

Professor Mariano E. Bertucci  
Office: Richardson Building, Suite 205  
Email: [mbertucc@tulane.edu](mailto:mbertucc@tulane.edu)  
Telephone: (504) 314-2218  
Office hours: T/Th. 2:30 – 4:30, or by appointment.

Tulane University  
Dept. of Political Science  
Fall 2014

## **Introduction to International Relations**

POLI-2500-06

Tuesday/Thursday, 8:00-9:15  
101 Norman Mayer

The amount of information available regarding international relations, or virtually any other topic for that matter, is overwhelming. Whether people choose to be up-to-date on current world events or not, there certainly is no shortage of news outlets through which we can learn about what might be taking place on the other corner of the planet. But how should we go about making sense of what is actually happening in international affairs? What analytical tools can we use in such analyses? What are the main theories people draw upon when discussing international politics and what difference do they make for how we understand what happens in the world? What are theories to begin with and how can we use them to be critical thinkers, i.e. not just individuals who simply believe what others have written or said about a given topic on issues ranging from nuclear proliferation to the recent international economic crisis?

This course serves as an introduction to the main theoretical approaches to the study of international relations. This is guided by paradigms—particular ways of looking at international relations—and most debates over substantive and empirical issues—whether scholarly or in media outlets—are seen and constructed through these lenses. The course is organized around such paradigms and understanding them will give you the necessary foundation for an investigation of some of the major topics in international affairs. After successful completion of this course, you should have a strong sense about how to approach any international relations issue from multiple angles as well as a good notion of how to develop carefully crafted arguments on any of such topics. You will develop analytical, writing and oral communication skills that you will find useful no matter what profession you choose to enter.

The course has a strong theoretical content. Yet I will make every possible effort to connect and use such content to help you make sense, and come up with your own ideas, about what is currently going on in world affairs.

### **COURSE GOALS**

1. To introduce you to the main debates, core issues, actors and processes shaping the study and practice of international relations.
2. To learn how to use analytical tools to critically engage with any substantive claim and issue in international affairs.
3. To improve your ability to communicate your ideas effectively in writing and through speaking.

## COURSE OBJECTIVE

To achieve the goals identified above, through lecture, in-class discussion, office hours, and the discussion and evaluation of the assignments indicated below.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students satisfactorily completing this course will have demonstrated advanced substantive knowledge of and analytical competence in the utilization of indicated subject matter and skills.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- a) **Readings:** There is no text required for this class—you need to buy no books. **All readings are available on the blackboard page** (“BB”). Each student will be **required to read the newspaper every day before class**. Each day we will begin by reviewing international events and their relation to U.S. foreign policy. Please try to stick to the “papers of record,” either the *Washington Post* or the *New York Times*. The information covered, as with all class material, is fair game for quizzes and exams.
- b) **Map Knowledge:** No student will leave this class without a basic knowledge of geography. Locations of nations, seas and other major features are also fair game for quizzes and exams.
- c) **Class Participation:** Each student is expected to come to class prepared to **discuss the assigned material**. **There will be unannounced “pop” quizzes**, which will be easy for those who have done the reading. There will be one **Op-Ed assignment**. Particularly if you have a shy personality, you should take class discussions as an opportunity to start training your public-speaking skills in a perfectly safe environment in which you have everything to win and virtually nothing to lose.
- d) **Final Paper:** The content and format will be discussed in class. **Due: Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** (or earlier).
- e) **Mid Term and Final Exams:** The content and format will be discussed in class.
- f) You now have all relevant dates for this course. As a general rule, I follow the “trust but verify” policy for absences: If you miss a test or quiz, unless you have *a university-approved excuse and documentation (see below)*, you cannot make it up.

**It is crucial to how much you learn, the success of the course and your grade, that you complete and THINK about all assigned readings *before class*, that you come to each class meeting prepared to ask questions, to distill, discuss, and debate the course readings, and that you participate actively.**

As much as possible, this course will link the fundamental theories and debates in the field of International Relations to what is going on in the world today. Whenever you find interesting news articles, please send an electronic copy to me. If appropriate and necessary, I will be happy to distribute it to the class for debate.

## STUDENT ASSESMENT

Your **final grade** for the course will be composed as follows:

- 30% Mid Term Exam
- 30% Final Paper
- 20% Final Exam
- 20% Class Participation, Quizzes, Group Presentations and Op-Ed assignment

***Final Paper:*** You can choose to write a research or policy paper on a current topic on international affairs. Specific guidelines will be distributed in class. The first version of the paper is due, in class, on October 23. The second and final version is due, in class, on December 4 (or earlier).

***Class participation:*** Attending class is not the same as participating in class. Do and think about the assigned readings and you will have no problem in discussing the material during class or in the quizzes. For the Op-Ed assignment, in no more than two pages (double-spaced), you will have to: find an Op-Ed related to international affairs, discuss who wrote it and what do you think about it. I expect you to ask questions in class and make informed contributions to discussion.

***Group Presentations:*** Each student will participate of *two group presentations*. The first presentation is scheduled to take place during the week of September 30 and October 2; the second, during the two weeks prior to Thanksgivings. For the first presentation, you and your group-peers will choose one international organization—e.g. the World Bank, the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, and so on—to brief the class on it. You'll have to address the reason for the organization's existence, the obligations member state consent to, whether in practice states comply with those obligations and what powers of enforcement does the organization have. The group will also offer its own Realist, Liberal or Constructivist take on how effective or ineffective the organization has been in bringing order to international affairs. For the second presentation, you and your group-peers will choose one of the following three topics: the international community's dealings with Iran's nuclear program; U.S.-China relations; or, NATO-Russia relations. Although the number of groups addressing each issue will ultimately be a function of the total number of students taking the class, the goal is to have at least two groups per issue elaborating on what would a Realist, a Liberal or a Constructivist emphasize on the matter and with what consequences for how we think about the issue at hand. During both presentations, you will be evaluated on your oral presentation skills (i.e. how clearly you state the problem or topic at hand, what does it amount to and what difference does it make for how we think about international affairs) and on how well you handle the Q&A with other members of the class (including me). You will be able to form your own group. I will decide the number of members per group given the final number of students taking the course.

## COURSE POLICIES

### Participation

*Respect for others:* This course provides a forum for lively debate about competing visions on international affairs. Throughout the semester, we will be addressing some issues on which people may have strong and diverse opinions. That is great. But please do respect one another by giving thoughtful consideration to the comments made by your peers, even if you disagree, and by addressing your comments and the *ideas* presented, not the person presenting them.

### Communication

*Email:* I expect you to check your email regularly. I will typically send announcements to you via email. You are responsible for the material I send electronically, and you are responsible for ensuring that the email account listed on blackboard is one you check regularly. I will dedicate some (necessarily limited) amount of time to answering emails from students, in the order that I receive them. Before sending me an email, consider whether coming to see me during office hours may be a more efficient option (it usually is).

*Office hours:* Use them! I welcome and encourage you to use my office hours to discuss the lectures, readings, and any other concerns or thoughts you might be having. (Keep in mind that there is generally a positive correlation between showing up for office hours, how much you learn and your final grade.)

### Laptops and other electronic devices

**Laptops**, and other electronic equipment including, but not limited to, beepers, phones, tablets, and personal communication devices, **are not allowed in class**. The only exception to this rule is students with registered disability accommodations. If you need advice on how to take notes effectively using paper and pen, you can come to office hours and I can suggest note-taking strategies.

### Make-up exams

Students may be excused from the mid-term or final examinations by the Newcomb-Tulane College dean *only when there is a serious, incapacitating medical problem or when there is a death in the immediate family*. Students who must be absent from the final examination for one of these reasons must present an explanation and appropriate documentation to the Newcomb-Tulane dean's office *before or within 24 hours after the examination*. A student with an excused absence will receive a grade of "I" and a make-up examination; a student with an unexcused absence will earn a grade of "F" in the course.

## **Losing points for submitting assignments late**

You will lose one third of a letter grade (e.g. your grade will fall from A- to B+) for each day an assignment is late. Late penalty waivers will be granted only if you present me with *university-approved written documentation* of the legitimate circumstances that prevented you from completing the assignment on time *no later than one day of the assignment's due date*.

## **Grade appeals**

If you want to appeal an assigned grade, you must submit to me a typed, one-page statement explaining why the grade should be changed. Note that doing so gives me license to adjust the questioned grade either upward or downward. At the same time, I am more than happy to discuss your papers and exams during office hours with the goal of helping you to improve your performance the next time.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

University policy and unfortunate experiences compel the following statement of principle: Students who engage in plagiarism or cheating as defined by official university policy will automatically be referred to the Tulane University Honor Board. Follow this link to read what plagiarism means: <http://www.tulane.edu/~jruscher/dept/plagiarism.html> . Ignorance about plagiarism is not a valid excuse. No exceptions. **DO NOT TEST ME ON THIS.**

*Additional note on plagiarism:* in all of your writing, you must identify the nature and extent of your intellectual indebtedness to the authors whose work you have read, or to anyone else from whom you have gotten ideas (including classmates). Failure to acknowledge and properly attribute your reliance on someone else's ideas, thoughts, words, research, theories, evidence, findings, or argument is PLAGIARISM. Failing to provide page numbers for quotations or paraphrasing in a paper, or paraphrasing or summarizing the work of others without acknowledging the source in the text of your paper IS PLAGIARISM.

## **Students with disabilities**

If you anticipate needing any type of an academic accommodation in this course please (1) discuss this with me during the first week of class *AND* (2) register with the Disability Services office (<http://tulane.edu/studentaffairs/disability/>). In order for you to receive any type of academic accommodation, I will need to receive, from the Disability Services Center during Week 1 or 2 of the quarter, formal notification of the academic accommodation to which your disability entitles you.

## COURSE CONTENTS AND SCHEDULE

### Week 1: What is International Relations?

*August 26:*

- Course Review and Introduction.
- Video: *The Fog of War – Eleven Lessons from the Life of Robert S. McNamara*. Lessons 1 and 2 (Available on YouTube).

*August 28:*

- Vanderwicken, Peter, “Why the News is Not the Truth,” *Harvard Business Review*, May 1995.
- Mingst, Karen, “Approaches to International Relations,” in Karen Mingst, *Essentials of International Relations* (New York, NY: Norton), pp. 1-4.
- Acharya, Amitav, “Narrowing the academia-policy divide in international relations,” *East Asia Forum* (May 20, 2014). Available at <http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2014/05/20/narrowing-the-academia-policy-divide-in-international-relations/>

### Week 2: Levels of Analysis and Thinking Theoretically

*September 2:*

- Waltz, Kenneth N., *Man, the State and War* (New York, NY: Columbia University Press), Ch. 1; pp.: 16, 39-41; 80-81, 120-123; and, 159-160, 186.
- Singer, J. David, “The Levels of Analysis Problem in International Relations,” *World Politics* 14 (October 1961): 77-92.
- Walt, Stephen, “Why Are We So Busy Trying to ‘Figure Out’ Vladimir Putin?” *Foreign Policy* (April 1, 2014).

*September 4:*

- Mingst, Karen A., “Contending Perspectives: How to Think about International Relations Theoretically,” in Karen A. Mingst, *Essentials of International Relations* Fourth Edition (New York, NY: Norton, 2008), Ch. 3.
- Jervis, Robert, “Hypotheses on Misperception,” in Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics* Third Edition (New York, NY: Norton, 2008), pp.227-241.

### Week 3: Classical and Structural Realism

September 9:

- Hobbes, Thomas, *Leviathan*, Ch. 13. Available online at <http://www.constitution.org/th/leviatha.htm> (search for “Chapter XIII”)
- Morgenthau, Hans, “A Realist Theory of International Politics: ... Principles of Political Realism,” in Hans Morgenthau’s *Politics Among Nations* (1948). Read the version reprinted in Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics* Third Edition (New York, NY: Norton, 2008), pp. 56-58.
- Mingst, Karen A., “Contending Perspectives: Realism and Neorealism,” in Karen A. Mingst, *Essentials of International Relations* Fourth Edition, pp. 63-68.
- Galeotti, Mark, and Andrew S. Bowen, “Putin’s Empire of the Mind,” *Foreign Policy* (April 21, 2014).

September 11:

- Thucydides, “Melian Dialogue,” in Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics* Third Edition (New York, NY: Norton, 2008), pp. 12-13.
- Waltz, Kenneth N., *Theory of International Politics* (McGraw Hill, 1979), Chs. 4-6.
- Video: *The Trials of Henry Kissinger*. Up to minute 10:08. (Available on YouTube).

### Week 4: Liberalism and Neoliberal Institutionalism

September 16:

- Mingst, Karen A., “Contending Perspectives: Liberalism and Neoliberal Institutionalism,” in Karen A. Mingst, *Essentials of International Relations* Fourth Edition, pp. 59-63.
- Keohane, Robert and Joseph Nye, *Power and Interdependence: World Politics in Transition* (Boston, MA: Little, Brown and Company, 1977), pp. 3-29.
- Doyle, Michael W., “Liberalism and World Politics,” in Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics* Third Edition (New York, NY: Norton, 2008), pp. 80-93.
- Gottlieb, Stuart and Eric Lorber, “The Dark Side of Interdependence: How Global Ties Tied Our Hands in Russia,” *Foreign Affairs* (August 5, 2014).

September 18:

- Stein, Arthur A., "Neoliberal Institutionalism," *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, pp. 201-221.
- Oye, Kenneth A., "The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics," in Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, eds., *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues* (Pearson Press, 2009), pp. 69-82.
- Carter, Jimmy, and Mary Robinson, "How to Fix It," *Foreign Policy* (August 4, 2014).
- Patrick, Stewart, "The Unruly World: The Case for Good Enough Global Governance," *Foreign Affairs* (January/February, 2014).

## Week 5: Constructivism

September 23:

- Mingst, Karen A., "Contending Perspectives: Constructivism," in Karen A. Mingst, *Essentials of International Relations* Fourth Edition, pp. 72-75.
- Hurd, Ian, "Constructivism," *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, pp. 298-305.
- Katzenstein, Peter J., "Introduction: Alternative Perspectives on National Security," in Peter J. Katzenstein, *The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics* (Cornell University Press, 1996), pp. 1-32.

September 25:

- Wendt, Alexander, "Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics," in Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics* Third Edition (New York, NY: Norton, 2008), pp. 93-117.
- Finnemore, Martha, and Kathryn Sikkink, "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change," *International Organization* 52 (4) (Autumn 1998): 887-917.
- Lukin, Alexander, "What the Kremlin is Thinking: Putin's Vision for Eurasia," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2014): 85-93.

## Week 6: International Organizations

September 30:

- Hurd, Ian, *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice* (Cambridge University Press, 2011), Ch. 1.

- GROUP PRESENTATIONS ON *IOs*

*October 2:*

- GROUP PRESENTATIONS ON *IOs*

### **Week 7: Mid-Term**

*October 7:*

- MID-TERM.

*October 9:*

- No class (Fall Break): Enjoy!

### **Week 8: Hierarchy in Anarchy and Failed States**

*October 14:*

- Lake, David, *Hierarchy in International Relations* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2009), Introduction, pp. 1-16.
- Donnelly, Jack, "Anarchy is not a Cause. Anarchy Has No Effects. And It's Not an Ordering Principle Either: Taking Structure and System Seriously in International Theory" (mimeo, 2012) OR see Donnelly's "The Elements of the Structure of International Systems," *International Organization* 66, Issue 4 (October 2012: 609-643).
- Simpson, Gerry, *Great Powers and Outlaw States: Unequal Sovereigns in the International Legal Order* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), Introduction, pp. 3-24.
- Mathews, Jessica T., "Power Shift," *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 1997).
- Keohane, Robert and Joseph Nye Jr., "Power and Interdependence in the Information Age," *Foreign Affairs* (Sept/Oct, 1998).

*October 16:*

- Rotberg, Robert I., "Failed States in a World of Terror," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August, 2002) Available at: <http://www.cfr.org/fragile-or-failed-states/failed-states-world-terror/p4733>
- Rice, Susan C., "The New National Security Strategy: Focus on Failed States," *Brookings Policy Briefs Series* #116 (February, 2003) Available at: <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2003/02/terrorism-rice>

- Mazarr, Michael J., “The Rise and Fall of the Failed-State Paradigm,” *Foreign Affairs* (January/February, 2014).
- Video: *Somalia: The World’s Worst Failed State?* (Available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pISoSQhg00> ).

## Week 9: Democratic Peace Theory and “Power” in International Relations

October 21:

- Lynn-Jones, Sean M. “Preface,” in Michael E. Brown, Sean M. Lynn-Jones and Steven E. Miller, eds., *Debating the Democratic Peace* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1996), pp. ix-xxxiii.
- Russett, Bruce, “The Fact of Democratic Peace,” in Sean M. Lynn-Jones and Steven E. Miller, eds., *Debating the Democratic Peace* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1996), pp. 58-81.
- Doyle, Michael W., “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs,” in Sean M. Lynn-Jones and Steven E. Miller, eds., *Debating the Democratic Peace* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1996), pp. 3-58.
- Spiro, David E., “The Insignificance of the Liberal Peace,” in Sean M. Lynn-Jones and Steven E. Miller, eds., *Debating the Democratic Peace* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1996), pp. 202-239.
- Owen IV, John M., “Iraq and the Democratic Peace,” *Foreign Affairs* (November/December 2005), available at <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/61206/john-m-owen-iv/iraq-and-the-democratic-peace> .
- Video: *Israel, Iraq and Democratic Peace Theory* — Conor McCormick-Cavanagh at TEDxConnecticutCollege 2014 (Available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frv5-J5OCm4> ).

October 23:

- Bially Mattern, Janice, “The Concept of Power and the (Un)Discipline of International Relations,” in Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, pp. 691-698.
- Barnett, Michael and Raymond Duvall, “Power in Global Governance,” in Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall, eds., *Power in Global Governance* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), Ch. 1 (pp. 1-32).

- Little, Richard, “Reassessing the balance of power,” in Richard Little, *The Balance of Power in International Relations: Metaphors, Myths and Models* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Ch. 1 (pp. 1-16).

## **Week 10: War and International Political Economy**

*October 28:*

- Clausewitz, Carl Von, “War as an Instrument of Policy,” Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics* Third Edition (New York, NY: Norton, 2008), pp. 334-338.
- Kaldor, Mary, *New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1999), Introduction.
- Goldstein, Joshua S., “Think Again: War,” *Foreign Policy* (August 15, 2011).

*October 30:*

- Frankel, Jeffrey, “Globalization of the Economy,” in Robert Art and Robert Jervis, eds., *International Politics: Enduring concepts and Contemporary Issues* (Pearson, 2009), pp. 303-318.
- Rodrik, Dani, “Trading in Illusions,” in Robert Art and Robert Jervis, eds., *International Politics: Enduring concepts and Contemporary Issues* (Pearson, 2009), pp. 325-333.

## **Week 11: Terrorism and Human Rights**

*November 4:*

- Hoffman, Bruce, *Inside terrorism* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2006), Ch. 1 (pp. 1-42).
- Pape, Robert A., “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” in Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics* Third Edition (New York, NY: Norton, 2008), pp. 398-418.
- Abrahms, Max, “Why Terrorism Does Not Work,” in Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics* Third Edition (New York, NY: Norton, 2008), pp. 418-441.
- Fierke, Karen, *Political Self-Sacrifice: Agency, Body and Emotion in International Relations* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013), Introduction (pp. 1-32).

November 6:

- Howard, Rhoda and Jack Donnelly, “Human Rights in World Politics,” in Robert Art and Robert Jervis, eds., *International Politics: Enduring concepts and Contemporary Issues* (Pearson, 2009), pp. 504-516.
- Sen, Amartya, “Universal Truths: Human Rights and the Westernizing Illusion,” in Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics* Third Edition (New York, NY: Norton, 2008), pp. 598-601.
- Ignatieff, Michael, “The Attack on Human Rights,” in Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics* Third Edition (New York, NY: Norton, 2008), pp. 601-609.

### **Week 12: The Environment / Group Presentations Begin**

November 11:

- Johnson, Keith, “Dirty South, Clean It Up,” *Foreign Policy* (April 15, 2014).
- Ogden, Pete, “Beyond Copenhagen: How Washington Can Bolster a Stronger Climate Deal,” *Foreign Affairs* (August 4, 2014).
- Sielen, Alan B., “Sea Change: How to Save the Oceans,” *Foreign Affairs* (April 16, 2014).

November 13:

- GROUP PRESENTATIONS

### **Week 13, 14 and 15: Group Presentations**

November 18:

- GROUP PRESENTATIONS

November 20:

- GROUP PRESENTATIONS

November 25:

- GROUP PRESENTATIONS

November 27:

- No class (Thanksgiving Holiday).

### **Week 16: Reviewing Concepts, Theories and Issues, and Student Assessment**

*December 2:*

- Reviewing concepts, theories and approaches to making sense of international relations.
- Open Q&A on improving your Final Paper in particular and writing skills in general.

*December 4:*

- Final Paper due in class.
- Open discussion on concepts, theories and issues of international relations.
- Student assessments.

### **Week 18: Final Exam**

*December 9:*

- In-class Final Exam.