COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course we will:
1. Study important core concepts, theories, and approaches that guide the study of international relations.
2. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of these theories and approaches and master their application to the real world.
3. Examine the sources of conflict and cooperation in international politics, specifically the influence of human nature, domestic politics, and the structure of the international system on behavior.
4. Through the analytical lenses provided by theory, examine some of the challenges and choices facing American foreign policy.
5. Do a lot of reading, thinking, writing, and discussing.

REQUIREMENTS

Your grade for the course will be based on the following:

* Briefing papers (4) 35% (140 points)
* Midterm exam 20% (80 points)
* Annotated bibliography 10% (40 points)
* Simulation resolutions 10% (40 points)
* Simulation participation 5% (20 points)
* Final exam 20% (80 points)

Total: 100% (400 points)

REQUIRED READINGS


ASSIGNMENTS

Midterm and final exams: Both exams will draw upon material from the required readings, course lectures, and discussions.

The midterm will be given in class, Friday, March 6.
The final examination will be given at its scheduled time, Thursday, April 30, 12:00-2:30 p.m. This exam is cumulative.
**Briefing papers:** You will write four briefing papers during the term on topics assigned by the instructor. The purpose of these papers is to apply theory to the real world. You will receive your topic about two weeks before each paper is due. In your papers you should rely on the course’s readings, lectures, and discussions. Your paper should be well written and properly cited, following APSA style (see the APSA style guides on Moodle). Poorly written and/or improperly cited work will earn a lower grade on the assignment. Length: 1000 to 1200 words.

Please submit your papers as Word documents via e-mail by 11:30 p.m. on the dates they are due (see schedule below). Late papers will be penalized a letter grade for each day they are late. You are responsible for making sure your papers are submitted on time. Double check to make sure you have attached the paper to your e-mail. Make sure that it can be opened and read. E-mails without attachments (as well as e-mails with attachments that cannot be opened and read) do not qualify as having been submitted on time. In such instances the late-grade penalty will apply.

**Simulation:** The three remaining course assignments entail preparation for and participation in a United Nations conference simulation on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

1) **Conference Resolutions:** In the simulation you will represent a country taking part in the conference. In this capacity you are responsible for drawing up three conference resolutions. These resolutions are due Thursday, April 7th at 11:30 pm. Resolutions will be penalized one letter grade for each day they are late. Your resolutions should be well written. Poorly written resolutions will receive a lower grade.

2) **Annotated Bibliography:** In preparation for writing your resolutions you are to compile an annotated bibliography of ten sources dealing with your country’s views on issues related to the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Each summary should be at least 150 words (but no more than 200). Bibliographic citations for each source should appear in proper APSA form (see APSA style guide information on Moodle). Incomplete or sloppy citations will mean a lower grade on the assignment. I expect your summaries to be well written. Poor writing will mean a lower grade on the assignment. This assignment is due Tuesday, March 17th at 11:30 pm, and will be penalized one letter grade for each day it is late.

3) **Simulation Participation:** The simulation will take place on two of the three following evenings: Monday, April 13th, Tuesday, April 14th, and Wednesday, April 15th, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Please plan for this now. If you have other commitments on these evenings, you will need to change them. If you cannot do this, you should drop the class. Failure to participate in the simulation during the evenings scheduled will result in a one-third letter grade reduction in your course grade.

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**A note on plagiarism:** When you borrow someone else’s ideas (which we all do when writing papers; this is part of the creative process), you are required to use in-text citations, giving credit where credit is due. Presenting another author’s work as your own is plagiarism. This includes paraphrasing another author’s ideas without attribution. Plagiarism is the academic equivalent of stealing and will result in severe penalties up to and including a failing grade for the course as well as university disciplinary action. If you have any doubts at any time as to when you should cite someone else’s work, please see me. See also the university’s pamphlet, “Plagiarism & Academic Integrity” (http://www.furman.edu/academics/academics/academic-resources/Documents/plagiarism.pdf). I have also included materials on Moodle that provide guidance on when and how to cite sources.
**Class attendance:** Expected. If missing class or coming late to class becomes a problem, offenders can expect severe penalties that will negatively affect their course grades.

**Electronic devices in class:** As a courtesy to the class, cell phones and other similar devices should be turned off and put away, out of sight, in your backpack or purse as soon as you walk into the classroom. On exam days, if I see a cell phone or other similar device (e.g., a smart phone) in your hand, on your lap, on your desktop, or anywhere else other than put away and out of sight in your backpack or purse, you will fail the exam, regardless of the reason.

Laptops and other similar devices are prohibited (please see “Digital Distractions,” on Moodle). Audio or video recording of class lectures and discussions, without my permission, is prohibited.

**Please note:** Failure to complete any of the assignments in this course for reasons other than providential will result in an “F” for the course.

**Disabilities Services at Furman:** Students with disabilities who think they may need an accommodation in this course should immediately make an appointment to see Gina Parris, Furman’s Disability Services Coordinator. Her office is in room 002, in the lower level of the Earle Infirmary. She may be reached at 294-2320.

**A note on classroom decorum:** Once class begins no one is to leave the room until class ends, except for a medical emergency. This includes times when we are viewing documentaries or any other multimedia materials. Failure to abide by this standard will mean a lower grade in the course.

**COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS**

**Section 1: Competing Images of International Relations**

**A. Idealism and the Realist Critique**
* Nye and Welch, chapter 4.
* Blainey, Geoffrey. “Paradise is a Bazaar.” In Betts, 301-09.
* Carr, E. H. “Realism and Idealism.” In Betts, 82-99.

**B. Classical Realism and Structural Realism**
* Nye and Welch, chapter 2.
* Waltz, Kenneth N. “The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory.” In Betts, 100-06.
* Nye and Welch, chapter 1.
Section 2: Sources of Conflict

A. The International System

1. Anarchy and the Security Dilemma

2. Hegemony Theory and the Balance of Power
   * Nye and Welch, chapter 3.

3. Arms Races and Arms Control
   * Trachtenberg, Marc. 2002. “Waltzing to Armageddon.” The National Interest 69 (Fall), 144-52. [JSTOR]

4. Deterrence Theory
   * Nye and Welch, chapter 5.
   * Nye and Welch, chapter 4, pp. 131-35 (review).

B. Making Foreign Policy: Realism versus Reality
   * Allison, Graham T. 1969. “Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis.” American Political Science Review 63:3 (September), 689-718. [JSTOR]

Section 3: Sources of Cooperation (and Conflict)

A. Interdependence and Globalization
   * Nye and Welch, chapters 7-8.

B. Identity and Ideology: Democracy and Liberal Ideals

1. In Theory
   * Kant, Immanuel. “Perpetual Peace.” In Betts, 136-42.

2. In Practice

C. “Constructing” Peace
   * Mead, Margaret. “Warfare is Only an Invention—Not a Biological Necessity.” In Betts, 244-48.
   * Wendt, Alexander. “Anarchy is What States Make of It.” In Betts, 214-35.

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ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE, PSC 250, SPRING 2015

Week 1 (January 12-17) Classes begin: Monday, January 12

Week 2 (January 18-24)
No class Monday, January 19

Week 3 (January 25-31)

Week 4 (February 1-7)
Briefing paper 1 due 11:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 3

Week 5 (February 8-14)

Week 6 (February 15-21)
Briefing paper 2 due 11:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 17

Week 7 (February 22-28)

Week 8 (March 1-7)
Midterm exam, Friday, March 6

Spring Break (March 8-14)

Week 9 (March 15-21)
Simulation Annotated Bibliography due 11:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 17

Week 10 (March 22-28)
Briefing paper 3 due 11:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 24

Week 11 (March 29-April 4)
No class Friday, April 3

Week 12 (April 5-11)
No class Monday, April 6
Simulation Resolutions due 11:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 7

Week 13 (April 12-18)
Simulation, on two of the three following nights: Monday, April 13, Tuesday, April 14, and Wednesday, April 15 (6:30-9:30 p.m. each night)

Week 14 (April 19-25)
Briefing paper 4 due 11:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 21

Week 15 (April 26-May 2) Classes end: Tuesday, April 28

Final exam: Thursday, April 30, 12:00-2:30 p.m.