

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES

BLHV-240-01
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Mr. Michael McMahon
571-213-1636
mom6@georgetown.edu

640 Mass. Ave
Office Hours: By Appointment

Overview

This course is designed to provide students with a basic framework for understanding the nature of contemporary international relations. The first part covers the intellectual traditions and classical theories used for examining the international system (realism, liberalism, radicalism, behavioralism). The second part looks at enduring issues in global security; globalization, the problem of war, terrorism and the emerging crises of environmental change and natural resource depletion. Throughout the course, we will take time to discuss the ethical dilemmas we confront when theory meets real world developments. Upon completion, students should be able to identify key concepts, actors, and issues in the modern interstate system and be prepared for advanced coursework in the field of international relations.

This class consists primarily of lecture with time set-aside for in-class discussion and other activities. In addition to the assigned readings, students are expected to maintain awareness of major international developments by reading a domestic news source such as the *Washington Post* and a reputable foreign news source such as the BBC or Deutsche Welle on-line. Students are encouraged to invest in a decent world atlas in order to familiarize themselves with the location and geography of major global activities.

Class Requirements

WRITTEN WORK:

There are four writing assignments. They will be due roughly one per month.

PAPER 1: The first paper is a reflection on one of the key introductory themes of the course. We will discuss specifics in our first meeting. **Length: 2-3 pages. Value: 15% of total grade.**

PAPER 2: The second paper will offer a critical analysis of the major theories of international relations. Which do you find most valid, and why? **Length: 5-6 pages. Value: 20% of total grade.**

PAPER 3: The third paper is a critical analysis of the Bremmer book. Offer a critique of his overall theme, and support your reasoning with strong arguments. **Length: 5-6 pages. Value: 20% of total grade.**

PAPER 4: The fourth paper is a take-home final exam. The exam consists of short essay responses to questions designed for you to demonstrate your knowledge of the subject material presented throughout the course. The exam will be take-home so that you have opportunity to compose your thoughts more coherently without the pressures of an in-class exam. Deliver to me via-email. **Due via-email only (class does not meet): 25% of total grade.**

CLASS PARTICIPATION: The 4 papers account for 80% of your grade. The remaining 20% will represent your in-class participation; attendance, asking questions, and discussion. In order to do well here, you must SHOW UP FOR CLASS.

Disabilities: If you are a student with a documented disability who requires accommodations or if you think you may have a disability and want to inquire about accommodations, please contact the Academic Resource Center at 202-687-8354 or arc@georgetown.edu.

Turnitin.com: Students acknowledge that by taking this course all required papers can be submitted for a Textual Similarity Review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Attendance: Per University policy, **absence from the first class meeting and/or several unexplained absences or an accumulation of absences might result in failure of the course.** Individual professors may reflect a student's absence in the final course grade or by requiring additional course assignments before assigning the final grade.

Extreme weather, Emergencies, and Instructional Continuity: During inclement weather or other emergencies on a day when we are scheduled to meet face-to-face, check the university's Web site or call (202) 687-7669 for information on whether the university is open. If the university is open, this class will meet. If the university is closed, this class will meet through distance means such as online videoconferencing; check your e-mail for a message from me on how we will proceed in that situation. Due dates for written assignments submitted through Blackboard will not be changed due to campus closings.

The university sends text messages and recorded messages about emergencies to cell phones and other mobile devices. Sign up on MyAccess.

Georgetown Honor System: All students are expected to follow Georgetown's honor code unconditionally. We assume you have read the honor code material located at <http://scs.georgetown.edu/academic-affairs/honor-code>, and in particular have read the following documents: Honor Council Pamphlet, What is Plagiarism, Sanctioning Guidelines, and Expedited Sanctioning Process. Papers in this course will all be submitted to turnitin.com for checking. Submitting material in fulfillment of the requirements of this course means that you have abided by the Georgetown honor pledge:

In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor, and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

Plagiarism: In accord with university policy, all incidents of suspected plagiarism or other Honor Code violations will be reported to the Honor Council without fail. If the Honor Council finds that a student has plagiarized or has violated the Honor Code in any other way, the student will receive a grade of F for the course.

Policy Accommodating Students' Religious Observances: The following is university policy: Georgetown University promotes respect for all religions. Any student who is unable to attend classes or to participate in any examination, presentation, or assignment on a given day because of the observance of a major religious holiday or related travel shall be excused and provided with the opportunity to make up, without unreasonable burden, any work that has been missed for this reason and shall not in any other way be penalized for the absence or rescheduled work. Students will remain responsible for all assigned work. Students should notify professors in writing at the beginning of the semester of religious observances that conflict with their classes.

Grades: All work will be issued a letter grade that corresponds to a numerical equivalent that will be used for calculating the final class grade.

A	4.00	C	2.00
A-	3.67	C-	1.67
B+	3.33	D+	1.33
B	3.00	D	1.00
B-	2.67	F	0.00
C+	2.33		

Late/Incomplete Work: Papers are due on dates specified, at the start of class. Papers can be hand delivered in class, or e-mailed to me prior to the start of class. Late work will be marked down 1 letter grade per 24-hour period unless the student can document a valid medical emergency or family crisis. Such situations must be brought to my attention before the due date; you are free to contact me via phone or e-mail (above).

Classroom Courtesy: Out of respect for your fellow students (and your instructor), please turn off personal communication devices (cell phone, Blackberry, etc.) while class is in session. Students are welcome to bring laptop computers to class for note taking and class-related work. We typically take a short break halfway through the evening if you need to make calls.

Draft Reviews: I will gladly offer a free review and comment on rough drafts of any written assignments provided these are sent to me prior to 1 week of the due date.

Readings: The required texts are available at the University bookstore and also at major on-line book retailers. It is also in the Lauinger Library general collection. All supplemental readings will be available via Blackboard or handed out by the instructor. Be sure you have the necessary network accounts to access and use the Blackboard system.

Required Texts

D'Anieri, Paul; *International Politics – Power and Purpose in Global Affairs, 2nd Edition* (Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, Boston, MA, 02210) ISBN-13: 978-1-1113-4449-8; ISBN-10: 1-1113-4449-3

Bremmer, Ian; *Every Nation for Itself – Winners and Losers in a G-Zero World* (Portfolio/Penguin, New York, 2012), ISBN 978-1-59184-468-6

Learning Objectives

1. Explain the difference between empirical and normative analysis.
2. Explain the role of theory in understanding international relations.
3. Identify the root sources of international relations theory.
4. Explain and apply system, unit, and sub-unit levels of analysis.
5. Identify the features of classical realist and neo-realist theory.
6. Explain the meaning of anarchy in the interstate system.
7. Characterize the nature of the security dilemma in interstate affairs.
8. Identify elements in Enlightenment thought that produced liberalist theory.
9. Identify the primary features of radicalist and revisionist theory.
10. Discuss the role of the behavioral sciences in understanding state behavior.
11. Identify the traditional elements of state power.
12. Explain the reasons for war, as suggested by the major schools of theory.
13. Discuss international political economy as a potential IR theory.
14. Explain how the information technology revolution is changing state behavior.
15. Identify the moral dilemmas in a theory-based approach to policy development.

CLASS MEETINGS

1. JAN 18: Class Introduction

Topics: Class Introduction: A Methodological Approach to the Study; Genesis of the Modern State System

- Snyder, Jack: "One World, Rival Theories", *Foreign Policy*, Nov/Dec 2004, pg. 52. (optional)

2. JAN 25: Levels of Analysis

Topics: The Levels of Analysis Problem; Classical Writers and the Levels of Analysis

- Text, Chapters 1-2.
- Jervis, Robert: "Perception and the Level of Analysis Problem", from *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*, Princeton Univ. Press, 1976, pg. 13-31.

3. FEB 01: Realism and Neo-Realism

Topics: Fundamentals of Classical Realism; Neo-Realism; The Balance of Power; Polarity

- Text, Chapter 3
- Thucydides, "The Melian Dialogue", excerpt from *History of the Peloponnesian War*.
- Morgenthau, Hans, "A Realist Theory of International Politics".

4. FEB 08: Liberalism and Neo-liberalism

Topics: Fundamentals of Liberalism; Liberalism in Action; Institutionalism

- Text, Chapter 3.
- Kant, Immanuel, "To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch.
- Wilson, Woodrow, "Address to the US Congress, 8 January 1918 (The Fourteen Points)".
- Nye, Joseph S., and Keohane, Robert O., "Realism and Complex Interdependence", in *Power and Interdependence*, (Harper Collins, 1989). Chapter 2 (pg. 23-37)
- *Pacem In Terris*, Papal encyclical, John XXIII (1963)

5. FEB 15: Idealist and Radicalist Approaches

Topics: Classical and Modern Approaches to Radicalism

- Text, Chapter 4.
- Bin Ladin, Usama, et. al., "Statement of the World Islamic Front", Issued 23 February 1998

6. FEB 22: Actors: The State

Topics: The Changing Nature of the State
Enduring Tensions Between Nation and State
Measuring and Employing State Power

- Text, Chapter 5
- Ferguson, Niall., "Power", *Foreign Policy*, Issue 134, Jan/Feb 2003.
- Ikenberry, G. John., "Power and Liberal Order: America's Postwar World Order in Transition", *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, Vol. 5, 2005.

7. MAR 01: Behavioral Science and State Action

Topics: Behavioral Science as a Window into State Behavior
Rational Actor and Alternative Models
Role of the Individual Decision Maker

- Text, Chapter 6.
- Jervis, Robert., "Hypothesis on Misperception".
- Hermann, Margaret G., and Hagan, Joe D., "International Decision Making: Leadership Matters". *Foreign Policy*, Spring 1998, pg. 124-137.

[MAR 08 –SPRING BREAK]

8. MAR 15: The Problem of War (Part I)

Topics: The Legacy and Future of Great Power Conflict
Prospects for Moral War

- Text, Chapter 8
- Van Creveld, Martin, "Through a Glass, Darkly: Some Reflections on the Future of War", *US Naval War College Review*, Autumn 2000.
- Gray, Colin S., "How Has War Changed Since the End of the Cold War?", *Parameters*, Spring 2005.
- Peters, Ralph, "A Revolution in Military Ethics?", *Parameters*, Summer 1996, pg. 102-108.

9. MAR 22: The Problem of War (Part II)

Topics: Terrorism and Asymmetric Warfare
Just War Theory

- Text, Chapter 9
- Hehir, Bryan J., "An Unnecessary War: How Will It Be Conducted?", *Commonweal*, March 28, 2003, pg 7-8.

10. MAR 29: An Information Revolution

Topics: Modern Telecommunications and the Nation-State
Arab Media Case Study.
Social Media and Political Change

- Keohane, Robert O., and Nye, Joseph S., "Power and Interdependence in the Information Age", *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 77, Issue 5, Sep/Oct 1998, pg. 81.
- Govern, Kevin: "The Twitter Revolutions: Social Media in the Arab Spring", *Jurist.org*, October 2011
- Walker, Christopher., "Muzzling the Media: The Return of Censorship in the Commonwealth of Independent States", *Freedom House*, 2007.
- Maier, Charles S., "Dark Power: Globalization, Inequality and Conflict", *Harvard International Review*, Spring 2007, 60-65.

11. APR 05: Global Political Economy

Topics: Global Trade in Historical Perspective
What is Globalization Today?

- Text, Chapter 10-11 (excerpts)
- Ghemawat, Pankaj, "Why The World Isn't Flat", *Foreign Policy*, March/April 2007, p. 54-60.
- Held, McGrew, Goldblatt and Perraton, "Globalization", *Global Governance*, Oct-Dec 1999.

12: APR 12: In-Class Activity

13. APR 19: Issues for a Globalized World

Topics: Environmental Concerns
Climate Change
Natural Resources

- Text, Chapter 14 (excerpts)
- Friedman, Thomas L., "The Power of Green", *New York Times Magazine*, April 15, 2007.
- Schmidt, Charles W., "The Kyoto Protocol: Just A Lot Of Hot Air?", *Environmental Health Perspectives*, August 2000

14. APR 26: Summary Discussion and Review (FINAL EXAM HANDOUT)

- Text: Chapter 15

15. FINAL EXAM DUE: Exam is due to me via e-mail.