

**MC 220-003**  
**International Relations I: World Politics & International Security**  
**James Madison College**  
**Fall 2019**  
**Professor Lora DiBlasi**

**Course Information**

Class time: Monday & Wednesday 12:40-2 pm  
Class location: 339 Case Hall  
Final Exam: Tuesday 12/10 12:45-2:45 pm

**Contact Information**

Email: [diblasil@msu.edu](mailto:diblasil@msu.edu)  
Office: 370 North Case Hall  
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 2-3:30

**Course Overview**

This course aims to introduce students to the study of international relations. We will begin the course by understanding the core concepts in international relations and identifying the key actors. Next, we will examine various approaches to understanding international cooperation and conflict. This includes a thorough survey of the major paradigms, or theoretical frameworks, in the discipline. The next part of the course provides a brief overview of the 20<sup>th</sup> century of international history. Following the midterm exam, we will turn to specific topics in international relations. This portion of the course will provide a survey of some of the key issues in the study of international affairs. We will use the theory from earlier in the course to help us better understand these key issues and topics. Lastly, we will conclude the course with a discussion of future issues in international relations and trends in today's world.

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of international relations more broadly. By the end of this course, students will be able to explain and engage with the major theoretical frameworks in international relations. They should also be able to use those frameworks to explain the world around them and current international affairs issues, many of which are surveyed in the last portion of this course. In addition, this course aims to critically engage students in discussions about debates about current events.

Overall, the assignments and evaluations in this course serve to ensure students are critically engaged with the course material and able to meet all the learning objectives. Together, the class discussions and lectures should reinforce the reading material and help students comprehend the main contributions from each assigned reading. The short paper is designed to give students an opportunity to practice applying theory to analyze real world phenomena. Each exam is used to test students' knowledge and understanding of topics, but also provide an opportunity for students to compare and synthesize material from the entire course. Lastly, the simulation serves to allow students to put theory into practice. Students will also develop their writing skills by writing up evaluations of their simulation experience.

## Course Materials

Students are required to attend all classes, complete all assigned readings before coming to class, and complete all examinations and course assignments to pass the course.

Please purchase the following book for this class. Either digital or physical copy is fine. Also, please be sure to purchase the correct edition of the book. Previous editions will have different content and page numbers.

- Mingst, Karen A., Heather Elko McKibben, and Jack L. Snyder. 2019. *Essential Readings in World Politics*. **Seventh Edition**. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

This book will be noted as “MMS” on the daily reading schedule.

Most other course material can be found through the MSU library with the provided hyperlink.

Items that are marked with a \* will be uploaded on Desire2Learn (D2L) under the appropriate heading. Please ensure you have access to D2L at the beginning of the semester. If you do not have access, please email the instructor within the first week of the course.

You should also consider reading periodicals with good international coverage. *The New York Times* is typically the most complete, while the *Washington Post* and the *Economist* also provide strong coverage. *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Survival*, and *International Security* are also recommended journals with more sustained coverage of many of the topics we are studying. Knowledge of current events is expected. I can also point you to a variety of blogs that I think might be helpful to you.

## Evaluations

Course grades are based on one short paper, examinations (midterm and final), a simulation, and participation.

Due dates are below:

**September 30<sup>th</sup> (Paradigms Paper due)**

**October 16<sup>th</sup> (Midterm Exam)**

**November 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> (In-Class Simulation)**

**November 11<sup>th</sup> (Simulation Reflection due)**

**December 10<sup>th</sup> (Final Exam)**

Paradigms Paper (15% of final grade)

You will need to write one short paper analyzing a major paradigm or theoretical framework in international relations. The paper should be 3-5 pages long (double-spaced). Paper guidelines will be posted to D2L. Please upload your paper in the drop box titled “Paradigms Paper” on D2L by the due date.

**Due Date: Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm (upload to drop box on D2L)**

Examinations (Midterm 20% and final exam 30% of final grade)

There will be one in-class midterm exam and one final exam. The exams will evaluate students’

knowledge and understanding of the readings and class discussions. You will need to bring a blue book for each exam.

**Midterm Exam: Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> (in class)**

**Final Exam: Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 12:45-2:45 pm in 339 Case Hall**

Simulation (15% of final grade)

There will be one in-class simulation that runs for two class days (November 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>). Attendance for both sessions is mandatory. The goal of this simulation is to help students engage with the material and experience a real-world application. On the day of the simulation, students are expected to come prepared with notes and a guide for their strategy. Students will be graded on their participation in the simulation exercise and a short (3-4 page) reflection following the end of the simulation (due November 11<sup>th</sup>). The in-class participation and reflection paper are equally weighted. Detailed instructions will be distributed to the class before the simulation.

**Simulation: November 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in class**

**Reflection Due Date: Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm (upload to drop box on D2L)**

Attendance and Participation (20% of final grade)

The final component of your grade is determined by your attendance and participation in class. Students are expected to attend all classes and actively participate in discussion. Attendance will be tracked by a sign-in sheet that will be distributed in class. If a student knows they will miss class for a university recognized event (student-athletics, university sponsored club or organization event, religious observance, etc.), they are expected to follow university policies by informing me at the start of the semester and sending a reminder one week before the event takes place.

Note: Excessive absences or failures to post will adversely impact your class grade.

### **Grading Policies**

All assignments, participation, and exams will be graded according to the following criteria:

4.0: Exceptional work. Offers exceptional insights during class discussions; outstanding, original written work displays complex understanding of the assigned readings and develops a sophisticated argument.

3.5: Excellent work. Makes consistent contributions to large class discussions which demonstrate full and careful reading of assigned materials; consistently on task during small-group discussions; written work is original, clearly written, and carefully argued.

3.0: Good work. Makes consistent contributions to large class discussions; however, these contributions are not always consistent in terms of quality or quantity; written work makes a persuasive argument that is clearly written and reasoned.

2.0: Sufficient work. Meets minimum requirements. Occasionally contributes to class discussion; written work reveals knowledge of course themes and familiarity with the assigned materials; however, it is not always clearly written and does not develop a consistent argument.

1.0: Below average work; does not meet minimum requirements.

### Break Down of Grade:

Paradigms Paper: 15%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Simulation: 15%

Participation: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

### Grading Scale

4.0 = 92% and above

3.5 = 91% to 86%

3.0 = 85% to 80%

2.5 = 79% to 75%

2.0 = 74% to 70%

1.5 = 69% to 64%

1.0 = 63% to 58%

0.0 = below 58%

Any challenges to grades must be submitted in writing no sooner than one week after I have returned graded the assignment.

### **Course Policies**

#### Communication

Email is the best way to contact me outside of class. My email address is [diblasil@msu.edu](mailto:diblasil@msu.edu). Please do not email me through D2L. If you email me, include “MC 220” in the subject line to make sure the email does not get missed.

#### Technology in the Classroom

Laptops and tablets are allowed for note-taking purposes only. Any use of technology for other purposes (email, Facebook, Youtube, etc.) is not allowed. Do not record lectures unless given explicit permission. I reserve the right to ban laptops and tablets from class should they be abused.

Lecture slides from each class will be posted on D2L in PDF format after class. Please note that slides will not be available before class.

#### Missed Exams or Assignments

You are responsible for ensuring that all exams and assignments are completed as scheduled on the due dates listed in the syllabus. Papers that are late will be penalized by 15 points per day. Papers that are more than one week late will receive a 0. Makeup exams are administered only in the case of a university excused absence or medical emergency (ie. hospitalization). In the case of university excused absence, students are required to notify the instructor at least two weeks before the assignment or exam is to take place and provide relevant documentation associated with the absence. In the case of medical emergency, a doctor’s note is required. Students must contact the professor and provide the doctor’s note BEFORE the time of the exam/assignment, and the work (exam or paper) MUST be submitted within one week of the original deadline unless further doctor’s notes are submitted. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure the make-up exam is scheduled within this timeframe.

Grief Absence Policy: <http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/regulations/selected/grief-absence-policy>

### Classroom Etiquette

Please be respectful both to your classmates and me. I request that you avoid the following behavior while in class.

- Use of Mobile Devices (talking, texting, web-surfing, or email use)
- Facebook or other social media websites
- Excessive Tardiness
- Sleeping in class
- Excessive Disruption (talking/arguing with classmates, reading newspapers, leaving class, etc.)

Note: Engagement in these activities during class will adversely impact your attendance/participation grade.

### Accommodations for Students

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at [rcpd.msu.edu](http://rcpd.msu.edu). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation (“VISA”) form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc).

### Academic Honesty

Article 2.III.B.2 of the SRR states: “The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards.” In addition, the Department of Political Science adheres to the policies on academic honesty specified in General Student Regulation 1.0, *Protection of Scholarship and Grades*; the all-University Policy on *Integrity of Scholarship and Grades*; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations.

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the [www.allmsu.com](http://www.allmsu.com) Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU regulations on Protection of Scholarship and Grades will receive a failing grade in the course or on the assignment.

Faculty are required to report all instances in which a penalty grade is given for academic dishonesty. Students reported for academic dishonesty are required to take an online course about the integrity of scholarship and grades. A hold will be placed on the student's account until such time as the student completes the course. This course is overseen by the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education.

### Spartan Code of Honor: Academic Pledge

The Spartan Code of Honor was adopted by ASMSU on March 3, 2016, endorsed by Academic Governance on March 22, 2016, and recognized by the Provost, President, and Board of Trustees on April 15, 2016.

The Spartan Code of Honor Academic Pledge:

“As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor in ownership is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do.”

<https://msu.edu/unit/ombud/academic-integrity/Spartan%20Code%20of%20Honor%20Academic%20Pledge.html>

### Anti-Discrimination Policy

All members of James Madison College and Michigan State University are subject to the University’s Anti-Discrimination Policy, which prohibits discrimination or harassment of any kind on the basis of someone’s age, color, gender, gender identity, marital status, disability status, height, national origin, political persuasion, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, weight or any other characteristic. Discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. Any and all acts of discrimination by a member of this classroom community will: A) be immediately reported to the appropriate University officials; and, B) result in a participation grade reduction. To access the full MSU Anti-Discrimination Policy, please click this [link](#).

Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct: All members of James Madison College and Michigan State University are subject to the University Policy on Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct (RVSM). To access the full University Policy on RVSM, please click this [link](#) or see the PDF document posted on our course D2L site. To access the Student Quick Guide to RVSM, please click this [link](#). Both documents contain information about support resources and procedures for reporting relationship violence or sexual misconduct.

**IMPORTANT:** As your professor, I am your ally and my door is always open to you if you are in need. Please note, however, that I am a mandatory reporter. That means that if you reveal to me that you have experienced relationship violence or have been the target of sexual misconduct, I am required by law to report your case to the appropriate University officials.

**Please Note:** I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any point in the course to suit the needs of the class. All changes will be announced in class, sent to students via email, and a revised syllabus will be posted to D2L as soon as possible.

Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is not permitted in this course.

## Course Schedule

**August 28: NO CLASS**

**September 2: NO CLASS (Labor Day)**

**September 4: Introduction & What is International Relations?**

- No Assigned Reading.

**September 9: Core Concepts**

- Frieden, Jeffery and David A. Lake (2005) "[International Relations as a Social Science: Rigor and Relevance](#)". *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*
- Amelia Hoover Green, "How to Read Political Science: A Guide in Four Steps" \*

**September 11: Approaches to International Relations**

- Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories", MMS p. 3-15
- Joseph S. Nye, Jr. (2011) "[Power and Foreign Policy](#)" *Journal of Political Power* 4(1): 9-24.

**September 16: Classical Realism**

- Thucydides, "The Melian Dialogue", MMS p.16-20
- Hans Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory of International Politics", MMS p. 86-90
- Hobbes, "Leviathan", MMS p. 21-23

**September 18: Neorealism/Structural Realism**

- John Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power", MMS p. 91-108
- Robert Jervis, "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma", MMS p. 384-398

**September 23: Liberalism I**

- Immanuel Kant, "Perpetual Peace", MMS p. 24-26
- Robert Putnam, "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games", MMS p. 253-270

**September 25: Liberalism II**

- Michael Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics", MMS p. 109-123
- Woodrow Wilson, "The Fourteen Points", MMS p. 48-50
- Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?", MMS p. 51-62

**September 30: Constructivism**

**\*\*Paradigms Paper Due by 11:59 pm\*\***

- Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It", MMS p. 124-145
- Ted Hopf, "The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations Theory", MMS p. 27-46

**October 2: Feminism and Race**

- J. Ann Tickner, “Men, Women, and War” \*
- Margaret Mead, “Warfare is Only an Invention – Not a Biological Necessity” \*
- Valerie M. Hudson and Hilary Matfess, “In Plain Sight: The Neglected Linkage between Brideprice and Violence Conflict”, MMS p. 699-717.
- Errol A. Henderson (2013) “[Hidden in Plain Sight: Racism in International Relations Theory](#)” *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 26(1): 71-92.

**October 7: World War I & World War II**

- Henry Nau (2015) “World War II: Why Did War Happen Again.” *Perspectives on International Politics* p.113-145 \*

**October 9: Cold War**

- John Lewis Gaddis (1986) “[The Long Peace: Elements of Stability in the Postwar International System](#)” *International Security* 10:4 (1986): 99 – 142.

**October 14: Midterm Exam Review**

- No Assigned Reading

**October 16: Midterm Exam**

- Bring a blue book for exam

**October 21: Inter-state Conflict**

- James Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War”, MMS p. 297-320
- Mark Galeotti and Andrew S. Bowen (2014) “[Putin’s Empire of the Mind](#)”, *Foreign Policy*

**October 23: Civil Wars**

- Gary J. Bass (2006) “[What Really Causes Civil War?](#)” *The New York Times Magazine*
- Barbara F. Walter, “[Bargaining Failures and Civil War](#)” *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 243-261.
- Emile Simpson (2017) “[There is No War in Afghanistan](#)”, *Foreign Policy*
- Ben Hubbard and Rick Gladstone (2013) “[Arab Spring Countries Find Peace is Harder than Revolution](#)” *The New York Times*

**October 28: Terrorism**

- Martha Crenshaw, “The Strategic Logic of Terrorism” \*
- Osama bin Laden, “Speech to the American People” \*
- Virginia Page Fortna, “Do Terrorists Win?”, MMS p. 340-359

### **October 30: Technology of War**

- P.W. Singer, "[Robots at War: The New Battlefield](#)", *Wilson Quarterly* Winter 2009
- Erica D. Borghard and Shawn W. Lonergan, "The Logic of Coercion in Cyberspace", MMS p. 360- 381
- [Losing Humanity: The Case against Killer Robots](#), *Human Rights Watch* 2012
- [UN Delay Could Open Door to Robot Wars](#), *The Guardian*

### **November 4: Simulation**

- No Assigned Reading

### **November 6: Simulation**

- No Assigned Reading

### **November 11: Weapons of Mass Destruction**

\*\*Simulation Reflection due by 11:59 pm\*\*

- Kenneth Waltz, "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb", MMS p. 321-324
- Scott Sagan and Benjamin Valentino, "Revisiting Hiroshima in Iran", MMS p. 325-339

### **November 13: The Environment and Climate Change**

- Roselyn Hsueh (2017) "[Why is China Suddenly Leading the Climate Change Effort? It's a Business Decision](#)". *Monkey Cage*
- Idean Salehyan and Cullen Hendrix (2014) "[Climate Shocks and Political Violence](#)" *Global Environmental Change* 28: 239-250
- David Michel and Ricky Passarelli (2014) "[The Climate Wars are Already Here](#)" *Foreign Policy*

### **November 18: International Law and Institutions**

- Robert Keohane (1998) "[International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?](#)" *Foreign Policy* 110: 82-96
- Erik Voeten, "[International Law and Institutions Look Pretty Weak Now, but They Will Matter a lot Down the Road](#)", *Monkey Cage*
- James Stavridis (2015) "[NATO's Circle of Ice and Fire](#)", *Foreign Policy*

### **November 20: Human Rights**

- Amartya Sen, "Human Rights and Capabilities", MMS p. 615-626
- Beth Simmons, "Mobilizing for Human Rights", MMS p. 641-668
- Jack Donnelly, "Human Rights and Cultural Relativism", MMS p. 627-640

### **November 25: Humanitarian Intervention & Peacekeeping**

- Samantha Power, "Bystanders to Genocide", MMS p. 517-537
- Alan J. Kuperman (2000) "[Rwanda in Retrospect](#)", *Foreign Affairs*
- Benjamin Valentino (2011) "[The True Costs of Humanitarian Intervention](#)", *Foreign Affairs*

**November 27: No Class (Thanksgiving break)**

- Instead of attending class you should watch the movie “The Ghosts of Rwanda”
- Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJAuyIRfYIM>

**December 2: Issues on the Horizon**

- Steven Pinker and Andrew Mack, “[The World is Not Falling Apart](#)”, *Slate*
- Joshua S. Goldstein (2011) “[Think Again: War](#)” *Foreign Policy*

**December 4: Wrap Up and Final Exam Review**

- No Assigned Reading

**December 10: Final Exam (12:45-2:45 pm in 339 Case Hall)**

- Bring a blue book for exam