

Government and Politics (GVPT) 200
International Political Relations
University of Maryland
Fall 2016

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 Hours: Monday 2:30-4:30pm

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 on reserve at the Library Services Desk at McKeldin library and available for purchase at the bookstores:

Jon C.W. Pevehouse and Joshua S. Goldstein. *International Relations*, 11th 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. These guides 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) Attendance in Lecture: On six random days during the course of the semester we will take attendance at the beginning of lecture. You will receive a maximum of five points for lecture attendance. In other words, you can miss one day on which attendance is taken and still receive the maximum points. This eliminates any need for you to try and provide justification for an absence from lecture or to use your one self-signed medical excuse for lecture attendance (see below).

2) Discussion Section (Attendance, Participation, Quizzes/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 your: a) attendance record, b) the degree to which you contribute to classroom activities and discussion, and c) 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 a policy regarding medical absences, which allows you to be excused for missing a single discussion section meeting. You must submit to your TA a self-signed note that includes the date of the illness, a statement that the information you have provided is true, and your signature.

3) Exams: You will take both a midterm and final exam. The midterm will address material from August 29-October 24. The final exam is quasi-cumulative – it will focus heavily on material from the second half of the course (October 28-December 12), but also will contain 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.

4) 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 30th and the second paper is due at the beginning of your discussion section on Friday, November 18th. 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.

Grading:

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

Lecture Attendance – 5%

Discussion Section (attendance, 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 papers, quizzes, 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 first should 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 and will have the final say. 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 for half credit up until 5pm on Friday, December 16th.
- 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 Disability Support Service (DSS) 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 DSS documentation. Please try to provide documentation no later than September 23.

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

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/or *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 nearly any domestic or international newspaper, the best of which will cover global and regional news in depth. British newspapers (i.e., *The Guardian*, etc.) are an obvious place to turn, but you also are encouraged to read quality/flagship newspapers from other countries and in other languages. Some business-oriented publications, such as the *Financial Times* and *Wall Street Journal*, also do an excellent 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. Some of the so-called “new media” sites (Vox, etc.) also are good supplements. 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 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 29 (Mon)

Course Overview

August 31 (Wed)

History and Concepts

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 2-33

Fri Discussion Section:

Overview and Discussion

National Intelligence Council, *Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds*, i–xiv (M)

THEORETICAL APPROACHES

Week 2:

September 5 (Mon)

NO CLASS – Labor Day

September 7 (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 12 (Mon)

Neo-Realism and (Neo-)Liberalism

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

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 72-81

September 14 (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 19 (Mon)

IGOs: United Nations

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 198-209, 212-216

September 21 (Wed)

IGOs: European Union

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 303-318

Discussion Section:

Debates about the European Union

Harding, *The Myth of Europe*, 1-9 (CR)

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

Week 5:

September 26 (Mon)

Foreign Policy Decision Making

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 107-114

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

September 28 (Wed)

Domestic Political Actors

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 114-124, 126-127

FIRST PAPER DUE

in Discussion Section on Friday, September 30th

Fri Discussion Section:

Technology and Non-State Actors

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 318-325

Washington Post, *The Islamic State is Failing at Being a State* (M)

MILITARY FORCE AND SECURITY

Week 6:

October 3 (Mon)

War – Concepts and Causes

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 129-158

October 5 (Wed)

Arms and Armies

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 164-173, 188-192

Fri Discussion Section:

Discuss Ongoing Conflicts

BBC News, *Syria: The story of the conflict* (M)

Freeland, *My Ukraine* (M)

Week 7:

October 10 (Mon)

NO CLASS

October 12 (Wed)

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 177-188

New York Times, *US Ramping Up Major Renewal in Nuclear Arms* (M)

Fri Discussion Section:

Iran and Nuclear Weapons

Einhorn, *Debating the Iran Nuclear Deal* (M)

Week 8:

October 17 (Mon)

UN Peacekeeping

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 209-212

Washington Post, *Record Number of U.N. Peacekeepers Fails to Stop Africa Wars* (M)

October 19 (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)

Week 9:

October 24 (Mon)

Terrorism

Pevehouse and Goldstein, 173-177

Morgan, *The Origins of the New Terrorism*, 29-43 (CR)

October 26 (Wed)

MIDTERM EXAM

Fri Discussion Section:

The Decline of Violence?

Pinker and Mack, *The World is Not Falling Apart* (M)

Week 10:

October 31 (Wed)

The Democratic Peace

Russett, *Why Democratic Peace?*, 24-42 (CR)

Mansfield and Snyder, *Democratization and War*, 335-347 (CR)

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

November 2 (Wed) **Globalization and Free Trade**
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 241-250, 262-267

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

November 9 (Mon) **Trade Conflicts and Trade Debates**
Irwin, *Free Trade Under Fire*, part of ch. 7 (CR)
Allee and Lugg, *Who Wrote the Rules for the Trans-Pacific Partnership?* (M)

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

Week 12:

November 14 (Mon) **The Global Financial System**
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 273-290

November 16 (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 18th

Fri Discussion Section: **Debating Bailouts and Austerity**
Sachs, *The IMF and the Asian Flu*, 1-6 (CR)
Jubilee Debt Campaign, *The Never-Ending Austerity Story*, 1-8 (M)

Week 13:

November 21 (Mon) **Development: Standard Approaches**
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 363-374, 393-407, 414-423,

November 23 (Wed) **NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break**

Fri Discussion Section: NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break

Week 14:

November 28 (Mon) Development: Alternative Approaches and Perspectives
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 375-388, re-read 257-259

OTHER ISSUES

November 30 (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 5 (Mon) International Law
Pevehouse and Goldstein, 216-235

December 7 (Wed) Human Rights Institutions
Ainley, *The International Criminal Court on Trial*, 309-333 (CR)

Fri Discussion Section: Debating the International Criminal Court
Washington Post, *African Leaders Complain of Bias at ICC as Kenya Trials Get Underway* (M)
New York Times, *Is the War Crimes Court Still Relevant?* (M)

Week 16:

December 12 (Mon) TO BE DETERMINED

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 20th
8:00am - 10:00am
0130 Tydings Hall