

## **POSC 241: Theories of International Relations**

Spring 2017

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10-10:50 am

Cook Hall 129

**Instructor:** Dr. Theresa Schroeder

**Office Location:** CHBS 5307

**Office Hours:** Monday 2-3:30 & Wednesday 2-3:30, and by appointment

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### **Course Description:**

International Relations in the broadest sense, is the study of how actors interact within the international system. These actors include countries (referred to as states in International Relations) of course, but actors can also be Non-governmental Organization (NGOs), International Organizations (IOs), non-state actors (i.e. terrorist organizations), and even individuals. The international system is one of anarchy, meaning there is no overarching authority that maintains order. There is no policeman to call when there is a problem in the international system. For this reason scholars of International Relations study how interactions of the various actors can cause war, promote peace, encourage cooperation, enforce international law, and affect development, to name a few.

This course serves as an introduction to the study of International Relations. The primary purpose is to provide the theoretical and historical foundations necessary for analyzing and understanding international issues. Students will be encouraged to develop analytical skills in order to formulate their own views concerning issues and policy options facing the international community. Inevitably, every single topic of international importance cannot be covered. Nevertheless, this course will prepare students for more advanced topics in international relations, and help them to think critically about a wide range of international events. The ultimate aim is for students to leave the course feeling they are more informed and engaged citizens of the world.

### **Course Goals:**

The course goals are as follows:

1. Introduce students to background and foundations of international relations.
2. To explore the multitude of explanations made by scholars to understand international relations.
3. To encourage students to think critically the international conduct of international actors.
4. Introduce students to research tools for studying international relations.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the theories associated with international relations.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of how international relations influences international actions & society.

3. Demonstrate the ability to identify and use appropriate information resources to substantiate evidence-based claims.

### **Recommended Materials**

*International Relations, Brief Edition.* Eric Shirav and Vladislav Zubok.  
ISBN: 978-0-19-976556-0

**Earning Grades:** *Note---the syllabus is subject to change. Any alterations to assignments or course schedule will be announced in class.*

#### Participation:

Participation During Simulation: 10% (Feb 20; Feb 27; Mar. 1; Mar. 3)

*Must be present at all class periods*

Participation During Debates: 15% (Feb. 10; Mar. 27; Apr. 17; Apr. 24)

Weekly Current Events Assignment: 10 % (Every Friday class is held)

Debate Paper: 15%

#### Exams:

Exam 1: 15 %: (Feb. 17)

Exam 2: 15%: (Apr. 5)

Comprehensive Final Exam: 20%

### **Course Policies**

#### **E-mail Policy:**

Students should ask their questions directly to the professor in person, before class or during office hours. I have ample office hours and am willing to set up an appointment with the student if they are unable to meet during normal office hours. However, when e-mailing me, students must adhere to the follow netiquette rules explained at the following website: "How to E-mail a Professor" <http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>. Please check the syllabus prior to e-mailing a question. I stop checking e-mails at 5pm but will respond to all e-mails within 24hrs during the week and within 48 hrs on the weekend.

#### **Technology in the Classroom:**

Laptop computers and tablets may be used to take notes during lecture. Students should refrain from using facebook or checking e-mail during lecture. The use of cell phones is strictly forbidden. Students seen texting during class will have their cell phones taken away for the rest of the class period.

#### **Submission of Assignments:**

Late assignments will NOT be accepted with the exception of University recognized reasons.

#### **Grading Policy**

Final course grades will be assigned using the following scale:

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| A 100% - 90%  | B 89.9% - 80% |
| C 79.9% - 70% | D 69.9% - 60% |
| E 59.9% - 0%  |               |

### **Appealing Grades**

If a student wishes to appeal a grade on an assignment, they must first provide a written statement explaining why additional points should be given. This statement must be typed and does not mean a simple request for more points. The student must tell why s/he believes some specific aspect of his/her answer is correct or of more value. The instructor reserves the right to subtract points as well as to add points during the review process and to re-grade the entire exam or assignment, not just the portion under appeal.

### **Plagiarism and Cheating**

Students are advised to retain all notes and drafts for all work until after they receive their final grade. Students should also be aware that the instructor takes matters of plagiarism and cheating very seriously and is prone to imposing the most severe penalty allowed by university rules, which includes, but is not limited to, issuing an automatic grade of 0.0 for the entire course. Plagiarism also includes turning in a paper for POSC 241 that has already been submitted to fulfill the requirements for a different class. Students will be held to the Radford University Honor Code: <http://www.radford.edu/content/student-conduct/home.html>)

### **Excused Absences & Make-up Exams**

Attendance is not mandatory however students are expected to attend every lecture. Students will not do well in the course if they routinely miss class. If a student misses class for any reason, they are expected to obtain notes from a classmate. I do not give out my notes. Tardiness and absences will negatively impact the student's participation grade. Make up exams for either an exam or final will be permitted only under the gravest of circumstances and with appropriate documentation such as illness or 3 or more final exams on the same day. Students will be allowed to make-up an exam due to sickness if the student can provide a doctor's note stating the dates the student should be excused from classes within the note. This does not include regularly scheduled doctor's appointments, but is only for acute illness when the student has been instructed by the medical provider to NOT go to class. Students are required to notify their instructor one month before the exam takes place if they wish to change the exam date or time due to non-medical reasons. The student must submit the "Change in Final Exam Schedule" form found on the Registrar's website to the professor:

<https://www.radford.edu/content/registrar/home/students.html>

*Note: personal travel plans are not a legitimate reason for requesting to take an exam at a different time.*

### **Academic Accommodations**

If you are seeking academic accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you must register with the Disability Resource Office (DRO). Submit disability documentation to the DRO in the lower level of Tyler Hall Suites 54-69, by fax to 540-831-6525, or by email to [dro@radford.edu](mailto:dro@radford.edu). Once documentation is received and

reviewed, a Disability Services Specialist (DSS) will contact you for an interview. You will be notified via RU email when your accommodation package is complete. Meet with **each** course professor, during his or her office hours, to discuss the accommodations and return signed documents to the DRO. For additional information and disability documentation guidelines, visit [www.radford.edu/dro](http://www.radford.edu/dro) or call 540-831-6350.

### **Changes to the Syllabus and Course Schedule:**

It may be necessary to alter the syllabus including the assignments, due dates, assigned readings, and other components during the course of the semester. Any alterations will be announced in class.

### **Description of Assignments:**

Current Event Assignments It is important to understand what is happening around the world to fully comprehend the study of International Relations. Therefore, each Friday class is held, students must turn in a current events update, worth 10 points each, at the beginning of class. If you are late to class, your current event assignment WILL NOT be accepted. The combined current event updates are a total of 100 points, worth 10% of their overall grade. This means, that a student can earn the max points if they turn in a minimum of 10 current event updates that fulfill the assignment requirements. If students turn in more than 10 current event updates, the 10 highest scores will be used. The assignment may be typed and printed from a computer or in legible hand-writing on notebook paper.

The requirements of each current event assignment is as follows:

- Use information from one of the following reputable news sources: Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post, or BBC news.
- Summarize in approximately a paragraph one event/ongoing issue that occurred in the past week in each of following regions: Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East/North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa  
***This means you need 5 current events EACH week***
- Include the full citations your source of information for each current event/ongoing issue
- Include your name and date of the assignment

Failure to include any of the requirements will result in a reduction in points on the assignment submission.

### Debate Participation & Paper:

*Participation:* There will be four debates throughout the semester. There is an assigned reading students are responsible for reading and taking notes on prior to the debate. This reading will give students an overview of each side of the debate. In addition to this reading, students must find, read, and take notes on 3 peer-reviewed sources for the side of the debate the student has been assigned. Students earn participation points by attending, being actively involved in each debate, and turning in their pre-prepared notes at the end of class.

*Paper:* Students will write one paper for debate 2, 3, or 4. Students will sign-up at the beginning of semester for the debate they will write a paper on. The requirements for the paper are as follows:

- Students must find 6 peer-reviewed sources on the topic, 3 on each side of the debate.
- Using the assigned reading and the peer-reviewed sources, summarize each side of the debate. After summarizing each side of the debate, the student must write a minimum of a paragraph stating which side of the debate they believe is correct, supported through the evidence from the research.
- Format of the paper:
  - 5-7 double spaced pages, standard margins
  - Introduction, summarizing debate, conclusion
  - 12 pt Times New Roman font
  - In-text citations using any recognized format (APA; MLA; Chicago Style, APSA)
  - Reference page

Students will be graded on content as well as grammar, structure, and style of the paper. Students must upload their papers on D2L by Midnight the day prior to the debate.

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POSC 241 Course Schedule

The instructor reserves the right to make alterations to the syllabus and course schedule as needed. Any alternations will be announced **in class**. All non-textbook readings are to be completed prior to lecture. If students come unprepared to discuss the readings, a pop quiz may be given. Non-textbook readings will be available on D2L a week prior to the date assigned and will be removed from D2L a week after they assigned.

Week 1:

W: Course Overview

F: What is International Relations (IR)

Week 2:

M& W: What is IR & Levels of Analysis (cont)

F: Theories of IR

Reading: Snyder, Jack. 2009. "One World, Rival Theories." *Foreign Policy*.

Reference: Chp 2

Week 3: Theories of IR (cont)

Reference: Reading: Chp 3

F: **No Class:** Attendance at Gendered Dynamics of International Security Conference at the University of Central Florida

*Assignment: Apply the IR theories to current events. More details on D2L.*

Week 4: Theories of IR(cont)

M & W: Theories of IR (cont)

F: Debate 1: Influence of NGOs

Reading: "Civil Society: Do NGOs Wield Too Much Power?"

Week 5

Theories of IR (cont)

Reading: Huntington, Samuel. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72 (3):22-49.

W: Catch-up/Review

F (Feb. 17): Midterm Exam

Week 6:

M: Simulation, Day 1 **Attendance Mandatory**

W & F: **No Class:** Attendance at the International Studies Association Conference

*Assignment: Students must work on their group National Security Strategy*

Week 7

M: Simulation, Day 2 **Attendance Mandatory**

W: Simulation, Day 3 **Attendance Mandatory**

F: Simulation, Day 4 **Attendance Mandatory**

### ***Spring Break***

Week 8: Cooperation & Conflict

M& W: Reference: Chp 4

F: Reading: Nossel, Suzanne “ The Women on Top Theory”

Week 9: Cooperation & Conflict

Week 10: Terrorism

Reference: Chp 7

W: Debate 2: Risk of Terrorism

Reading: “ Is International Terrorism a Significant Challenge to National Security?”

F: Terrorism (cont)

Week 11

M: Catch-up/Review

W: (April 5): Exam 2

F: International Law

Reference: Chp 5

Week 12

M: International Law

Reading: International Court of Justice:

<http://www.icj-cij.org/court/index.php?p1=1&p2=6>

W: Human Rights

Reading: International Criminal Court: <https://www.hrw.org/topic/justice-internationale/international-criminal-court>

Reference:

European Court of Human Rights:

[http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Court\\_in\\_brief\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Court_in_brief_ENG.pdf)

Inter-American Court of Human Rights:

<http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index.php/en>

F: Human Rights/ Women's Rights

Reading "The Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women"

Week 13:

M: Debate 3

W: Catch-up

F: International Political Economy

Week 14

M: Debate 4: Trade Liberalization and Economic Growth: Does Trade Liberalization Contribute to Economic Prosperity?

W& F: Catch-up/Review

Finals Week