

**International Relations**  
POSC218-01  
St. John Fisher College—Fall 2018  
TTh 9:30-10:50am, Basil 216

***Contact Information***

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***Course Description***

This course introduces students to some of the foundations of the study of international relations, such as states, the state system, and nationalism; theory in international relations, e.g., feminism, constructivism, realism, liberal theory, post-colonial theory, post-modernism, Subaltern studies, and Marxism; foreign policy, political leadership, and decision-making; international security, e.g., terrorism, the causes of war, nuclear weapons, civil-military relations, human and environmental security; and international institutions and norms. The course examines these topics with perspectives as broad as realism, liberalism, feminism, constructivism, post-colonialism, and post-modernism. Majors will benefit from the broad survey of the discipline of IR and its specific debates. Non-majors will become better global citizens.

***Course Objectives***

This course prepares you for higher-level courses in political science and international relations by, first, teaching you to make arguments and to evaluate arguments about politics in international perspective, and, second, by introducing you to research methods so that you can learn to investigate international politics independently. Upon completing the course, students:

- 1) will understand ideas and disputes in the field of International Relations, with the aim of teaching you to investigate the world more rigorously;
  
- 2) will be able to think critically about the effects their research has on the conduct of politics, rather than merely thinking abstractly about their research conclusions. This includes thinking about *the types of questions* we ask when researching in IR; and
  
- 3) will be able to apply the skills learned in this course (in 1 & 2) to the conduct of rigorous research on questions of global importance. Students should be able to use these research and writing skills in future courses or independent studies, for conferences and publications, and in careers in the foreign service, foreign policy, or global think tanks.

**Special Accommodations.** If you have a hidden or visible disability, which may require classroom or test accommodations, please see me as soon as possible or meet with Disabilities Services (Kearney 300), which is responsible for coordinating accommodations and services for students with disabilities. Phone: (585) 385-5252 and [Web](#).

**Course Requirements and Evaluation:**

**Break-down of course grades:**

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Midterm Exam (Oct. 9)   | 25% |
| Paper Proposal (Oct. 9) | 5%  |
| Draft Paper (Nov. 18)   | 15% |
| Final Paper (Dec. 14)   | 30% |
| Participation           | 25% |

**Attendance.** Attendance is a requirement if you wish to do well in this course. In-class notes, discussion, and lecture material are the basis for the midterm exam. I take attendance everyday.

You may take *two free absences*—no questions asked—for when life just happens. If taking courses is your job, then think of these as personal days. You are still responsible for course material and discussion content for that day.

I also allow additional *excused absences* for things like illnesses, religious holidays, family deaths, et cetera. For absences beyond the *two absences* noted above, you must provide documentation, excluding exceptional circumstances which you should discuss with me prior to your absence.

**Individual Participation.** Participation is worth 25% of your grade. I want students to talk in order to engage the material and learn the skills necessary to participate in healthy intellectual debate with peers. It is not more complicated than that. Students should feel free to ask me anything about class material and current events. Obviously, course-related questions are preferred, since they also help clarify concepts for others, but we can also learn from discussing contemporary world affairs. That is all I ask of you: show up with questions and talk. Participation is worth 25% of your grade, which is a lot of points for showing up and talking.

**Midterm Exam.** The midterm covers all topics discussed in class from September 11 to October 4. On October 9, we will review for the exam during the first half of class and use the remaining time for testing.

**Short Research Project.** You'll produce a short research paper (10-12 pages) on any topic in IR of your choosing (e.g., a topic not covered in class, one that goes beyond the depth of a class topic). Pick a topic that you enjoy reading about. In lieu of a paper, I encourage you to do a creative project, like a website, social entrepreneurship, artwork, or film. The project is worth 30% of your grade, but will build on a short proposal and an early draft, on both of which I will provide feedback before the final paper is due. Creative projects only require a proposal.

Final papers are due electronically on Dec. 14 via Turnitin. I will provide instructions on that process before the due date. Extensions must be discussed with me at least one week before the due date, otherwise I will deduct papers by  $\frac{1}{3}$  letter grade for each day they are late.

The proposal should be no more than one (1) page. It should include a broad introduction to the topic (para. 1), a specific set of questions related to the topic and why those questions are important (para. 2), and a concluding section that outlines your plans to complete the draft paper, including types of evidence to use, where to find the evidence, how you will organize the paper, etc. (para. 3).

The draft paper should be no more than five (5) pages. It should be an attempt to execute the plan you made in the proposal. We'll talk more about the requirements for this paper. The draft is worth 15% of your grade. Draft papers are due by email before you leave for Thanksgiving break (so, on Sunday, November 18, at midnight).

**Academic Integrity.** Cheating on exams is not tolerated. It is that simple. You will fail if I catch you cheating. Plagiarism will result in an automatic F on the assignment with no opportunity to redo the assignment. A second violation of plagiarism will result in course failure. Academic dishonesty is intellectual theft, and I treat it as such.

**Concern for Others.** If you have a concern about another classmate in this class or any other setting on SJFC's campus, please communicate with your professor.

**Outside Resources.** Aside from visiting me outside of class, St. John Fisher also offers other support services, such as:

**Center for Academic Excellence.** The Center provides advice on improving academic performance, tutoring services, disability services, career services, math and writing

services, and plenty of online resources. Phone: (585) 385-8147 and [Web](#).

**Course Schedule and Readings.** Students are responsible for reading assignments and should come prepared to discuss them in class. Some readings will be made available through Blackboard and links to the automated Google Drive course. Most readings, especially articles, will bring you to academic journals. I do this to get you more comfortable with academic research.

Under each course section, you will see a link for a further reading “doc,” which links to a separate document where I compile additional readings on the course topics covered in that section. This is primarily a resource for your paper topics, but you’re free to use this for your own general interest in the course topic. The links will also remain active beyond the length of the course, so that you can use them for independent research, capstone projects, and the like.

Finally, you will see a link for “notes” next to each planned class session. Ideally, you will click this link before you do the readings for that class. In the least, you should click that link before coming to class. The “notes” section raises general and specific questions to cover during that class session. It could serve as a reading guide and, in the least, a pre-class discussion guide. My notes will also be updated based on the discussion we have during the class session, so that you can check back later for midterm review or paper inspiration (if a class debate piqued your interest).

Follow closely in class and watch BB for updates to this schedule!

## *Course Outline*

### ***September 6, Introduction***

Optional: Daniel W. Drezner, “[Theory of International Politics and Zombies](#),” *Foreign Policy* (18 August 2009).

## **I. The State in International Relations**

*Further Reading (doc)*

*(Sept. 11-20)*

### ***September 11, the State in International Relations I (notes)***

Timothy Mitchell. “[The Limits of the State: Beyond Statist Approaches and Their Critics](#),” *The American Political Science Review* 85, no. 1 (1991): p. 77-96.

Miguel Angel Centeno. “[Blood and Debt: War and Taxation in Nineteenth-Century Latin America](#),” *American Journal of Sociology* 102, no. 6 (1997): p. 1565-1605.

### ***September 13, the State in International Relations II (notes)***

Andreas Osiander, “[Sovereignty, International Relations, and the Westphalian Myth](#),” *International Organization* 55, no. 2 (2001): p. 251-287.

### ***September 18, Anarchy & the State I (notes)***

Pat Moloney. “[Hobbes, Savagery, and International Anarchy](#),” *The American Political Science Review* 105, no. 1 (2011): p. 189-204.

### ***September 20, Anarchy & the State II (notes)***

Richard Ashley. “[Untying the Sovereign State: A Double Reading of the Anarchy Problematique](#),” *Millennium* 17, no. 2 (1988): p. 227-262.

## II. Theories of International Relations

*Further Reading (doc)*

*(Sept. 25-Oct. 9)*

### ***September 25, Realism, Liberal theory, and Constructivism (notes)***

John J. Mearsheimer and Zbigniew Brzezinski. “[Debate: Clash of the Titans](#),” *Foreign Policy* (2005): p. 46-50.

Alexander Wendt. “[Constructing International Politics](#),” *International Security* 20, no. 1 (1995): p. 71-81.

### ***September 27, Feminism (notes)***

J. Ann Tickner. “[Hans Morgenthau’s Principles of Political Realism: A Feminist Reformulation](#),” *Millennium* 17, no. 3 (1988): p. 429-440.

### ***October 2, Marxism (notes)***

Robert W. Cox. “[Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory](#),” in Robert O. Keohane (ed.), *Neorealism and Its Critics* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1986), p. 204-254.

### ***October 4, Non-Western Approaches (notes)***

Sanjay Seth. “[Postcolonial Theory and the Critique of International Relations](#),” *Millennium* 40, no. 1 (2012): p. 167-183.

## **Review and Midterm<sup>1</sup>**

*October 9*

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<sup>1</sup> We will review for the midterm during the latter part of class on 10/4 and the first quarter of class on 10/9. You will be given the exam following our review session.

**III. Foreign Policy**  
*Further Reading (doc)*  
(Oct. 11 & 16)

**October 11, IR and Foreign Policy (notes)**

Daniel L. Byman and Kenneth M. Pollack. “[Let Us Now Praise Great Men: Bringing the Statesmen Back In](#),” *International Security* 25, no. 4 (2001): p. 107-146.

Colin Elman. “[Horses for Courses: Why Not Neorealist Theories of Foreign Policy?](#)” *Security Studies* 6, no. 1 (1996): p. 7-53.

**October 16, Foreign Policy (notes)**

Jack Snyder. “[Civil-Military Relations and the Cult of the Offensive, 1914 and 1984](#),” *International Security* 9, no. 1 (1984): p. 108-146.

Robert D. Putnam. “[Diplomacy and domestic politics: the logic of two-level games](#),” *International Organization* 42, no. 3 (1988): p. 427-460.

**IV. International Security**  
*Further Reading (doc)*  
(Oct. 18-Nov. 1)

**October 18, The Security Dilemma (notes)**

Robert Jervis. “[Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma](#),” *World Politics* 30, no. 2 (1978): p. 167-214.

Randall L. Schweller. “[Neorealism’s Status-Quo Bias: What Security Dilemma?](#)” *Security Studies* 5, no. 3 (1996): p. 90-121.

**October 23, Polarity, Alliances, Balancing (notes)**

Glenn H. Snyder. “[The Security Dilemma in Alliance Politics](#),” *World Politics* 36, no. 4 (1984): p. 461-495.

Thomas J. Christensen and Jack Snyder. “[Chain Gangs and Passed Bucks: Predicting Alliance Patterns in Multipolarity](#),” *International Organization* 44, no. 2 (1990): p. 137-168.

Martha Finnemore. “[Legitimacy, Hypocrisy, and the Social Structure of Unipolarity: Why Being a Unipole Isn’t All It’s Cracked Up To Be](#),” *World Politics* 61, no. 1 (2009): p. 58-85.

**October 25, Terrorism (notes)**

Robert Pape. “[The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism](#),” *The American Political Science Review* 97, no. 3 (2003): p. 343-361.

John Mueller. “[A False Sense of Insecurity?](#)” *Regulation* 27, no. 3 (2004): p. 42-46.

**October 30, Human Security (notes)**

Roland Paris. “[Human Security: Paradigm Shift or Hot Air?](#)” *International Security* 26, no. 2 (2001): p. 87-102.

**November 1, Environmental Security (notes)**

Marc A. Levy, “[Is the Environment a National Security Issue?](#)” *International Security* 20, no. 2 (1995): p. 35-62.

**V. Institutions and Norms**

*Further Reading (doc)*

*(Nov. 6-29)*

**November 6, Institutions (notes)**

Michael N. Barnett and Martha Finnemore. “[The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations](#),” *International Organization* 53, no. 4 (1999): p. 699-732.

**November 8, Institutions and Norms (notes)**

Charlotte Epstein. “[Theorizing Agency in Hobbes's Wake: The Rational Actor, the Self, or the Speaking Subject?](#)” *International Organization* 67, no. 2 (2013): p. 287-316.

**November 13, International Institutions, an Exchange I (notes)**

John J. Mearsheimer, “[The False Promise of International Institutions](#),” *International Security* 19, no. 3 (1994): p. 5-49.

**November 15, International Institutions, an Exchange II (notes)**

John Gerard Ruggie, “[The False Premise of Realism](#),” *International Security* 20, no. 1 (1995): p. 62-70.

**November 20, Norms I (notes)**

Nina Tannenwald, “[The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use](#),” *International Organization* 43, no. 3 (1999): p. 433-468.

**Thanksgiving Break<sup>2</sup>**

*November 22, no class!*

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<sup>2</sup> Have a nice break! Draft papers are due before you start your break, on Sunday, November 18 at midnight.

***November 27, Norms II (notes)***

Audie Klotz, “[Norms Reconstituting Interests: Global Racial Equality and U.S. Sanctions against South Africa](#),” *International Organization* 53, no. 3 (1995): p. 451-478.

***November 29, Norms III (notes)***

Richard Price, “[Reversing the Gun Sights: Transnational Civil Society Targets Land Mines](#),” *International Organization* 52, no. 3 (1998): p. 613-644.

***December 4, Review***

We'll have a discussion to rap up the course and think about what we've learned.

***December 6, No class!***<sup>1</sup>

Work on your papers!

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<sup>1</sup> Papers are due electronically on December 14, in lieu of sitting for a final exam.