**INST 3352 / MLA 5352: International Politics**

University of St. Thomas  
Center for International Studies  
Monday/Wednesday 3:10 – 4:25  
Jerabeck Center 201, Tiller Hall 103  
SPRING 2015

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Office hours: T/TH 3:30- 4:30 & by appt.

"I encourage all students to be bold in their thoughts, moderate in their actions, and courageous in their pursuit of truth—wherever it is and however it can be known."  
(In Memory of Dr. Ross M. Lence)

**Note:** This course, in addition to being a required INST course, is also cross-listed as a MLA course, a Political Science course and a Social Justice Course, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

**Course Description**

This course will serve as an introduction to terms, concepts, and issues in the field of international relations. It involves the study of some of the most significant questions of our time such as conflict, peace and security, nationalism, economic practices, rights and obligations, gender, poverty, environmental issues, and terrorism.

Although we will examine these questions, the course is designed to go beyond observation because a comprehensive approach will give a deeper and more critical understanding. Therefore, it aims to develop in you the ability to analyze the main theoretical perspectives that constitute the relationships of states and key non-state actors in international politics. It will be through practice, inquiry, deliberation, criticism, and problem solving that students outline the basic assumptions and implications of the various theories in the field and assess their strengths, limitations and their differences from one another.

**Course Objectives**

- Develop in students a more comprehensive understanding of the rational and post rational theories in the field of IR and the roles these theories play in our understanding of international politics. *(Knowledge Building)*
- Understand and analyze the relationship between theory and policy-making in international relations. *(Problem Solving)*
- Deepen students' skill in critical analysis and writing persuasively, as well as strengthen public speaking skills in a classroom environment that facilitates the participation and inclusion of everyone's voice. *(Develop Critical Engagement and Respect for Diversity)*
"Well, Ralph, what did you learn in school today? Did you learn how to believe or did you learn how to think?" (Ralph Nader's father)

Structure of the Course
The course is organized in three parts. Part I begins with a basic framework for understanding the role of theory in IR; then a comprehensive review of the Rationalist schools of thought; (Realism, Neo-realism, Liberalism, Neo-liberalism); a study of the English School, commonly regarded as trying to reconcile realism with liberalism; ending with an introduction to Marxism and Critical Theory. Part II will begin with a review of postmodernism; followed by a study of Post-Rationalist perspectives. These will include Constructivism, Feminism, and Green Theory. Part III will focus on the practical implications of the different theoretical perspectives. Linking theory and application, we will examine some of the main issues in contemporary international politics.

There will be a formal in-class lecture on Monday, followed by a roundtable discussion of the readings and issues raised in each lecture on Wednesday.

Assessment Requirements
Midterm Exam 25%
Film Analysis Paper 20%
Final Exam 30%
Thursday Weekly Roundtable 25%
  --Talking Points (Undergraduate students)
  --Response Papers (Graduate students)

Student participation for 10 discussions will be graded out of 10.
  0 for non-attendance (you can miss one class without penalty).
  6 for attendance.
  7 for minimum participation.
  7.5 – 10 for mastery of reading as evident through contributions to discussion.

- **Weekly Talking Points.** Undergraduate students will submit two talking points each week based on the readings. They are to be emailed to the instructor and classmates by 10:00 AM on Wednesday. **Students must bring a copy of their talking points to class and be prepared to present them in order to foster discussion.** These talking points can be the two most interesting questions, points, or arguments from the readings. They can also be a critique of some aspect of the reading. They should be written in the form of a short paragraph summarizing the question or argument. No more or less than two distinct talking points should be submitted each week. Each talking point should refer to one or more specific sections of the weekly readings (with appropriate page references). Unless there was only one required reading for that week, the talking points must come from different readings. (Credit for the idea of Talking Points goes to Professor Dylan S. McLean, University at Buffalo-SUNY).

- **Response Papers.** Graduate students will submit a one page reaction to the weekly readings. They are to be emailed to the instructor and classmates by 10:00 AM on Wednesday. **Students must bring a copy of their response paper to class and be prepared to present it in order to foster discussion.** These statements should include
an analysis of strengths and weaknesses of arguments made in the readings; raise points of agreement and disagreements; or point out confusion that need clarification. Do not summarize the readings. Papers should offer insightful reflections that cut across the readings.

- **Midterm Exam. (February 25th)** Students will take a multiple-choice/short answer question and essay test.
- **Film Analysis Paper/Presentation. (April 27th)** Students will view a film dealing with international issues and write a four to five page film essay. **Handout** - Film Viewing Guide.
- **Final Exam. (Dec. 11th)** Students will take a multiple-choice/short answer question and essay test.

**Late Assignments**
Due dates for the Talking Points and Response Paper assignments are indicated on the course schedule to help you plan your semester schedule.

**International Studies Departmental Policy: Late Work**
The acceptance of late projects and subsequent penalties is subject to the International Studies Department policy. If unable to submit assigned work on time due to medical or serious family circumstances, the student must contact the professor promptly via email, office visit or telephone and provide a description of the circumstances (faculty confirmation receipt reply required). The professor's decision based on merits of request will be communicated to students via email.
If an extension is not granted by the professor late work is subject to the following penalties:
1) One letter grade (10 pts.) within the first 24-hour period.
2) An additional letter grade for the period after 24 hours late and prior to the end of the seventh day late.
3) After a total of seven days late (including weekends), the required assignment will not be accepted and a "0" will be assigned for that assignment.

**Required Text**

**Reading Course Material**
Handouts provided by the instructor.
All other readings will be available via Blackboard and online resource.

**No Cell Phones & No Text Messaging**
Students are asked to turn off their cell phones before coming to class. Emergency calls may be handled outside of the classroom.

**Revision of the Syllabus:**
The instructor reserves the right to revise this syllabus at any time during the semester. Materials may be added or subtracted after the start of the term.
**International relations journals:**

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<th>Millennium</th>
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<td>International Security</td>
<td>International Journal</td>
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<td>International Studies Quarterly</td>
<td>International Politics</td>
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<td>European Journal of International Relations</td>
<td>Journal of International Affairs</td>
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<td>Review of International Studies</td>
<td>Ethics and International Affairs</td>
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<td>International Affairs</td>
<td>Cooperative and Conflict</td>
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<td>International Studies Perspectives</td>
<td>Journal of Peace Research</td>
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<td>World Politics</td>
<td>Journal of Peace and Research</td>
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<td>Journal of Conflict Resolution</td>
<td>International Studies Review</td>
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<td>American Journal of Political Science</td>
<td>Global Society</td>
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<td>American Political Science Review</td>
<td>Security Studies</td>
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“Students should have a good grounding in realism, liberalism, and constructivist approaches. Then find some puzzles or interesting anomalies and see how the theoretical approaches can be combined with empirical investigation to illuminate the problem. Keep going back and forth between theory and history, and beware of the tendency towards elegance that leads many in the field to say more and more about less and less.” (Joseph Nye)

PART I. IR Theories: Rationalist and Post-Rationalist.

Week 1: (Jan. 12 & 14)
Course Introduction; The nature and purpose of Theory in international politics. Rationalist (Positivist) and Post-Rationalist (Post-Positivist)
- Review course syllabus
- Baylis et al. Introduction, (pp. 2-13).

Recommended:
- Baylis et al. Chapter 2 (pp. 36-45), Chapter 3 (pp. 51-63).

Week 2: (Jan. 21)
Theoretical debates in IR
No class Jan. 19- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Talking points/Response papers due (21st)
- Stephen Walt, "International Relations: One World Many Theories," Foreign Policy, 10 (Spring 1998): pp. 29-32+34-44. (JSTOR)

Week 3: (Jan. 26 & 28)
Realism: Classical & Neo-realism
- Talking points/Response papers due (28th)
- Baylis et al. Chapter 6 (pp. 100-110), Chapter 8 (pp. 127-131).
- Fred Halliday, Justin Rosenberg, and Ken Waltz, "Interview with Ken Waltz," Review of International Studies, 24 (July): 371-86. (BB)
"The bourgeoisie has through its exploitation of the world market given a cosmopolitan character to production and consumption in every country. The bourgeoisie draws all, even the most barbarian nations, into civilization." (Karl Marx)

Week 4: (Feb. 2 & 4)
Liberalism: Classical & Neo-liberalism
- Talking points/Response papers due (4th)
- Baylis et al. Chapter 7 (pp. 114-123), Chapter 8 (pp. 132-139).
  http://www.stefanorecchia.net/1/137/resources/publication_1040_1.pdf

Week 5: (Feb. 9 & 11)
Marxism
- Talking points/Response papers due (11th)
- Baylis et al. Chapter 9 (pp. 142-153).
  https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/depend.htm

Week 6: (Feb. 16 & 18)
Critical Theory (9 pages)
- Extra Credit Assignment (18th)

Week 7: (Feb. 23 & 25)
Review for Midterm
Midterm
“Theory is always for someone and for some purpose.”
(Robert Cox)

Part II. Understanding Post-Rationalist Theories.

Week 8: (March 2 & 4)
Post-Modernism. Post-Structuralism.
- Talking points/Response papers due (4th)
- Baylis et al. Chapter 11 (pp.170-181).

Week 9: (March 9 & 11)
No classes- Spring break

Week 10: (March 16 & 18)
Constructivism
- Talking points/Response papers due (18th)
- Baylis et al. Chapter 10 (pp. 156-167).

Week 11: (March 23 & 25)
Feminism (30 pages)
- Talking points/Response papers due (25th)
- Baylis et al. Chapter 17 (pp. 259-271)

Week: 12: (March 30 & April 1)
Green Theory (26 pages)
- Talking points/Response papers due (1st)
- Baylis et al. Chapter 22 (pp. 342-354)
I treat what I know about real-world politics as a source of interesting problems for both me and my students, although I am relatively skeptical about using the “real world” as data against which to test theory. (Alexander Wendt)

Part III. International Politics: Issues, Areas and Case Studies

Week 13: (April 6 & 8)
International Security and Human Security
- Baylis et al. Chapter 15 (pp. 229-241).
- Baylis et al. Chapter 29 (pp. 449-461).
- Film TBA

Week 14: (April 13 & 15)
Case Studies
- Talking points/Response papers due (15th)
War
- Baylis et al. Chapter 14 (pp. 216-227).
Human Rights
- Baylis et al. Chapter 30 (464-476).

Week 15: (April 20 & 22)
Case Studies Continued
International Political Economy
- Talking points/Response papers due (22th)
- Baylis et al. Chapter 16 (pp. 244-256)

Week 16: (April 27 & 29)
Film Analysis Paper

FINAL EXAM
Monday. May 11. 3:00-5:30 PM.