

**Government and Politics (GVPT) 200**  
**International Political Relations**  
**University of Maryland**  
**Fall 2018**

Room: 0130 Tydings Hall  
Time: Monday & Wednesday 10:00-10:50  
Friday discussion sections (times vary)

Professor:

Dr. Todd Allee  
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Office: 2114 Chincoteague Hall  
Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00-4:00pm

Teaching Assistants:

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**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course is intended to introduce students to the central theories and themes in the academic study of international relations. This is not a current events course, but considerable emphasis is placed on thinking about how our theories and analytical tools might explain recent happenings and trends around the world. The general objectives of the course are to emphasize core concepts such as statehood, power, and cooperation; advance students' research and analytical skills; and promote effective oral and written communication. We begin with a survey of the primary theoretical approaches in the discipline. After discussing the various actors in international politics, we then explore the key topics and debates in contemporary international relations. In particular, we spend a significant amount of time investigating international peace and security as well as international economic relations. We conclude by discussing other issues in international relations, such as environmental protection, international law, and human rights.

**Required Readings:**

In order for this course to function smoothly, you must complete all assigned readings in advance of the corresponding lecture or discussion section. Completing assigned readings on time – as well as attending class regularly – are the two most important ingredients for success in this course. Please note that we reserve the right to give unannounced quizzes during lecture and/or discussion section meetings.

There is one required textbook, which is available for purchase at campus-area bookstores. A copy also should be on reserve at the Library Services Desk at McKeldin library.

Jon C.W. Pevehouse and Joshua S. Goldstein. *International Relations*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition.  
Pearson, 2017.

In addition to the textbook, there are additional assigned readings drawn from other books, academic journals, newspapers, and periodicals. All of these readings can be accessed via the ELMS website for this course (<https://myelms.umd.edu/login>). Those readings followed by “CR” are located in the “Course Reserves” section of our ELMS site and those followed by “M” are linked directly from the “Modules” section of the ELMS site.

In advance of each class meeting I will post a “reading guide” to help you navigate the readings for that day. These short guides will be posted on ELMS (under “Files”) several days in advance, typically by the Friday afternoon preceding the upcoming week’s readings. They are intended to highlight important themes from each day’s readings and to give you a sense of what to look for and think about while doing the assigned readings.

The lecture slides also will be posted on ELMS in advance of each lecture (also under “Files”), typically by 10pm the preceding evening. The slides are posted to help you prepare for class, to ease the note-taking burden during lecture, and to facilitate greater student engagement during lecture. Downloading the slides in no way should be viewed as a substitute for attending lectures. I also reserve the right to stop posting lecture slides or to withdraw previously posted slides. Also note that some slides will not be posted in advance and that in general the posted slides will be incomplete and will not contain all of the information presented during the actual lecture.

In addition to the above (reserve readings, reading guides, and lecture slides), on the ELMS site I also will post the syllabus, handouts, other relevant (but unassigned) readings, as well as announcements.

### **Course Requirements:**

The primary requirements for the course are as follows:

1) **Discussion Section** (Participation, Quizzes, Short Assignments): You are expected to attend your discussion section regularly and to participate actively. You will be given a grade for participation in the discussion section that is based upon the degree to which you attend and contribute to classroom activities and discussions, as well as any quizzes or assignments given by your TA. Quizzes given during discussion section meetings may be announced beforehand or unannounced.

Please note that the University has explicit policies regarding attendance and what counts as an excused absence (see link below). You should contact your TA in advance of any discussion section that you expect to miss, follow-up after the class has met, and complete any required exercises in a timely manner.

<https://www.president.umd.edu/sites/president.umd.edu/files/files/documents/policies/V-100G.pdf>

2) **Exams**: You will take both a midterm and final exam. The midterm will address material from August 29-October 15. The final exam is quasi-cumulative – it will focus heavily on material from the second half of the course (October 19-December 10), but also will contain a few questions on topics from the first half of the course as well as recurring topics that span the entire course. Additional details regarding exam content and format will be provided in lecture approximately two weeks before each exam.

3) **Papers:** You will write two short papers (approximately 4-5 pages in length) for this course. The first paper is due at the beginning of your discussion section on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> and the second paper is due at the beginning of your discussion section on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. I will post on the ELMS website a handout describing the requirements for each paper approximately two to three weeks before the paper's due date. Additional details on both paper assignments will be provided in lecture and/or your discussion section. You are strongly encouraged to meet with your TA to discuss the paper assignment and the direction of your paper.

4) **Participation in Government and Politics Subject Pool:** Exposure to hands-on research is a valuable learning tool for students trying to understand research in political science and international relations. Much cutting-edge research is being conducted right here at Maryland, which provides you with a unique opportunity to learn about research in political science by participating in research studies. To support students in gaining this knowledge, our GVPT 200 course will give participation credit to students who take part in up to three studies conducted by GVPT faculty and graduate students.

NOTE: If you prefer not to serve as a participant, you may elect to satisfy the requirement by writing a 3-5 page review of a quantitative research article (the article must be approved by your TA). However, you must notify the Research Administrator (Will Bishop, [wbishop@umd.edu](mailto:wbishop@umd.edu)) before the last day of schedule adjustment for the semester if you wish to register for the research alternative. You will have to either participate in all of the studies or write the review paper. *Papers cannot be used to make up for a study at the end of the semester.*

You will be asked to sign up for up to three research studies, which will take 20-30 minutes each to complete. When it is time for each study, you be sent an email that contains a link for scheduling a day and time to take the study. All studies take place in **4101 Chincoteague Hall**. Students who are under 18 years of age must obtain parental permission to participate in research. If you are under 18, please contact Will Bishop ([wbishop@umd.edu](mailto:wbishop@umd.edu)) for instructions on how to participate in the research studies.

Please treat your scheduled research appointments like any professional meeting. If you sign up for an experiment and do not show up at the time you signed up for (and do not cancel properly within 24 hours because of an emergency), you will lose the research credit. The study administrator will keep a record of your participation and will inform your TA and professor that you participated in the study.

### **Grading:**

Your final course grade will be calculated according to the following breakdown:

Participation in GVPT Subject Pool – 5%  
Discussion Section (participation, assignments, quizzes) – 15%  
Papers – 25% (12.5% each)  
Midterm Exam – 25%  
Final Exam – 30%

We will use the + and – grading scale for administering course grades. Grades will be calculated according to a standard scale, in which 97 and above is an A+, 93-97 is an A, 90-93 is an A-, 87-90 is a B+, 83-87 is a B, 80-83 is a B-, 77-80 is a C+, 73-77 is a C, 70-73 is a C-, 67-70 is a D+, 63-67 is a D, 60-63 is a D-, and below 60 is a F. Grades will not be curved.

Your teaching assistant will have primary responsibility for the grading of quizzes, papers, and exams. Every effort will be made to ensure that work is graded fairly and objectively. If you have a question about a particular grade you have received, you should first meet with your TA to gain further clarification about your grade. If you then believe that the grade you received was unwarranted, you should submit to your TA a written statement that details your complaint, along with the original copy of the assignment. All grade enquires and complaints must be made at least 48 hours – but no more than two weeks – after an assignment, quiz, paper, or exam has been returned to you. In the rare event of an unresolved grade-related dispute, Professor Allee will examine and grade the piece of work. The grade he assigns will be final, regardless of whether the revised grade is higher or lower than the original grade.

### **Extensions and Late Work:**

- 1) All work is due on the assigned due date at the *beginning* of the class period.
- 2) Any assignment turned in late will be docked one full letter grade (ten percentage points) for the first day it is late, as well an additional half-letter grade (five percentage points) for each additional day it is late. Once an assignment is nine days late, it may be turned in to your TA for half credit up until 5pm on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 3) Extensions for any requirements will not be granted except in cases of documented emergencies or serious illnesses. If you have a medical excuse for missing a major grading event or deadline, you must provide your TA with detailed written documentation from the University Health Center or another health care provider.
- 4) If you miss a class period, you are responsible for any information that you might have missed that day, including any announcements made or assignments handed out.

### **Course Policies:**

You should be familiar with all university-wide policies regarding courses. Please review them here:

<http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

### *Academic Integrity:*

Cheating and plagiarism are absolutely unacceptable. We will employ various methods and techniques to detect cases of academic dishonesty. To be perfectly honest, in most cases it is typically quite easy for instructors to spot cheating and plagiarism. If you are unsure as to what constitutes plagiarism, please ask us. When in doubt, always cite the source you have consulted!

The university has a detailed code of academic integrity, which will apply to this course. You should familiarize yourself with this code, which is available at:

<http://www.president.umd.edu/sites/president.umd.edu/files/documents/policies/III-100A.pdf>

### *Accommodation of Disabilities:*

If you have any special condition that requires accommodation, please contact the Accessibility and Disability Services (ADS) office to obtain a letter of accommodation. We will make every effort to work with you to meet any special needs, provided that you have given us the proper ADS documentation. Please try to provide documentation no later than Friday, September 21.

<http://www.counseling.umd.edu/ads>

### *Professionalism:*

Once class has begun, please refrain from emailing, texting, or talking, since such activities are distracting and disrespectful. Phones should be put away for the duration of lecture. Laptops and tablets may be used for note-taking purposes only. You will be asked to leave the classroom if you violate these policies. I also reserve the right to revoke permission for laptops and tablets in the classroom if this policy is abused.

### **News Sources:**

During this semester you should attempt to acquire a solid knowledge of recent and current international political crises, events, happenings and trends. Although you are not formally required to keep up with current events, doing so will serve to illuminate the ideas and theories covered in class and in the readings. In addition, on the exams I typically include a handful of extra credit questions that test your knowledge of current and recent world events.

The best way to keep up with current events is to read a credible newspaper on a regular basis. The *New York Times* and *Washington Post* should be your go-to sources for international news. You also should tap into the many other excellent and diverse sources of global news. You can access online nearly any domestic or international newspaper, the best of which will cover global and regional news in depth. British newspapers (*The Guardian*, etc.) are an obvious place to turn, but you also are encouraged to read quality newspapers from other countries and in other languages. Some business-oriented publications, such as the *Financial Times* and *Wall Street Journal*, also do a solid job of covering international news. I also highly recommend *The Economist*, which comes out weekly and covers all regions of the world in an informative and concise manner. You may want to check-out the websites (and blogs) of international affairs publications such as *Foreign Affairs* and *Foreign Policy*. Finally, National Public Radio (NPR) provides access via radio and podcasts to international news and specialty programs, and both BBC News and PBS provide excellent international content via their broadcasts and websites. All in all, the most important thing is that you make an effort to keep up with current international affairs through some type of quality, evidence-based news outlet.

## Course Schedule

CR – Reading is available through library Course Reserves (via ELMS)

M – Reading is available through ELMS via “Modules”

### Week 1:

August 27 (Mon)

**Course Overview**

August 29 (Wed)

**History and Concepts**

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 2-33

**Fri Discussion Section:**

**Overview and Discussion**

National Intelligence Council, *Global Trends: Paradox of Progress*, 5-28 (M)

### **THEORETICAL APPROACHES**

### Week 2:

September 3 (Mon)

**NO CLASS – Labor Day**

September 5 (Wed)

**Realism and Idealism**

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 38-64

**Fri Discussion Section:**

**Realism and Idealism**

Thucydides, from *The Melian Dialogue*, 9-14 (CR)

Morgenthau, “A Realist Theory of International Politics,” from *Politics Among Nations*, 3-17 (CR)

Wilson, *Fourteen Points*, 35-40 (CR)

### Week 3:

September 10 (Mon)

**Neo-Realism and (Neo-)Liberalism**

Waltz, *The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory*, 615-628 (CR)

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 72-81

September 12 (Wed)

**Prisoner’s Dilemma**

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 64-66

**Fri Discussion Section:**

**Play Prisoners’ Dilemma**

Axelrod, *The Live-and-Let-Live System in Trench Warfare in World War I*, 73-87 (CR)

## ACTORS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### Week 4:

September 17 (Mon)

**IGOs: United Nations**

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 198-209, 212-216

September 19 (Wed)

**IGOs: European Union**

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 303-318

**Fri Discussion Section:**

**Debates about the European Union**

Congressional Research Service, *The European Union: Current Challenges and Future Prospectus*, 1-20 (M)

BBC News, *Brexit: All you need to know about the UK leaving the EU* (M)

### Week 5:

September 24 (Mon)

**Domestic Political Actors**

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 114-124, 126

September 26 (Wed)

**“Rationality” and Foreign Policy Decision Making**

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 107-114

**FIRST PAPER DUE  
in Discussion Section on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Fri Discussion Section:**

**Foreign Policy Decision Making**

Kahneman and Renshon, *Why Hawks Win*, 34-38 (CR)

## MILITARY FORCE AND SECURITY

### Week 6:

October 1 (Mon)

**War – Concepts and Causes**

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 129-158

October 3 (Wed)

**Arms and Armies**

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 164-173, 188-192

**Fri Discussion Section:**

**Discuss Ongoing Conflicts**

BBC News, *Why is there a war in Syria?* (M)

BBC News, *Yemen Crisis: Who is fighting whom?* (M)

BBC News, *Myanmar Rohingya: What you need to know...* (M)

BBC News, *Ethiopia's Abiy and Eritrea's Afwerki declare end of war* (M)

**Week 7:**

**October 8 (Mon)**                    **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)**  
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 177-188  
New York Times, *US Ramping Up Major Renewal in Nuclear Arms* (M)

**October 10 (Wed)**                **WMD and Terrorism**  
**Arms Control**  
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 173-177  
Morgan, *The Origins of the New Terrorism*, 29-43 (CR)

**Fri Discussion Section:**        **Iran and Nuclear Weapons**  
Einhorn, *Debating the Iran Nuclear Deal* (M)  
Vox, *Trump's Withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal* (M)

**Week 8:**

**October 15 (Mon)**                **The Democratic Peace**  
Russett, *Why Democratic Peace?*, 24-42 (CR)  
Mansfield and Snyder, *Democratization and War*, 335-347 (CR)

**October 17 (Wed)**                **MIDTERM EXAM**

**Fri Discussion Section:**        **The Decline of Violence?**  
Pinker and Mack, *The World is Not Falling Apart* (M)

**Week 9:**

**October 22 (Mon)**                **UN Peacekeeping**  
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 209-212  
Washington Post, *Record Number of U.N. Peacekeepers Fails to Stop Africa Wars* (M)

**October 24 (Wed)**                **The UN's Failure in Rwanda**  
**(In Class: Watch *The Triumph of Evil*)**  
Power, *Bystanders to Genocide*, 84-108 (CR)

**Fri Discussion Section:**        **The Future of Peacekeeping**  
Verini/National Geographic, *Should the United Nations Wage War to Keep Peace?* (M)

**INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS**

**Week 10:**

**October 29 (Mon)**                **Globalization and Free Trade**  
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 241-250, 262-267



**October 31 (Wed)**                      **Trade Cooperation**  
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 250-262

**Fri Discussion Section:**        **The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**  
Baum, *The Man Who Took My Job*, 6 pages (CR & M)  
Castañeda, *NAFTA's Mixed Record: The View from Mexico*, 34-41 (CR)

**Week 11:**

**November 5 (Mon)**                    **Trade Conflicts and Trade Debates**  
Irwin, *Free Trade Under Fire*, ch. 7 (CR)

**November 7 (Wed)**                    **Trade Conflicts and Trade Debates**  
**The Global Financial System**  
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 273-290

**Fri Discussion Section:**        **Multinational Corporations (MNCs) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**  
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 290-296, 300

**Week 12:**

**November 12 (Mon)**                    **Development: Standard Approaches**  
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 363-374, 393-407, 414-423

**November 14 (Wed)**                    **The IMF and Global Financial Crises**  
**(In Class: Watch film *The Crash*)**  
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 407-414

**SECOND PAPER DUE**  
**in Discussion Section on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Fri Discussion Section:**        **Debating Bailouts and Austerity**  
Sachs, *The IMF and the Asian Flu*, 1-6 (CR)

**Week 13:**

**November 19 (Mon)**                    **No Class Meeting**  
Reading and/or activity TBA

**November 21 (Wed)**                    **Thanksgiving Break**

**Fri Discussion Section:**        **Thanksgiving Break**

**Week 14:**

**November 26 (Mon)**                    **Development: Alternative Approaches and Perspectives**  
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 375-388, re-read 257-259

**OTHER ISSUES**

**November 28 (Wed)**                    **Global Environmental Cooperation**  
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 331-357

**Fri Discussion Section:**            **Debating Climate Change**  
Dupont, *The Strategic Implications of Climate Change*, 29-47 (CR)

**Week 15:**

**December 3 (Mon)**                    **International Law**  
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 216-235

**December 5 (Wed)**                    **Human Rights Institutions**  
Ainley, *The International Criminal Court on Trial*, 309-333 (CR)

**Fri Discussion Section:**            **Debating the International Criminal Court**  
New York Times, *The ICC, Out of Africa* (M)  
The Guardian, *Is the World's Highest Court Fit for Purpose?* (M)

**Week 16:**

**December 10 (Mon)**                    **Flexible Day** (makeup material, discuss recent global developments, talk about final exam)

**FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:00am - 10:00am**  
**0130 Tydings Hall**