



POL101T
Introduction to International Relations
Spring 2019

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor	Prof. Bernd Bucher
Instructor's Email	bbucher@fus.edu
Office Hours	TBA
Class location	MV 1, KC
Class meeting times	Mondays & Thursdays 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides the basic tools necessary for analyzing international relations (IR). After a brief introduction to the history of IR, the course will focus on the main schools of thought in IR theory. In a final step, we will take a look at contemporary developments in terrorism, war, humanitarian intervention and international political economy.

III. RATIONALE

This course is not only central for those majoring in IR, but counts towards the major in social justice and sustainability.

IV. COURSE GOALS

The goals for this course include the following:

- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills.
 - Practice synthesizing information from classroom discussions, reading assignments and individual research.
 - Further develop and apply a relevant analytic and methodological skill set.
 - Acquire a theoretical repertoire to explore and understand issues related to social justice and sustainability
 - Develop professional skills such as conflict resolution, advocacy, policy design and assessment, as well as proficiency in relevant software packages.
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V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the main concepts and theories in IR. Upon completion of this class, students should be familiar with the major schools in IR theory and should be familiar with some of the major scholarly debates on contemporary issues. Students should have developed the ability to critically discuss historical and contemporary developments in a theoretically guided fashion.

VI. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

This course will mainly draw on:

Baylis, John, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens, eds. (2016) *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to international relations* (7th edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press [GWP].

Students are required to purchase the above mentioned book for this course! The book is available at the University bookstore.

VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will be assessed on the basis of a variety of assignments, with a particular emphasis on the acquisition of analytical and critical thinking. Thus active participation will figure strongly into the overall grade.

The course requirements will also include a written assignment (1,750 – 2,250 words) to be chosen from the following options:

- Analysis of a current issue in international relations, based on newspaper and magazine readings, including editorial opinions.
- Book review focusing on a historical event, period or theoretical approach.
- An analytical profile of one of the international organizations based in Vienna.

A detailed guideline explaining the analytical paper assignment will be made available on moodle. All choices should be approved by the instructor.

VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS (indicative)

1 Presentation	20%
1 Mid-Term Exam	20%
1 Final Essay	35%
Travel Participation	12.5%
Overall participation	12.5%

IX. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Examinations are given letter grades according to the following numerical scale:

A: 94-100	B+: 88-89	C+: 78-79	D+: 68-69	F: 0-59
A-: 90-93	B: 84-87	C: 74-77	D: 64-67	
	B-: 80-83	C-: 70-73	D-: 60-63	

The course grade is an average of examination letter grades according to the following grade points:

A: 4.0	B+: 3.3	C+: 2.3	D+: 1.3	F: 0.0
A-: 3.7	B: 3.0	C: 2.0	D: 1.0	
	B-: 2.7	C-: 1.7	D-: 0.7	

X. HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE (POLICIES / REQUIREMENTS)

Regular attendance is required. Each student will be allowed two absences during the course of the term. If you miss class three to four times, your overall participation grade will drop by one letter grade. Being absent five times or more will lead to a failing grade here. The roll is called at the beginning of each session.

Please note:

The use of electronic devices is strictly forbidden during class.

XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the scientific community. Cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity.

Consequently, the University has adopted the following code:

When an examination is in progress, all unauthorized books, notes, papers and notebooks must be left outside the classroom, or, where this is not feasible, left beneath the student's seat unopened.

So far as logistically possible, students will be asked to distribute themselves around the room during an exam so as to leave the widest possible space between them.

During the examination only the blank paper required for the examination and a pencil, pen or other tools as permitted by individual instructors may be on the desk. Should an instructor see written crib notes in evidence during an exam, the presumption will be that the student is using those notes for cheating on an exam. If a student must leave the classroom during an examination due to physical duress, the student must turn in the exam and will not be allowed to return during the examination period. No make-up examination will be administered.

It is within the prerogative of the instructor to take a student's paper during an exam and to ask that student to take an oral exam, or another exam, at the instructor's choice.

A student found cheating will be reported to the Dean and may be called before the Student Appeal and Grievance Hearing Board for further disciplinary action.

A student found cheating on an exam will receive an "F" for that examination at a minimum. If it is a final examination, the student will automatically receive an "F" for the course.

A student whose paper or assignment has clearly been plagiarized will receive an "F" for the course. Notification will be sent to the Dean. A second offense in that, or any other, course may result in dismissal from the University.

Cases of academic dishonesty may be handled by the instructor in whose course the violation occurred - if the matter is a result of student ignorance or is a first offense. The instructor will assess the severity of the violation and impose an appropriate penalty. In the event of a repetition of dishonesty, the matter will be referred to the Dean, and the student will risk expulsion.

To be clear: I have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to plagiarism or cheating of any kind. This includes contracted essays! Anyone found in violation of our academic integrity standards can expect me to apply the strictest interpretation of rules available to me.

XII. RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Please refer to moodle for details. Here you will also find the additionally required readings.

XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE (tentative)

Week 1

- 21.1.2019 Introduction
- 24.1.2019 19th and 20th century history of IR
Course Reading:
The Globalization of World Politics, chapter 3.



Week 2

- 28.1.2019 The Cold War, deterrence, MAD and beyond
Course Reading:
The Globalization of World Politics, chapter 4.
- 30.1.2019 Lecture Series: James W. Davis: 'The future of war'.
Nielsen Auditorium 18h.
- 31.1.2019 Classical Realism and the tragedy of power politics
The Globalization of World Politics, chapter 6.



Week 3

- 4.2.2019 Liberalism and the perpetual peace
The Globalization of World Politics, chapter 7.
- 7.2.2019 The English School – Anarchy and order
Bull, Hedley (1977) *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics*, London: Macmillan. (only pages: 8-20, 24-27, 40-52, 53-57, 65-76)

Week 4

- 11.2.2019 Comparing the theories
- 14.2.2019 No Class

Week 5

- 18.2.2019 The United Nations and the role of International Organizations
Course Reading: The Globalization of World Politics, chapter 21.
- 21.2.2019 Presentations
 - The Congress of Vienna
 - The League of Nations
 - The United Nations and nuclear proliferation
 - The OSCE



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Week 6

- 25.02.2019 Presentations
- OPEC
 - NATO
 - EU
 - ASEAN
- 28.02.2019 Recap

Week 7

- 04.3.2019 Mid-term
- 07.3.2019 Mid-term feed-back and final travel preparations



Week 8 and 9 ACADEMIC TRAVEL March 10 - 19

Week 10

- 25.3.2019 Travel reflection
- 28.3.2019 Applying theories – The National Security Strategies of the US

Week 11

- 01.4.2019 Applying theories – The National Security Strategies of the US
- 04.4.2019 Essay writing session

Week 12

- 08.4.2019 Topic selection meetings (to be scheduled individually)
- 11.4.2019 Essay meetings (to be scheduled individually)

Week 13

- 15.4.2019 Essay meetings (to be scheduled individually)
- 18.4.2019 No class

Week 14

- 22.4.2019 No class – Easter Break
- 25.4.2019 Essay meetings (to be scheduled individually)

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Week 15

29.4.2019 Essay meetings (to be scheduled individually)

02.5.2019 Essay meetings (to be scheduled individually)

Finals Week:

Monday 13 May 13:30-15:30 Recap

Essay Deadline: May 14, 12:00 (turn-it in)

XIV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Please refer to moodle for details.

