Political Science 438: International Relations
Fall 2015
Wednesday
2:00pm – 4:40pm

Instructor: Michael C. Marshall
Email: MichaelMarshall@my.unt.edu
Phone: TBA
Office Hours: SS147; TR 11am – 12pm; W 12pm-1:30pm or by appointment

This course will give a broad overview of theories and topics in international relations (IR). We will discuss contemporary theoretical approaches to the study of IR. We will also cover topics such as the causes of war, international institutions, and international economy. This class will prepare students for additional coursework in international politics.

Reading Materials (available at the bookstore or Amazon):


Other readings will be found using www.jstor.org, www.scholar.google.com, www.muse.jhu.edu, etc.

Assignments:

Midterm and Final Exam (60% of Grade): There will be a midterm and a final exam, which will be weighted equally. The midterm will cover the major theoretical approaches to international relations while the final will ask you to apply these theories to core puzzles in international research. These exams will be taken online on blackboard. The Midterm exam will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions and 4 essay topics of which you’ll choose two.

The final exam will consist of three essay questions of which you will choose two. To prepare for the final exam, I will disclose a pertinent article to the questions that will be asked. You will complete the exam on the last day of the course.

Quizzes (20% of Grade): There will be a series of quizzes most weeks of class. The majority of these quizzes will be geographic in nature where students will need to identify countries on a map and/or their affiliations to international organizations.

Country Profiles and Group Participation (20% of Grade): Each student will be assigned a country in the world and will be grouped up with several other students to debate a fictional international crisis or theoretical principal. These will be graded equally. Every week students are expected to find important figures on their state ranging in military capability, domestic politics, alliances, etc.
**Week 2 September 9, 2015: An Anarchic World**

**Anarchy:** Frieden et al (2010) 44 – 69 Skim: Chapter 1  
**Power Polarity**  
**Interstate Rivalry**


**Map Quiz 1: The Middle East**

**Week 3 September 16, 2015: Core Theories I: Realism**

**Rational Choice:** Frieden et al (2010) 72, 75 – 85  
**Realism:** Frieden et al (2010) – 86 - 110  
**Strategy** Frieden et al (2010) 170 - 188


**Map Quiz 2: Europe**

**Week 4 September 23, 2015: Core Theories II: Problems within Realism**

**World War I**  
**End of the Cold War**  
**Decline of Interstate Warfare**


**Week 5 September 30, 2015: Core Theories III: Liberalism and the Democratic Peace**

**Domestic Politics:** Frieden et al (2010) 126 – 151  
**The Democratic Peace:** Frieden et al (2010) 151 - 167  
**International Institutions:** Frieden et al (2010) 189 - 209  


**Map Quiz 3: NATO and Warsaw Pact**

**Week 6 October 7, 2015: Core Theories IV: Liberalism and the Capitalist Peace**
Foreign Aid
Markets and Development


*Map Quiz 4: South America*

**Week 7 October 14, 2015: Core Theories V: Problems within Liberalism**

Imposed Democracy
Aggression and the BRICS


**Week 8 October 21, 2015: EXAM I**

**Week 9 October 28, 2015: International Political Economy**

Arrears, Debt, and Structural Adjustment

*Map Quiz 5: Asia*

**Week 10 November 4, 2015: International Law and Human Rights**

Development of International Laws
Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity
Transitional Justice

*Map Quiz 6: Sub-Saharan Africa*

**Week 11 November 11, 2015: Human Rights and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)**

Advocacy Organizations
Non-Governmental Organizations

**Week 12 November 18, 2015: Climate Change and Conflict**

Social Conflict in the Global South
Maritime Politics

Week 13 November 25, 2015: NO CLASS.
ENJOY THANKSGIVING WITH YOUR FAMILIES

Week 14 December 2, 2015: Terrorism and Non-State Actors
Non-State Actors in the International System
Terrorism and Insurgency

Week 15 December 9, 2015: EXAM 2

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Make-up policy. There will be no make-ups for any exam or quiz unless there is a legitimate health issue or major emergency. It is up to the instructor’s discretion to determine if a make-up exam is appropriate.

Whining policy. It is very unlikely that I will change a grade unless there was a blatant error. If you did poorly on an assignment, I would be happy to discuss ways you can improve next time.

Plagiarism Policy. The integrity of scholarly work is of utmost importance to me. When collecting information, quoting, or paraphrasing another’s work please cite using APA/APSA format (eg. Marshall 2012). DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA ON ANYTHING!!!!! Wikipedia has some of the worst information on the web and is often cited incorrectly if at all. On the first attempt of plagiarism, the student will receive a zero on the assignment. On the second attempt the student will FAIL the class.

Cheating Policy. PLEASE do not work together on exams/quizzes. If I catch you cheating you will FAIL the class no warning.

Students with Disabilities:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu