Fall 2015:  INST 3352/MLINS 5352 POSC 3352/ MLPOS 5352 International Politics  
Malloy Hall 017 – Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:10 through 3:25  
Center for International Studies  
University of St. Thomas

Instructor: Rogelio Garcia-Contreras, Ph.D.  
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Office and Office Number: Tiller 109 / 713.525.3538  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. or by appointment.

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
The course provides a comprehensive review of leading perspectives in the field of international relations, from the classic rational theories to rather complex post-modern perspectives. All of the theories discussed in the course are key for the study of international politics, the development of foreign policy and the understanding and strategic evaluation of potential outcomes in international affairs. The course reveals the nature of IR theory. This is not, however, a course on foreign policy making or world history. Instead, it is a course on the ideas, concepts and theories that will give students the knowledge and tools to become professionals in the field.

Course Materials
The course will be based, mainly, around state-of-the-art literature on the discipline of international relations theory and politics. Therefore, it aims for a committed effort to understand the issues at stake. This means that some of the readings in the course will be very demanding. However, do not panic. Lectures and in-class discussions will provide a detailed introduction to the topic and will help clarify the selected readings for the week. Future articles or different books might also be considered for the syllabus in case they provide a relevant, interesting or unique intake to the course’s topic. All required articles are posted on BB and you can download them from there.

Learning Objectives
⇒ Demonstrate proficiency in key terms and concepts of different IR theories.  
⇒ Demonstrate knowledge and proficiency on all rational and post-rational IR theories.  
⇒ Apply basic theoretical models to the analysis of specific global events.  
⇒ Demonstrate a general awareness of contemporary global events.  
⇒ Understand the connection between historical events and trends in international relations theory.

Required Books:  

The “Chosen Books”:
2. Plato. *Crito and The Apology*  
3. Machiavelli. *The Prince*  
4. Marx. *Communist Manifesto*  
5. Nietzsche. *Beyond Good and Evil*  
6. Horkheimer. *The Eclipse of Reason*  
7. Frankfurt. *On Bullshit*


**Supporting Sources and Recommended material:**


Forcing Affairs  
Foreign Policy  
International Studies Quarterly  
Le Monde Diplomatique  
The Financial Times  
The National Interest  
The New York Times  
World Politics

[http://www.foreignaffairs.org](http://www.foreignaffairs.org)  
[http://www.foreignpolicy.com](http://www.foreignpolicy.com)  
[http://www.iastate.edu/~isq/](http://www.iastate.edu/~isq/)  
[http://www.mondeiplo.com](http://www.mondeiplo.com)  
[http://www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com)  
[http://www.nationalinterest.org](http://www.nationalinterest.org)  
[http://www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)

**Class Schedule and Reading Assignments**

**Week 1.** Tuesday August 25 / Thursday August 27

Introduction

**Week 2.** Tuesday September 1st / Thursday September 3

*Theories of International Relations*, Realism

**Week 3.** Tuesday September 8 / Thursday September 10

*Theories of International Relations*, Liberalism

**Week 4.** Tuesday September 15 / Thursday September 17

*Theories of International Relations*, English School

**Week 5.** Tuesday September 22 / Thursday September 24

*Theories of International Relations*, Marxism

**Week 6.** Tuesday September 29 / Thursday October 1st

*Theories of International Relations*, Historical Sociology

**Week 7.** Tuesday October 6 / Thursday October 8

Review October 6 – First Partial Exam October 8

**Week 8.** Tuesday October 13 / Thursday October 15

Fall Break October 13 – No class on October 15

**Week 9.** Tuesday October 20 / Thursday October 22

*Theories of International Relations*, Critical Theory

**Week 10.** Tuesday October 27 / Thursday October 29

*Theories of International Relations*, Post Structuralism

**Week 11.** Tuesday November 3 / Thursday November 5

*Theories of International Relations*, Constructivism

**Week 12.** Tuesday November 10 / Thursday November 12

*Theories of International Relations*, Feminism

**Week 13.** Tuesday November 17 / Thursday November 19
**Theories of International Relations, Green Politics**

**Week 14. Tuesday November 24 / Thursday November 26**  
Review (make up class for the session of October 15) – Second Partial Exam Tuesday November 24  
The make up session can take place either on Friday November 20 or Monday November 22

**Week 15. Tuesday December 1st / Thursday December 3rd**  
Books Presentations

**Week 16. Final Exam Week**  
Fourth and Final Cumulative Exam on the day and time determined by the Department.

**ADA Policy**  
Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is required to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities will need to also contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-6953 or 3162

**MLA Policy**  
Graduate students need to consult with the instructor for additional requirements.

**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.

**Course Requirements**

1. Students will have to read all required readings before class. Starting on Wednesday of Week 2, each student will be responsible for completing the readings for the week (10% of the FINAL GRADE).

2. On Week 1, students will be assigned a book from the list of “Chosen Books” included in this syllabus. On Week 15 students will be responsible to make a 10 minute presentation of the assigned book (30% of the FINAL GRADE). The presentation should NOT be a summary of the book, the presentation should consist of a student interpretation on the way the assigned book highlights key concepts of one or more international relations theory.

3. Three exams during the semester with equal value, the first partial exam on WEEK 7; the second partial exam on WEEK 14; and the third, final and cumulative exam, on WEEK 16, on the day and time scheduled by the department (60% of the FINAL GRADE - 20% per exam).

**Additional Requirements for Graduate Students:**

4. A Research Project must be turned in on the day and time of the Final Exam as scheduled by the Department. This paper must be 8 to 10 pages of TEXT: Times New Roman 12, Standard Margins [1.25” top/bottom/left/right], double Space.  
   a. Your paper must deal with a specific issue regarding international politics as a whole or a particular problem in contemporary international relations  
   b. You must analyze the problem using at least one of the theories discussed during the semester.  
   c. You must write in an organized and scholarly manner.  
   d. Your paper must include a bibliography and, whenever necessary, you must quote properly. Any form of plagiarism will result on an “F” as your FINAL grade.  
   e. See the attached document for some suggestions on how to do well on your research.
Some tips on Content and Organization

- Articulate your argument clearly.
- Present a reasonably clear idea for your paper (“Security” or “Human Rights in Europe” is nowhere near precise enough. An analysis of the European Union policy on the issue of the Iranian Nuclear Program, or an analysis of the British Army on the issue of torture of POWs in Iraq is starting to get there. The more detailed and precise your topic is, the better your paper will be).
- Explain the significance of your decision to use the theory of your choice.
- Make sure your analysis is concrete and accurate. If possible, acknowledge alternative arguments and demonstrate why the school of thought of your choice fits the facts best.
- Offer a roadmap and lay out your argument in the first paragraph.
- Offer your analysis of the events/individuals/institutions you’re examining; don’t simply describe what happened.

A paper with these characteristics . . . will fall into this range

Excellent understanding of the theory selected for the analysis
Clear case study
Excellent analysis
Excellent grammar and style
Complete, properly formatted citations

A – 100 pts.

Clear case study
Leaning towards description rather than analysis
Good grammar and style
Minor problems with citations

B – 80 pts.

Lack of clear case study
Lack of adequate analysis
Problems with grammar and style
Problems with primary sources (if applicable)
Significant problems with citations

C – 60 pts.

No case study
No analysis
Major problems with grammar and style
Major problems with primary sources (e.g. no primary sources)

D – 40 pts.

Lack of any identifiable organization

F – 20 pts.