter 10, Commitment Problems and War

October 8: Bureaucratic Politics and International Conflict
Chapter 11, Bureaucratic Politics

The First Paper is due at the end of lecture on October 8.

October 13: Security Policy: Arms and Alliances
Chapter 12, Arms and Alliances: The Elements of Security Policy

October 15: Structural Theories of War: Balance of Power and Power Transition
Chapter 13, Balance of Power and Power Transition

October 20: **No class**; Fall Study Break

October 22: **Midterm Examination in Class**

October 27: Strategic Theories of War: The Fate of Leaders
Chapter 14, The Fate of Leaders

October 29: War and External Changes in Regimes and Leaders
Chapter 15, The Enemy Outside

November 3: The Democratic Peace
Chapter 16, The Democratic Peace

November 5: Terrorism
Chapter 17, Terrorism

November 10: International Institutions: Enforcement
Chapter 18, International Cooperation and the Problem of Enforcement

November 12: International Institutions: Distribution and Information
Chapter 19, The Problems of Cooperation: Distribution and Information
Second Paper Assignment out

November 17: The Environment and International Cooperation
Chapter 20, International Cooperation on Environmental Issues*

November 19: The Politics of International Trade
Chapter 21, The Politics of Trade

November 24: Monetary Affairs
Chapter 22, The Politics of Monetary Affairs

November 26: **No class**; Thanksgiving Break

December 1: Globalization
Chapter 23, Trade, Money, and Finance in a Globalized World*

December 3: Values, Norms, and International Humanitarian Law
Chapter 24, Norms and International Law*

The Second Paper is due at the end of lecture on December 3.

December 8: Why a System of Sovereign States?
Chapter 25, Sovereignty*

December 10: Wrap Up
Chapter 26, Conclusion*

The Final Examination is Monday, December 21 from 10:30 AM-12:30 PM.