

## GVPT 200: International Political Relations

Connor Kopchick  
Instructor  
ckopchic@umd.edu

### Basics<sup>1</sup>

Lecture Time: MW 10:00 – 10:50AM  
Lecture Location: Tydings 0130  
Discussion Times and Location: By Section  
ELMS Site: <https://myelms.umd.edu> (login required)  
Office: Tydings 1140C  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:00PM – 1:30PM

### Graduate TA:

Taylor Vincent  
Email: [tvincen@umd.edu](mailto:tvincen@umd.edu)  
Office: Tydings 5111  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00-2:00PM

### Undergraduate TAs:

Hannah Fairweather; [hpfair@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:hpfair@terpmail.umd.edu); Sections 101, 102  
Jonah Benjamin; [jbenjam7@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:jbenjam7@terpmail.umd.edu); Sections 101, 103  
Timothy Carter; [tcarte10@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:tcarte10@terpmail.umd.edu); Sections 104, 105  
Devorah Sklute; [dsklute@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:dsklute@terpmail.umd.edu); Sections 104, 106  
Caroline Dinkel; [cdinkel@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:cdinkel@terpmail.umd.edu); Sections 107, 108  
Colin Tiffany; [ctiffan1@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:ctiffan1@terpmail.umd.edu); Sections 108, 109

### Course Overview

This course will provide an overview of the major theories of international relations, and challenges to those theories, which will give students the conceptual tools to understand the complex relations between states today. Who are the actors, their goals, and the means of interactions between states? How do states understand the international system and interact with their peers? When do they co-operate and when do they compete? This course will then move to examine the most impactful ways states interact with one another: through conflict, through a host of international organizations, and through trade, aid, and investment. We'll apply the lessons we learn to pressing issues in the international system which challenge the security of people around the world: climate change, pandemics, terrorism, and the prospective return to great power competition. We'll ask how lessons of international relations scholarship can be applied to understand contemporary events, such as the Taliban's efforts to win diplomatic recognition and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The course will draw from peer-reviewed articles, book excerpts, and current news reporting.

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<sup>1</sup> Information in this syllabus is subject to change. Any major changes will be communicated. Regularly check the ELMS page for announcements.

## Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will have gained:

- A stronger general understanding of world politics;
- Foundations of theory and history in the subfield of international relations necessary for more advanced study and work; and
- Enhanced critical thinking skills and in-depth knowledge of contemporary issues in world politics.

## Instructor Introduction

My name is Connor Kopchick and I study comparative politics and international relations, focusing mostly on emigrant communities and repression, here at UMD. I'm a PhD candidate with an anticipated conferral date of May 2024. I have an MA in government and politics from UMD and a BA in political science from Davidson College in North Carolina (alma mater of Steph Curry). Before coming to UMD I worked for several national security contractors and spent nine months traveling between Egypt and the West Bank. In college, I also studied abroad for a year in India and Jordan. I hope to share with you how these experiences led me to this course of study.

## Required Readings

All readings will be available online or in PDF form via ELMS. Please note that these PDFs are distributed for educational purposes, may be protected by copyright, and should not be reproduced or distributed further. Some PDFs may have notes in the margins from previous readers but should be fully legible.

I have worked hard to select readings that are informative, engaging, and accessible. You will not be required to purchase textbooks or other reading materials for this course. You will be required however, to complete readings in preparation for class. Readings listed under the class date should be completed by our meeting time on that day. Not only will your grade be partially determined by actively engaging with the assigned texts, doing so will also foster more engaging classroom discussions and a better experience for everyone.

Two textbooks which we will draw repeatedly on are freely available through *E-International Relations*. I will also upload chapters to ELMS, however if you'd like to download the full PDF you can do so at:

McGlinchey, Stephen, Rosie Walters, and Christian Scheinpflug (eds). 2017. *International Relations Theory*. Bristol, England: E-International Relations Publishing.  
<https://www.e-ir.info/publication/international-relations-theory/>.

McGlinchey, Stephen (ed). 2017. *International Relations*. Bristol, England: E-International Relations Publishing.  
<https://www.e-ir.info/publication/beginners-textbook-international-relations/>.

## Grade Breakdown

<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment Date:</b>	<b>Percentage of Final Grade:</b>
Mini-Quizzes	Seven throughout Semester	15%
Midterm I	10/02	15%
Midterm II	11/06	20%
Final Exam	12/11	25%
Active Participation	Ongoing	20%
Subject Pool Participation	TBD	5%

The course will offer a variety of forms of assessment. Students will be assigned seven brief mini quizzes to gauge comprehension. The dates for these quizzes are noted in the schedule and will be available on ELMS. On the Friday before they are due, I will post these mini-quizzes and allow you until the following Thursday at 5pm to complete them. They are open-book, open-note, and you will have one hour to complete them once started (though they are intended not to take the full hour).

On 10/02 and 11/06 we will have two, in-class midterms taking the full class period. These midterms will cover all content since the last assessment. Finally, on 12/11 we will have an in-class final exam covering all course content. Students should arrive on-time and with writing utensils on the days of in-class assessments. I will provide more information on the exams and other assignments as the course progresses, while ensuring that students have reasonable time to prepare.

Participation in weekly discussion section meetings with their undergraduate TA's will be a major factor in the student's final assessment. Participation in GVPT's subject pool, or an alternative paper, will also contribute to your final grade (see below).

### **Government & Politics Subject Pool Participation**

Scholarly discovery depends, in large part, on research methods. Exposure to research methods is a valuable learning tool for students trying to understand research in political science. Some of the most exciting and cutting-edge research is being conducted right here at Maryland, and so there's no better opportunity to learn about research in political science than by participating in research studies. The Government and Politics department encourages students to gain hands-on research experience and knowledge. To support students in gaining this knowledge, students who take part in three studies conducted by GVPT faculty and graduate students will receive participation credit. I have allotted 5% of your final course grade to support this endeavor. Students who complete all of the required studies will receive full credit for this grade component; those who do not will receive no credit.

GVPT studies have historically taken about 20-30 minutes to complete. 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. If you are under 18 years old, you must have parental consent on file for you to participate in a research study, or you may choose to write the paper instead. Please note: you must participate in all of the studies this semester (or write the review paper) to

receive credit. More information on participation in these studies, and the alternative assignment, will be announced and posted on ELMS when available.

### **Grade Ranges:**

Late work (unless excused) will be penalized by half of a letter grade for every day that it is late. Extensions are only granted with an excuse cleared with the instructor.

A+: 97-100	A: 93-96.9	A-: 90-92.9
B+: 87-89.9	B: 83-86.9	B-: 80-82.9
C+: 77-79.9	C: 73-76.9	C-: 70-72.9
D+: 67-69.9	D: 63-66.9	D-: 60-62.9
F: below 60		

### **Grading and Appeals**

Students may file appeals if they believe their assignment has been graded incorrectly. Appeals must be made in writing (email or ELMS message) within one week of the assignment being returned to the student. Appeals should be directed to the course graduate assistant. If you are given a judgement for an appeal that you still wish to contest, you may appeal again, directly to me (again, in writing) within one week of your last appeal being decided.

### **Communication**

This course will be instructed by myself, along with a graduate TA (GTA), and undergraduate TAs (UTAs). Each of us will hold regular office hours and can be reached through email or ELMS messages. Most of your regular conversations about course material and questions about upcoming assignments will be held with your UTAs, who have taken this course before. UTAs can also discuss issues such as accommodations, absences, etc. However, if you have an issue that you would feel more comfortable with someone else, the GTA can also discuss said issue. If you feel more comfortable, I am also happy to discuss it. I ask that when emailing me you include "GVPT200" in the subject line to let me know this is a course related question, and to allow me 24-48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) to respond.

### **Course Policies**

Students will adhere to standards set forth in the University of Maryland Code of Academic Integrity and Code of Student Conduct. All suspected cases of student conduct violations and/or academic dishonesty will be reported.

Respect your instructor and fellow students, recalling the honor pledge:

*"I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assessment."*

Students are encouraged to read and become familiar with the codes as well as university-wide policies related to courses.

The Code of Academic Integrity can be found here: <https://policies.umd.edu/assets/section-iii/III-100A.pdf>, the Code of Student Conduct here: <https://policies.umd.edu/assets/section-v/V->

[100B.pdf](#), and university-wide policies related to courses can be found here: <https://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>.

### **Excused Absences and Make-Up Work**

Students claiming an excused absence should contact their TA or myself. When possible, students should notify their TA of absences beforehand and with appropriate documentation if necessary. For planned absences known at the beginning of the semester (religious observances, university activities, etc.), students should inform their TA/instructor within the first two weeks of class.

The Undergraduate Catalog defines an excused absence as follows:

“Events that justify an excused absence include religious observances; mandatory military obligation; illness of the student or illness of an immediate family member; participation in university activities at the request of university authorities; and compelling circumstances beyond the student’s control (e.g., death in the family, required court appearance). Absences stemming from work duties other than military obligation (e.g., unexpected changes in shift assignments) and traffic/transit problems do not typically qualify for excused absence.”

Students with an excusable reason for being absent from discussion sessions may receive an excused absence from participation once without documentation. For subsequent absences, and for any absences from exams or other assignments, students should provide documentation. If you are feeling unwell, please stay home.

Students are responsible for information and material missed on days of excused absences. In cases of excused absences resulting in missed assignments, I will make reasonable accommodations for a make-up assignment.

### **Accessibility**

If you have any condition that requires accommodation, please contact Accessibility and Disability Services (ADS) office to obtain a letter of accommodation. I will make every effort to work with you to meet any such needs, provided that you have presented the proper ADS documentation. Details on obtaining support through ADS can be found here: <http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/>.

## Course Schedule

### Week 1:

#### Session 1 (8/28): Introduction

*No Required Reading.*

*Optional:*

Walt, S. M. 1998. "International Relations: One World, Many Theories." *Foreign Policy* 110, 29-46.

#### Session 2 (8/30): Realism I

Antunes, Sandrina and Isabel Camisão. 2017. "Realism." In *International Relations Theory* (eds) Stephen McGlinchey, Rosie Walters, and Christian Scheinpflug. Bristol, England: E-International Relations Publishing: pp. 15-21.

Kotkin, Stephen. 2018. "Realist World: The Players Change But The Game Remains." *Foreign Affairs* 97(4): 10-15.

### Week 2:

Labor Day (9/04): No Class

#### Session 3 (9/06): Realism II

Mearsheimer, John. 2014. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (revised ed.). New York: Norton. (Chapter 2, pp. 29-54)

Mini-Quiz I will be available at 1pm Friday and will be due by next Thursday at 5pm.

### Week 3:

#### Session 4 (9/11): Liberalism I

Moravcsik, Andrew. 1997. "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics." *International Organization* 51(4): (Excerpt posted on ELMS)

#### Session 5 (9/13): Liberalism II

Meiser, Jeffrey W. 2017. "Liberalism." In *International Relations Theory* (eds) Stephen McGlinchey, Rosie Walters, and Christian Scheinpflug. Bristol, England: E-International Relations Publishing: pp. 22-25. (excerpt, read until "Liberal Theory and American Imperialism section)

Deudney, Daniel and G. John Ikerberry. 2018. "Liberal World: The Resilient Order." *Foreign Affairs* 97(4): 16-24.

Mini-Quiz II will be available at 1pm Friday and will be due by next Thursday at 5pm.

## **Week 4:**

### **Session 6 (9/18): Constructivism I**

Theys, Sarina. 2017. "Constructivism." In *International Relations Theory* (eds) Stephen McGlinchey, Rosie Walters, and Christian Scheinpflug. Bristol, England: E-International Relations Publishing: pp. 36-41.

### **Session 7 (9/20): Constructivism II**

Wendt, A. 1992. "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics." *International Organization*, 46(2), 391-425.

Mini-Quiz III will be available at 1pm Friday and will be due by next Thursday at 5pm.

## **Week 5:**

### **Session 8 (9/25): Post-Colonialism and Race**

Nair, Sheila. 2017. "Postcolonialism." In *International Relations Theory* (eds) Stephen McGlinchey, Rosie Walters, and Christian Scheinpflug. Bristol, England: E-International Relations Publishing: pp. 69-75.

Acharya, Amitav. 2022. "Race and Racism in the Founding of the Modern World Order." *International Affairs* 98(1): 23-43.

### **Session 9 (9/27): Global IR**

Acharya, Amitav. 2017. "Towards a Global IR." In *International Relations Theory* (eds) Stephen McGlinchey, Rosie Walters, and Christian Scheinpflug. Bristol, England: E-International Relations Publishing: pp. 76-82.

Eun, Yong-Soo. 2020. "Non-Western International Relations Theorisation: Reflexive Stocktaking." *E-International Relations*. April 12. <https://www.e-ir.info/2020/04/12/non-western-international-relations-theorisation-reflexive-stocktaking/>.

## **Week 6:**

### **Session 10 (10/02): Midterm I**

### **Session 11 (10/04): Bargaining Model of Conflict I**

Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49(3): (Excerpt posted on ELMS).

## **Week 7**

### **Session 10 (10/09): Bargaining Model of Conflict II**

Lake, David A. 2010. "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations for the Iraq War." *International Security* 35(3): (Excerpt posted on ELMS).

### **Session 11 (10/11): International Organizations**

Abidin, Shazelina Z. 2017. "International Organisations." In *International Relations* ed. Stephen McGlinchey. Bristol, England: E-International Relations Publishing. Pp. 71-77.

Murithi, Tim. 2023. "Order of Oppression: Africa's Quest for a New International System." *Foreign Affairs* 102(3): 24-30.

Mearsheimer, John J. 1994. "The False Promise of International Institutions." *International Security* 19(3): (excerpt: pp. 15- 19).

Mini-Quiz IV will be available at 1pm Friday and will be due by next Thursday at 5pm.

### **Week 8:**

#### **Session 12 (10/16): International Law and Justice**

Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). "What is International Law?" *World 101: How the World Works, and Sometimes Doesn't*.

<https://world101.cfr.org/how-world-works-and-sometimes-doesnt/global-governance/what-international-law>

Baillie, Lauren and Matthew Parkes. 2023. "Don't Look Away from China's Atrocities Against the Uyghurs." United States Institute of Peace. April 6.

<https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/04/dont-look-away-chinas-atrocities-against-uyghurs>.

Clapp, Helen and Kathryn Sikkink. 2022. "From "Invade the Hague" to "Support the ICC": America's Shifting Stance on the International Criminal Court." Harvard Kennedy School Blog. April 27. <https://scholar.harvard.edu/ksikkink/blog/%E2%80%9Cinvade-hague%E2%80%9D-%E2%80%9Csupport-icc%E2%80%9D-america%E2%80%99s-shifting-stance-international-criminal-court>

#### **Session 13 (10/18): Nuclear Deterrence and Proliferation**

Waltz, Kenneth. 2012. "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb." *Foreign Affairs* 91(4): 2-5.

Talmadge, Caitlin. 2019. "Are nuclear weapons keeping the India-Pakistan crisis from escalating—or making it more dangerous?" *Brookings Institute Blog*. March 8.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2019/03/08/are-nuclear-weapons-keeping-the-india-pakistan-crisis-from-escalating-or-making-it-more-dangerous/>.



## **Week 9:**

### **Session 14 (10/23): International Political Economy**

Walzenbach, Günter. 2017. "Global Political Economy." In *International Relations* ed. Stephen McGlinchey. Bristol, England: E-International Relations Publishing. Pp. 87-97.

Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). "What Are the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund?" *World 101: How the World Works, and Sometimes Doesn't*.

<https://world101.cfr.org/how-world-works-and-sometimes-doesnt/global-governance/what-are-world-bank-and-international>

### **Session 15 (10/25): Trade Agreements**

Dean, Adam. 2016. "Trump and Clinton are both wrong. Trade policy won't automatically raise U.S. workers' wages." *The Monkey Cage*. September 13.

<https://themonkeycage.org/2016/09/trump-and-clinton-are-both-wrong-no-trade-policy-will-automatically-raise-u-s-workers-wages/>.

Prasad, Eswar. 2023. "Zero-Sum Game." *Foreign Policy* 248: 42-45.

Hickel, Jason, Dylan Sullivan, and Huzaifa Zoomkawala. 2021. "Rich countries drained \$152tn from the global South since 1960." *Al Jazeera*. May 6.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2021/5/6/rich-countries-drained-152tn-from-the-global-south-since-1960>.

Mini-Quiz V will be available at 1pm Friday and will be due by next Thursday at 5pm.

## **Week 10:**

### **Session 16 (10/30): Domestic Determinants of IR**

Kertzer, Joshua D. and Thomas Zeitzoff. 2017. "A Bottom-Up Theory of Public Opinion about Foreign Policy." *American Journal of Political Science* 61(3): 543-558.

Li, Xiaojun. 2022. "How Public Opinion Shapes China's Foreign Policy." *London School of Economic Blog*. May 20. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/cff/2022/05/20/how-public-opinion-shapes-chinas-foreign-policy/>

### **Session 17 (11/01): Civil Wars, Peacekeeping**

Fearon, James D. 2017. "Civil War & the Current International System." *Daedalus* 146(4): 18-32. <https://www.amacad.org/publication/civil-war-current-international-system>

## **Week 11:**

### **Session 18 (11/06): Midterm II**

**Session 19 (11/08): Terrorism**

Huq, Aziz Z. 2006. "Extraordinary Rendition and the Wages of Hypocrisy." *World Policy Journal* 23(1): 25-35.

Peritz, Aki. 2022. "How the U.S., U.K., and Pakistan Teamed Up to Stop Another 9/11." *Politico*. January 2. <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2022/01/02/liquid-bomber-plot-counterterrorism-international-cooperation-526246>.

**Week 12:**

**Session 20 (11/13): Film Day – Afghanistan and the Taliban (No Class)**

PBS Frontline. 2023. *America and the Taliban: Part Three*. April 25. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFbgj9RBfgU>.

Also watch brief primer video uploaded to ELMS.

**Session 21 (11/15): International Community Membership and Recognition**

Cristol, Jonathan. 2019. *The United States and the Taliban before and after 9/11*. Palgrave Pivot Cham: New York. (excerpt: Chapter 1, pp. 1-9).

Caspersen, Nina. 2012. *Unrecognized States: The Struggle for Sovereignty in the Modern International System*. Polity Press: Malden, MA. (excerpt: pp. 1-16)

Mini-Quiz VI will be available at 1pm Friday and will be due by next Thursday at 5pm.

**Week 13:**

**Session 22 (11/20): Pandemics**

Patrick, Stewart. 2020. "When the System Fails." *Foreign Affairs* 99(4): 40-51.

Thanksgiving Recess - No class (11/22)

**Week 14:**

**Session 23 (11/27): Transnational Advocacy**

Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. (excerpt: pp. 1-18)

**Session 24 (11/29): Climate Change**

Stevenson, Hayley. 2021. "Reforming Global Climate Governance in an Age of Bullshit." *Globalizations* 18(1): 86-102.

Mini-Quiz VII will be available at 1pm Friday and will be due by next Thursday at 5pm.

## **Week 15:**

### **Session 25 (12/04): Great Power Competition I**

Graziano, Manlio. 2022. "United States: the end of an illusion of omnipotence." *The Conversation*. July 20. <https://theconversation.com/united-states-the-end-of-an-illusion-of-omnipotence-186421>.

Mazarr, Michael J. 2022. "Understanding Competition Great Power Rivalry in a Changing International Order - Concepts and Theories." RAND Corporation. March. <https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PEA1404-1.html>. (excerpt: pp. 1-7, 9-18)

### **Session 26 (12/06): Great Power Competition II**

Kang, David C. and Xinru Ma. 2018. "Power Transitions: Thucydides Didn't Live in East Asia." *The Washington Quarterly* 41(1): 137-154.

Heine, Jorge. 2023. "The Global South is forging a new foreign policy in the face of war in Ukraine, China-US tensions: Active nonalignment." *The Conversation*. June 16. <https://theconversation.com/the-global-south-is-forging-a-new-foreign-policy-in-the-face-of-war-in-ukraine-china-us-tensions-active-nonalignment-207078>.

## **Week 16:**

### **Session 27 (12/11): Final Exam**