POL 130
Introduction to International Relations
MWF, 11:30 – 12:20pm, Physics Building 223

Dr. Bryce Reeder
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Office Location: BRNG 2258
Office Hours: Mondays 12:30 – 2:30pm; and by appointment
Office Phone: (765) 494 – 2951

Course Website: https://mycourses.purdue.edu/

This syllabus is subject to change at my discretion.

Teaching Assistants:

Jay Kim
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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9:00 – 11:00am

Hammad Khan
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Office Location: BRNG 2241
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00 – 5:00pm

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the scientific study of interstate interactions, and aims to provide students with the background and conceptual tools necessary to understand the contemporary international system. Students will be expected to acquire an understanding of mainstream theories of international politics and will be tasked with applying them to contemporary problems in international relations research – questions that deal with war and peace, international cooperation, economic interdependence, terrorism, among others. As the course progresses, specific cases will be isolated in order to highlight the importance and shortcomings of international relations scholarship.

Prerequisite(s): none
Note(s): Some topics, such as war in the international system, might be disturbing to some. Please talk to me if you have any questions/concerns.
Credit Hours: 3

Required Text(s):

All other required readings will be made available on the course website.

Course Objectives:
At the completion of this course, students will:

• be familiar with the scientific study of interstate relations.
• understand and be able to describe the dominant theories of international politics, as well as some popular alternatives.
• have an understanding of the topics of interest to scholars of international relations and how they relate to IR paradigms.
• have a basic understanding of the literature relating to interstate conflict, international organizations, and international political economy.
• understand how the scientific study of international politics relates to “real life” by having specialized knowledge of contemporary issues in the global system.

Course Requirements:
More details about each assignment will be provided as the course progresses.

• Attendance/Participation: Students are expected to attend class and be an active participant. Students will incur a 1% penalty for each class missed after 1 day (for a max of 10% of your final grade). Attendance will be taken 10 random days during the semester.
• Quizzes: There will be 5 quizzes given during the course of the semester. The quizzes will cover the Gourevitch book that is required for the final paper.
• Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will cover all material up to this point. It will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.
• National Interest/Sovereignty Paper: Students will be expected to write a 10-12 page paper that argues whether or not humanitarian intervention a) is in the “national interest,” b) should be done even if it violates the concept of state sovereignty, and c) is consistent with any of the IR theories discussed during the course. The case of Rwanda should be used to frame the argument (the film and required book will serve as a guide).
• Final Exam: The final exam will be cumulative and consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.
• Extra Credit (optional): Students have the option to give a 8-10 minute presentation that places a contemporary case in context of an IR theory of your choice.

Grade Distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Interest/Sovereignty Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit (optional)</td>
<td>3% added to final grade</td>
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Letter Grade Distribution:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>70.00 - 72.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>67.00 - 69.99</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>60.00 - 62.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>&lt;= 59.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Course Policies:

- **General**
  - Computers and other technology are only to be used for taking notes.
  - All quizzes and exams are closed book, no notes.
  - No makeup quizzes or exams will be given. If you have a conflict you must discuss this with the instructor before the exam/quiz, not after.

- **Grades**
  - Grades in the C range represent performance that meets expectations; Grades in the B range represent performance that is substantially better than the expectations; Grades in the A range represent work that is excellent.
  - It is the responsibility of the student to follow up with the instructor with questions about grading. There are 3 rules that govern this process:
    * Students must wait 48 hours before contacting the instructor.
    * Grade inquiries must occur within 2 weeks after the assignment has been returned.
    * Questions/concerns about grading must be submitted in writing to the instructor.
  
  The instructor will then provide a written response and meet with the student to discuss any further questions/concerns.

- **Assignments**
  - Students are expected to work independently, unless otherwise specified. Offering and accepting answers from others is an act of plagiarism, which is a serious offense and all involved parties will be penalized according to the Academic Integrity Guide (below). Discussion amongst students is encouraged, but when in doubt, direct your questions to the instructor.
  - No late assignments will be accepted under any circumstances.

- **Attendance and Absences**
  - Students are allowed to miss 1 course without penalty. After 1 course, students will be penalized 1.5% off of attendance/participation grade for each additional day.
  - Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence. It is also the absentee’s responsibility to get all missing notes or materials.
• Students with Disabilities
  
  Those students with a documented disability are strongly encouraged to reach out to an Adaptive Programs Specialist, who will assist the instructor in identifying what classroom accommodations and/or adjustments are necessary to facilitate the student’s ability to meet the course requirements. **This should be done within the first 2 weeks of the course.**
Academic Integrity Guide:

*Definition of Academic Dishonesty:* Purdue prohibits dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty. (Section B.2.a, Code of Student Conduct) Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest. (University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972)

More specifically, the following are a few examples of academic dishonesty which have been discovered at Purdue University.

- substituting on an exam for another student
- substituting in a course for another student
- paying someone else to write a paper and submitting it as ones own work
- giving or receiving answers by use of signals, cell phones or any other method during an exam
- copying with or without the other persons knowledge during an exam
- doing class assignments for someone else
- plagiarizing published material, class assignments, or lab reports
- turning in a paper that has been purchased from a commercial research firm or obtained from the internet
- padding items of a bibliography
- obtaining an unauthorized copy of a test in advance of its scheduled administration
- using unauthorized notes during an exam
- collaborating with other students on assignments when it is not allowed
- obtaining a test from the exam site, completing and submitting it later
- altering answers on a scored test and submitting it for a regrade
- accessing and altering grade records
- stealing class assignments from other students and submitting them as ones own
- fabricating data
- destroying or stealing the work of other students
- falsifying an attendance record

Plagiarism is a special kind of academic dishonesty in which one person steals another persons ideas or words and falsely presents them as the plagiarists own product. This is most likely to occur in the following ways:

- using the exact language of someone else without the use of quotation marks and without giving proper credit to the author
- presenting the sequence of ideas or arranging the material of someone else even though such is expressed in ones own words, without giving appropriate acknowledgment
• submitting a document written by someone else but representing it as one's own

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty: Before any formal action is taken against a student who is suspected of committing academic dishonesty, the instructor is encouraged to meet with the student to discuss the facts surrounding the suspicions. If the instructor concludes that the student is guilty, the matter may be resolved with the student through punitive grading. Examples of punitive grading are giving a lower or failing grade on the assignment, having the student repeat the assignment and perhaps some additional assignment, or assessing a lower or failing grade for the course. The grade appeals system offers recourse to a student whose grade has been reduced unfairly for alleged academic dishonesty.

Additionally, instructors are encouraged to refer cases to the Office of the Dean of Students for adjudication and/or appropriate record keeping. The Office of the Dean of Students will follow established procedures as provided in the Student Code of Conduct. If found responsible, possible sanctions include a warning, probation, probated suspension, suspension, or expulsion.
Important Dates:

01/18/2016 No Class (MLK Day)

03/04/2016 Midterm Exam

03/07/2016 “Ghosts of Rwanda” film screening

03/09/2016 Paper Preparation Workshop (read Shimko chapter, on website)

03/14/2016 No Class (spring break)

03/16/2016 No Class (spring break)

03/18/2016 No Class (spring break)

04/08/2016 No Class (gone for conference)

04/15/2016 National Interest/Sovereignty Paper Due

TBD Final Exam

Note: The dates for the 5 quizzes will be announced at least 1 class period before they take place.
Outline of Course Topics/Readings:

I. Introduction to the Scientific Study of International Politics
   A. Basic Concepts and Definitions
      i. Skim book of IR definitions (on website) – no need to read in depth, simply for your reference
   B. The Birth of the Modern State
      i. Krasner article (on website)
   C. How Do International Politics Differ from Domestic Politics?
      i. Art and Jervis, pages 1-6; 33-51
   D. Introduction to the Level of Analysis Problem/Theory
      i. Weber, Chapter 1
      ii. Singer article (on website)
   E. What Makes Good/Bad Theory?

II. Paradigms of International Relations
   A. Realism
      i. Art and Jervis, pages 15-21
      ii. Weber, chapter 2
      iii. Art and Jervis, pages 110-129
   B. Liberalism
      i. Art and Jervis, pages 67-78; 98-104
      ii. Weber, chapter 3
      iii. Art and Jervis, pages 134-140
   C. Constructivism
      i. Weber, chapter 4
   D. Feminism
      i. Weber, chapter 5
      ii. Art and Jervis, pages 21-30
   E. Marxism
      i. Weber, chapter 7
   F. Conclusions/Implications
      i. Weber, chapter 11

III. Introduction to Inquiry in International Relations
   A. International Conflict
      i. What Does Force Accomplish?
         a. Art and Jervis, chapter 4
      ii. Why Choose Violence?
         a. Art and Jervis, pages 52-29; chapter 5
iii. Role of Nuclear Weapons  
a. Art and Jervis, chapter 6; pages 492-495
iv. Interstate Relations in Civil Wars

B. International Cooperation  
i. Basics of Political Economy  
a. Art and Jervis, chapter 7

ii. Globalization  
a. Art and Jervis, chapter 8  
b. Weber, chapter 6

iii. Problems with World Economy  
a. Art and Jervis, chapter 9  
b. Weber, chapter 8

IV. Contemporary Problems in International Relations

A. Interstate War and Terrorism  
i. Art and Jervis, chapter 10  
ii. Academic Articles TBD

B. Humanitarian Intervention and Weak States  
i. Art and Jervis, chapter 11  
ii. Academic Articles TBD

C. Transnational Actors in Global Politics  
i. Art and Jervis, chapter 13  
ii. Academic Articles TBD

D. Global Governance and the Environment  
i. Art and Jervis, chapter 14  
ii. Weber, chapter 9  
iii. Academic Articles TBD