

POLS 105: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Time: MWF 8:00-8:50am

Location: MS 239

Instructor: Sarah Fisher, PhD

Email: sfisher@ehc.edu

Office: MS 330A

Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4pm; Friday 9-10:30am
and by appointment

“This is the reason that the correct theorist is like a swimming master, who teaching on dry land movements which are required in the water, which must appear grotesque and ludicrous to those who forget about the water.” -Carl von Clausewitz

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

“International relations” or simply “IR” is essentially the study of interactions between states. This includes fighting of wars, the conduct of trade, the signing of treaties, and more. This course has two primary objectives. First, it will familiarize you with the major theories of international relations, decision making, and issues of conflict and cooperation in world politics. This introduction will serve as a baseline for future courses in the field. Second, you will be able to apply the theories and approaches to both historical and contemporary examples, including the trials of ancient Greece, the struggles of modern states in the 20th century, and the current simmering tensions between the US and China.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Goldstein, Joshua S. and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2013-2014. International Relations Update, 10th Edition. New York: Pearson.

-I highly recommend that you rent this text for the semester via Amazon or other retailer. This text is about \$130 new, but renting it for a semester is about \$30.

-I will create tests questions from the 10th Edition, update. I will not be responsible for discrepancies in versions, but previous versions of this text are very similar. These previous editions of the textbook are available for purchase at low prices.

Feldman, Noah. 2013. Cool War: The Future of Global Competition. New York: Random House.

-This text will come out with a new edition on September 1. Either edition will be fine. This text can be purchased used for a very reasonable price on Amazon (used for under \$10 including shipping).

-We will begin using this text on September 17.

Other readings for this course will be available from the library's web site, elsewhere on the internet, or via Moodle. You are expected to read, question, and understand every reading.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

20% Reading Quizzes

10% Attendance and Participation

25% Midterm Exam

20% Primary Source Perspective Paper

25% Final

20% Reading quizzes

More information will be provided in class. There will be 10-20 reading quizzes given throughout the semester. These will be short quizzes over the assigned readings at the beginning of class. These are intended to reward those of you who read.

There are **absolutely no** makeup quizzes. However, I drop the lowest three quizzes.

10% Attendance and Participation

Please note that your participation grade is only affected by *active* participation. Participation entails **thoughtfully** asking questions, answering questions, providing feedback to classmates' questions, etc. If you don't speak during whole class, your final participation grade will be a 60 (minus 5 X *number of unexcused absences*).

25% Midterm Examination

More information will be provided in class.

20% Primary Source Perspective Paper

More information for this assignment will be provided in class. In short, you will choose one primary document- some sort of text, video, or visual- and then analyze the document from a theoretical perspective(s) we discuss in class.

25% Final

More information will be provided in class.

Grading Scale

97.00-100=A+, 93.00-96.99= A, 90-92.99= A-, 87.00-89.99= B+, 83-86.99= B, 80-82.99= B-, 77.00-79.99=C+, 73.00-76.99=C, 70.00-72.99=C-, 67.00-69.99=D+, 63.00-66.99=D, 60.00-62.99=D-, Below 60.00= F

*Do not ask for extra credit. I will not offer any.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Absences

Life can occasionally get in the way of attending every class. As such, you get **three unexcused** absences for the duration of this course. In addition, I grant excused absences for university sanctioned events (sports/conference), a documented medical excuse (you **must** have some sort note from a doctor or the health center), or proof of the death of a deceased direct relative (again, you must submit some sort of documentation).

Documentation of excused absences must be provided to the instructor **via online dropbox** within **one week** of the absence. Emailed documentation is insufficient; you must submit documentation in the online dropbox. Unexcused absences beyond the three freebies will deduct an automatic 2 points off your final grade.

Missing a test requires advance notice (at least 24 hours in advance). Unless you are violently ill and can document this illness, you should be present for the test.

2. Attendance & Participation Grade

Again, this part of your grade will be a reflection of your attendance in class and the **quality** of your in-class contribution. Please note that your participation grade is only affected by *active* participation. Participation entails **thoughtfully** asking questions, answering questions, providing feedback to classmates' questions, etc. If you don't speak during class, your final participation grade will be a 60 (minus 5 X *number of unexcused absences*).

3. Classroom Etiquette

Turn your cell phone on silent and put it away when in class. I reserve the right to ban laptops from the classroom, but I generally do not have a problem with students who use laptops in class. If you use a laptop, use it for taking notes or viewing class material, not surfing YouTube, Facebook, or whatever kids are using these days, however great the temptation might be.

The purpose of this course is to see every side of each issue, a goal achieved through civil, informed debate and discussion. In short, be kind to each other. We will discuss relatively controversial subjects throughout the course. Despite trespassing on some "hot button topics," you must remain respectful of your classmates' thoughts and opinions.

4. Academic Honesty

When you matriculated to the Emory & Henry College, you signed and agreed to abide by the College's academic honesty policy. Your work must meet all requirements outlined in those documents. You have agreed not to plagiarize, not to cheat on exams/assignments/quizzes, and not to present someone else's work as your own in any fashion. If you were unaware of breaking the honor code, I will still hold you accountable for the violation. If you break the honor code, you will automatically earn a zero on the assignment, and it is entirely up to the instructor's discretion as to whether you earn a failing grade for the entire course. **You will automatically earn a zero on the assignment, and it is entirely up to the instructor's discretion as to whether you earn a failing grade for the entire course.**

If you have any questions or concerns about the academic honesty policy, please direct them to the instructor.

5. Academic Support

In addition to your advisor, the instructor, and your classmates, there are several resources on campus to help you succeed. Please contact the Powell Resource Center with questions regarding a documented disability. If you have a documented disability and need special accommodation, please let me know during the first week of the semester. We will work with the Powell Resource Center (6144 or stop by Wiley 220) to accommodate your needs.

In addition, the Writing Center (<http://www.ehc.edu/academics/writingcenter.html>) and Computer Helpline (6881) can assist you with writing and computer needs.

6. Communicating with the Instructor

The best way to contact me is via email at sfisher@ehc.edu. My office hours held in MS 330A. Feel free to stop by with any questions or concerns you have. If those times do not work for you, email me to set up an appointment.

7. The Fine Print

This syllabus is a general plan; it is possible that some deviations will occur. As such, it is crucial that you check your E&H email regularly and keep updated via appropriate online platforms.

COURSE READINGS

PART I: Introduction

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| A. | Introduction I | Setting the Stage |
| | January 13 (W) | This Syllabus. |

January 15 (F)	Actors & Power -G&P Chapter 1 to p. 25.
January 20 (W)	The Stage: Levels of Analysis Anarchy, Sovereignty, and Collective Action - Baker, Peter. 2014. "As World Boils, Fingers Point Obama's Way." <i>The New York Times</i>. August 15. - Hobbes, Thomas. 1651. "Chapter 13: Of the Natural Condition of Mankind as Concerning Their Felicity and Misery." <i>Leviathan</i>.
January 22 (F)	History of the World in 50 Minutes -G&P Chapter 1: The Globalization of International Relations 26-40.
B.	Theories of IR
January 25 (M)	Realism -G&P. "Chapter 2: Realist Theories." 42-63.
January 27 (W)	Realism - Thucydides. "The Melian Dialogue." <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i>. 5.84-116. If you can, bring this reading to class (it is pretty dense)
January 29 (F)	Realism -G&P. "Chapter 2: Realist Theories." 63-82. -Feldman. "Introduction." xi-xiv. -Feldman. "Chapter Two: Doomed to Conflict." 16-34.
February 1 (M)	Liberalism -G&P. "Chapter 3: Liberal and Social Theories." 84-96.
February 3 (W)	Liberalism -Clinton, Hillary Rodham. 2010 (November/December). Leading Through Civilian Power: Redefining American Diplomacy and Development. <i>Foreign Affairs</i> .
February 5 (F)	Liberalism -Feldman. "Chapter One: Bound Together." 3-15. - Roasa, Dustin. 2012. China's Soft Power Surge. <i>Foreign Policy</i>. November 18. -Feldman. "Conclusion to Part One: The Contradiction of Cool War." 48-51.
February 8 (M)	Critical Theory: Constructivism -G&P. "Chapter 3: Liberal and Social Theories." 96-124. -Feldman. "Chapter Three: A One-Sided War of Ideas." 35-47.
February 10 (W)	Other Critical Theories: Feminism and Marxism -G&P. "Chapter 12: The North-South Gap." 424-458. - Verveer, Melanne. 2012 (April). Why Women Are A Foreign Policy Issue. <i>Foreign Policy</i> .
February 12 (F)	Midterm Review (optional)
February 15 (M)	Midterm

C. Decision Making

February 17 (W)

Rationality and Game Theory

-Listen: [Dubner, Stephen J. 2013. "Jane Austen, Game Theorist." *Freakonomics Radio*. July 4.](#)

-[Lombrozo, Tania. 2013. "The 'Prisoner's Dilemma' Tests Women In And Out Of Jail." *Cosmos and Culture*. NPR. July 29.](#)

February 19 (F)

Critiques of Rational Choice: Individuals

-G&P. "Chapter 4: Foreign Policy." 126-150.

Feldman. "Chapter Four: A Glimpse Into the New China." 55-70.

February 22 (M)

Critiques of Rational Choice: Groups

-Feldman. "Chapter Five: China's Permeable Elite." 71-85.

-Feldman. "Chapter Six: Legitimacy Without Democracy." 86-96.

-Feldman. "Conclusion to Part II: Governance and Conflict." 97-98.

February 24 (W)

Film- no readings: Series *The West Wing* (episode: "A Proportional Response")

February 26 (F)

Paper Workshop- Bring 1 hard copy of your rough draft to class (counts as two quiz grades!)

PART II TESTING THEORIES: CONFLICT & COOPERATION

A. Conflict

February 29 (M)

Choosing War

-G&P. "Chapter 5: International Conflict." 152-190.

March 2 (W)

Terrorism

-G&P. "Chapter 6: Military Force and Terrorism." 192-230.

March 4 (F)

8:00am Primary Source Papers Due via Moodle! Late penalties are high! No paper accepted past 8:00am on March 5.

No Class

March 7-11 (M-F)

Spring Break- No class

B. Cooperation

March 14 (M)

Conflict, Cooperation, and China

-Feldman. "Chapter Seven: The Race for Allies." 101-116.

-Feldman. "Chapter Eight: Managing War, Building Peace." 117-130.

-Feldman. "Chapter Nine: Corporate Cool War." 131-146.

March 16 (W)

The Democratic Peace

G&P. "Chapter 10: International Integration." 354-384.

March 18(F)

International Trade

-G&P. "Chapter 8: International Trade." 282-318.

C. “New” Opportunities for Conflict and Cooperation	
March 21 (M)	International Organization and Law -G&P. “Chapter 7: International Organization, Law, and Human Rights.” 232-264.
March 23 (W)	Current Issues Facing the International Organizations Readings TBA
March 25 (F)	Easter Break- No Class
March 28 (M)	Human Rights - G&P. “Chapter 7: International Organization, Law, and Human Rights.” 264-281.
March 30 (W)	Human Rights -Feldman. “Chapter Ten: The Future of Human Rights.” 147-161.
April 1 (F)	Current Issues in Human Rights Readings TBA
April 4 (M)	Research Interlude: Concessions to International Courts No Readings
April 6 (W)	No Class (Instructor presenting at Midwest Political Science Association)
April 8 (F)	No Class (Instructor presenting at Midwest Political Science Association)
April 11 (M)	Development - G&P. “Chapter 13: International Development.” 460-496.
April 13 (W)	Development Spotlight- Millennium Development Goals Listen (42 min) Werner, Joel. Fixing the World, Bang-for-the-Buck Edition: A New Freakonomics Radio Podcast. http://freakonomics.com/2014/10/02/fixing-the-world-bang-for-the-buck-edition-a-new-freakonomics-radio-podcast/
April 15 (F)	Development Spotlight Readings TBA Possible guest speaker (via Skype)
April 18 (M)	Environment and Population -G&P. “Chapter 11: Environment and Population.” 386-422.
April 20 (W)	Current Events Readings TBA
April 22 (F)	No Class: Project Ampersand Day
April 25 (M)	Conclusions -Feldman. “Conclusion: How Will It End?” 162-166.
April 26 (T)	Final Exam Review (optional)
May 2 (M)	8:30am-11:30am Final Exam