

INTRO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
POLS 051D



“The whole history of the world is summed up in the fact that, when nations are strong, they are not always just, and when they wish to be just, they are no longer strong.”

– *Winston Churchill*

Professor Willard-Foster

Class Meetings: TUES/THURS 10:05 AM to 11:20 AM

Class Location: LAFAYETTE HALL 207

Office Location: OLD MILL 509

Office Hours: TUES 11:25AM-12:25PM; WED 10-11AM; THURS 11:25AM-12:25PM and by appt.

Email: melissa.willard-foster@uvm.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What causes conflict in the international system? How can peace be attained? Is Churchill right? Are the strong solely dedicated to preserving their power, or can they cooperate with other states to solve global problems? The first part of this course will address these questions and more as we explore key concepts in international relations by examining the work of both classic and contemporary writers. We will cover the field's major schools of thought and address specific questions, such as whether and how war can be avoided. The second part of the course will examine instances of major wars, applying the concepts learned in the first part of the course. We will also look for parallels between these wars and ongoing conflicts to gain insight into current events. The final part of the course will address key issue areas in international relations. Starting with a discussion of international political economy, we will explore a variety of topics, from terrorism to climate change. As we do, we will focus our discussions on whether and how states can cooperate in a world where might often seems to make right.

This course will combine both lecture and discussion, which means attendance and participation are both expected. Readings must be completed by the day they are assigned. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss them. The textbook will guide you through the course concepts. Other readings are drawn from classics in the field or more recent policy journals. For these, you should be able to identify the author's main argument and supporting evidence, as well as state your opinion. Students are also required to keep up on current events (see below).

READINGS

- Henry R. Nau, *Perspectives on International Relations: Power, Institutions, and Ideas*. **THIRD** Edition (Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2011)
- You **MUST** read at least the front page of a major newspaper before every class and one full article. I will also occasionally send you articles that pertain to course material. In these instances, you are exempted from the one article requirement. The articles I send are required readings and material from these articles could appear on quizzes.

The New York Times (Global Edition) (<http://global.nytimes.com/>) permits users 10 free articles per month. Students are welcome to consult any major newspaper for their news. This includes, but is not limited to, *The Washington Post*, *The BBC*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. If you exceed the number of free articles permitted on these sites, you can use the library website to access the school's subscription. For the *New York Times*, go to <http://search.proquest.com/advanced/> and use the search pub(international new york times) and set the publication date (below the search boxes) to that day's date. This will give you access to the full articles, but not the front-page layout. A better option is to order a student subscription.

- All other readings will be posted on Blackboard
- I reserve the right to change readings, as well as dates for quizzes and the midterm, as needed. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and through email. I will be using the university's email list, so please make sure you check this account regularly.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

- You will learn how to interpret current events, think about how they will play out, and relate them to events of the past.
- You will learn how to evaluate theories, read analytically, and argue persuasively. These skills are vital no matter what career choice you make in life.
- You will learn dominant theories of international relations, become acquainted with classic texts in the field, and read contemporary arguments on how to deal with some of the world's most pressing problems.
- By learning about the problems that plague our world, as well as their causes and consequences, you will increase your ability to make a difference.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Midterm Exam (30%): The midterm will consist of short answers and an essay. The midterm will take place in class on **October 16th**. Please note this date is subject to change.

Final Exam (30%): The final exam will have three sections: multiple choice, short answer and essay. The final exam will take place in the classroom on **December 13th** at 10:30am.

Quizzes (30%): There will be five in-class quizzes. Quizzes will be based on class lectures, readings and current events discussed in the news and during class. You should also expect questions that relate to material in the reading but may or may not have been discussed in class. Quiz dates are as follows: *Sept 18, Oct 2, Nov 1, 15, Dec 6*. I do not drop the lowest quiz grade.

I will offer a make-up quiz on December 12th. The make-up is available to anyone who missed a quiz, whether due to an excused absence or not. The make-up quiz grade will be used to replace the “0” for the quiz that you missed. If you miss more than one quiz, you must have an excused absence in order to take a second make-up. You must also speak to me either before or immediately after your absence to schedule a second make-up quiz. Please note, make-up quizzes will NOT be given throughout the semester, only on Dec 12.

Reading Responses (8%): To do well in this class, it is essential that you both read and comprehend the assigned material. To assist you with this, I have posted questions for each reading in the syllabus marked with a *. Students should answer each question in at least three sentences and post them to Blackboard. The assignment is pass/fail, but students are strongly encouraged to write detailed answers. The more thorough your reading journal, the more effective a study aid it will be when it comes time to prepare for quizzes and exams.

To receive credit for the reading responses, students must post them to Blackboard by **10:00 am** on the day for which the reading is assigned. ***Students will not be able to post their entries after the deadline. I do not accept late responses, but students are allowed to miss one assignment (not one day).*** I strongly encourage you to complete journals in advance of the due date to avoid last-minute computer mishaps, which will inevitably happen.

You will not get full credit if:

1. You plagiarize the author’s or another student’s words
2. You fail to answer ALL the questions
3. You submit an entry that fails to meet the minimum length requirement
4. You submit an entry filled with spelling and/or grammatical mistakes

Attendance & Participation (2%): Attendance is required for this class. Students will sit according to a seating chart and all absences will be noted. Excused absences for medical reasons, religious events, ROTC, or UVM sports and extracurricular activities require documentation. Students are permitted two unexcused absences. Additional unexcused absences will result in a ten-point reduction in the attendance grade.

Participation: Participation is essential for success in this class as it will help you remain engaged with the material. Effective participation requires students to keep up on the news, complete the course readings and think critically about how the readings relate to previous ones, as well as current and historical events. To ensure broad participation, students will occasionally work in small groups. ***I will also frequently call on students during class.*** If you have difficulty with public speaking, please feel free to meet with me by the end of the Add/Drop period to discuss an alternative twice-weekly writing assignment, which students may submit in lieu of class participation.

We will, at times, be discussing sensitive subjects in this course. Students should feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and opinions in class, but must also respect the cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs of their classmates. If any problems arise, I strongly encourage students to see me in my office hours.

GRADING SCALE

The following scale is used to calculate grades. Please note, I *do not* round up grades.

	A	B	C	D	F
+	100-98	89-87	79-77	69-67	59 or below
	97-94	86-84	76-74	66-64	
-	93-90	83-80	73-70	63-60	

CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

The Department of Political Science requires that this classroom protocol, defining minimum standards of conduct, be included in all syllabi.

1. Students are expected to attend and be prepared for ALL regularly scheduled classes.
2. Students are expected to arrive on time and stay in class until the class period ends. If a student knows in advance that he/she will need to leave early, he/she should notify the instructor before the class period begins.
3. Students are expected to treat faculty and fellow students with respect. For example, students must not disrupt class by leaving and reentering during class, must not distract class by making noise, and must be attentive to comments being made by the instructors and by peers.

Students are expected to abide by the following guidelines as well:

1. Members of UVM organizations or sports teams that travel out of town must provide an official travel schedule in order to receive accommodation for their absences.
2. Students who require leave for religious holidays must submit a schedule of their anticipated absences in writing before the end of the second week of class.
3. All cell phones and other ***electronic devices must be turned off and out of sight*** before the start of each class. This includes laptops, iPads, tablets, etc. Prepare to take notes the old-fashioned way – with a pen and paper.
4. Students with disabilities or medical conditions are asked to communicate with the instructor any accommodations they require before the end of the second week of class. For more information on the various resources available for students with disabilities,

visit the university's office of disability services, ACCESS (<http://www.uvm.edu/access/>).

5. Covered beverages are allowed in class; *food is not*.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

PART I: INTRODUCTION

Aug 28-Aug 30: Historical Development of the Field, Key Questions, and Terms

Read for Aug 30:

Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, pp. 21-57; 60-63

Sept 4: Theory and Levels of Analysis

Read for Sept 4:

*Stephen Walt, "The Relationship between Theory and Policy in International Relations," *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 8 (2005), pp. 23-34.

*Micah Zenko, "America is Committing War Crimes and Doesn't Even Know Why," *Foreign Policy*, August 15, 2018

Nau, pp. 1 – 15

PART II: THE BATTLE OF THE PARADIGMS

Sept 6-13: Realism & Neorealism

Read for Sept 6:

Nau, pp. 23 – 36

*Thucydides, "Melian Dialogue" from *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, pp. 10-12

*Hans Morgenthau, "Political Power" from *Politics among Nations*, pp. 28-30

Read for Sept 11:

*John Mearsheimer, "Why the Ukraine Crisis is the West's Fault," *Foreign Affairs*, Sept/Oct 2014

*Walter Russell Mead, "The Return of Geopolitics: The Revenge of the Revisionist Powers," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2014

Read for Sept 13

*Stephen G. Brooks, G. John Ikenberry and William Wohlforth, “Lean Forward: In Defense of American Engagement,” *Foreign Affairs*, Jan/Feb 2013, PP 1-8, THE REST IS OPTIONAL

*Max Fisher and Sergio Pecanha, “What the U.S. Gets for Defending Its Allies and Interests Abroad,” *The New York Times*, Jan. 16, 2017

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/01/16/world/trump-military-role-treaties-allies-nato-asia-persian-gulf.html?mcubz=0>

SEPT 18: QUIZ 1

Sept 18-20: Liberalism & Neoliberalism

Read for Sept 18:

Nau, pp. 36 – 44

*Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry, “Liberal World: The Resilient Order,” *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2018

*Robert O. Keohane, “International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?” *Foreign Policy*, pp. 82 – 96

Read for Sept 20:

*Richard Katz, “Mutual Assured Production,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 92 Issue 4, (Jul/Aug 2013): 18-24.

Sept 25-27: The Democratic Peace & Social Constructivism

Read for Sept 25:

Nau, pp. 45 – 52

*John M. Owen IV, “Iraq and the Democratic Peace: Who Says Democracies Don’t Fight?” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, (November/ December 2005)

Read for Sept 27:

*Michael J. Mazarr, “The Age of Grievance: How to Play Resentment Politics,” *Foreign Affairs*, July 2014

*David Shambaugh, “China’s Soft-Power Push: The search for respect,” *Foreign Affairs* (July/Aug 2015): 99-107.

OCT 2: QUIZ 2

Oct 2-4: Domestic Politics

Read for Oct 2:

Goldstein and Pevehouse, 71-74; 76-86

*Kevin Woods, James Lacey and Williamson Murray, “Saddam’s Delusions: The View from the Inside,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 85, Issue 3 (May/Jun 2006): 2-26.

Read for Oct 4:

*Amy Oakes, *Diversionsary War: Domestic Unrest and International Conflict*, pp. 1 – 10

*Robert D. Kaplan, “Eurasia’s Coming Anarchy: The Risks of Chinese and Russian Weakness,” *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2016): 33-41

PART II: TESTING THEORY AGAINST THE EMPIRICAL RECORD

Oct 9-11: World War I

Nau, pp. 103 – 121

Nau, pp. 122 – 125

OCT 16: MIDTERM EXAM

Oct 18-23: World War II

Read for Oct 18:

*P.M.H. Bell, 1986. *The Origins of the Second World War in Europe* (London: Longman): 15-42

Read for Oct 23:

Nau, pp. 129 – 156

Guest Lecturer: Professor TV Paul, McGill University, “Restraining Great Powers,”

Oct 25 4:15-6pm

Please plan to attend, but also note, we will meet for class as usual.

Oct 25-30: The Cold War

Read for Oct 25:

Nau, pp. 160 – 7; 179 – 183; 187 – 191

*John Lewis Gaddis, “Looking Back: The Long Peace,” *The Wilson Quarterly*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (New Year’s 1989), pp. 42-58

Read for Oct 30:

Nau, pp. 176 – 178; 183 – 186; 192 – 195

*Richard K. Betts, “The Lost Logic of Deterrence,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 92 Issue 2 (Mar/Apr 2013): 87-99.

NOV 1: QUIZ 3

Part III: Global Problems & Solutions

Nov 1-8: International Political Economy, Globalization & The Great Recession

Read for Nov 1:

Nau pp. 302-316; 328-342, *Optional:* 346-353

*Douglas A. Irwin, "The Truth About Trade: What critics get wrong about the global economy," *Foreign Affairs* (July/Aug 2016): 84-95

Read for Nov 6:

*Dani Rodrik, "Trading in Illusions," *Foreign Policy* Vol. 123 (2001), pp. 53-62
Nau pp. 418 – 437

Read for Nov 8:

*Stiglitz, "From *Freefall: America, Free Markets, and the Sinking of the World Economy*," pp. 554-567

Nov 13-15: Terrorism

Read for Nov 13:

Nau, pp. 227 – 234; 248 – 254

Nau, pp. 238 – 242

*Fareed Zakaria, "The Politics of Rage: Why Do They Hate Us?" *Newsweek*, (October 15, 2001)

NOV 15: QUIZ 4

Read for Nov 15:

*Stephen M. Walt, "Our One-Sided War on Terror," *Foreign Policy*, July 26, 2013

*Andrew Miller, "The Trouble before the Storm," *Foreign Policy*, February 26, 2018,
Nau, pp. 238 – 242

*Sageman, "Jihadi Networks of Terror," in Betts, p. 546-558

*Jessica Stern, "Mind Over Martyr," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 89 Issue 1 (Jan/Feb 2010): 95-108.

NOV 19–NOV 23: THANKSGIVING RECESS

Nov 27 – Dec 7: Global Governance, Human Rights & Humanitarian Intervention

Read for Nov 27:

Nau, pp. 463 – 471; 478 – 487

*Edoardo Campanella, "Europe, Fracturing From Within: Why Integration Makes Secession More Appealing," *Foreign Affairs*, January 17, 2017

*Jonathan Eyal, "The Real Problems with NATO," *Foreign Affairs*, March 2, 2017

Read for Nov. 29

*Amartya Sen, "Universal Truths: Human Rights and the Westernizing Illusion," pp. 592 – 595

*James Traub, "Europe Wishes to Inform You that the Refugee Crisis is Over," *Foreign Policy*, October 28, 2016

*Ty McCormick, "Highway through Hell," *Foreign Policy*, October 24, 2017

Read for Dec. 4

*Patrice C. McMahon and Jon Western, "The Death of Dayton," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 88 Issue 5 (Sep/Oct 2009): 69-83.

*Colum Lynch, "They Just Stood Watching," *Foreign Policy*, April 2014

DEC 6: QUIZ 5

FINAL EXAM: Dec 13, 10:30 AM