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 practice their application to the real world.
3. Examine the sources of conflict and cooperation in international politics, specifically the influence of the international system, political psychology, domestic politics, and attitudes and beliefs on nation-state 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:

* Analysis papers (3) 48% (192 points)
* Midterm exam 26% (104 points)
* Final exam 26% (104 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, Wednesday, March 21.
The final examination will be given at its scheduled time, Saturday, May 3, 8:30-11:00 a.m.
This exam is cumulative.

Analysis papers: You will write three analysis 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 topics 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.

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 one letter grade for each day they are late.** You are responsible for making sure your papers are submitted on time. Make sure you have attached the paper to your e-mail. Make sure that the attachment 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.

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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://www2.furman.edu/academics/academics/academic-resources/Documents/plagiarism.pdf](http://www2.furman.edu/academics/academics/academic-resources/Documents/plagiarism.pdf)). I have also included materials on Moodle that provide additional guidance on when and how to cite sources. Review these materials.

**Class attendance:** Expected. Repeated absences and/or habitually coming late to class will negatively affect your overall course grade. Furthermore, following university academic regulations, first-year students “will be withdrawn from a course if absent, for any reason, 15 percent of the class meetings. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors will be withdrawn from a course if absent 25 percent of the class meetings. In both cases, a failing (F) grade [for the course] will be recorded unless the absences were due to providential reasons, in which cases a withdrawal (W) grade [for the course] may be assigned after consultation with the Associate Academic Dean.”

**Electronic devices in class:** As a courtesy to the class, cell phones and 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 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 and/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.

**Accessibility Resources at Furman:** Students who think they may need an academic accommodation in this course should immediately make an appointment to see Judy Bagley, the director of Furman’s Student Office for Accessibility Resources. 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.

**B. Classical Realism and Structural Realism**
* Nye and Welch, chapter 2.
* Nye and Welch, chapter 1.

**Section 2: Sources of Conflict**

**A. Anarchy and the Security Dilemma**

**B. Arms Proliferation, Arms Control, and Nuclear Weapons**
* Trachtenberg, Marc. 2002. “Waltzing to Armageddon?” *The National Interest* 69 (Fall): 144-52. [JSTOR]
* Nye and Welch, chapter 5.
C. Hegemony Theory and the Balance of Power
* Nye and Welch, chapter 3.

D. Deterrence Theory
* Nye and Welch, chapter 4, pp. 136-140 (review).

E. Making Foreign Policy: Realism versus Reality

Section 3: Sources of Cooperation (and Conflict)

A. Interdependence and Globalization
* Nye and Welch, chapters 8-9.

B. Democracy and Liberalism

1. In Theory

2. In Practice

C. Attitudes, Beliefs, and Identity


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ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE, PSC 250, SPRING 2018

Week 1 (January 7-13)  Classes begin:  Monday, January 8

Week 2 (January 14-20)
   No class Monday, January 15

Week 3 (January 21-27)

Week 4 (January 28-February 3)
   Analysis paper 1 due 11:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 30

Week 5 (February 4-10)

Week 6 (February 11-17)

Week 7 (February 18-24)
   Analysis paper 2 due 11:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 20

Week 8 (February 25-March 3)

Spring Break (March 4-10)

Week 9 (March 11-17)

Week 10 (March 18-24)
   Midterm exam, Wednesday, March 21

Week 11 (March 25-31)
   No class Friday, March 30

Week 12 (April 1-7)
   No class Monday, April 2

Week 13 (April 8-14)

Week 14 (April 15-21)
   Analysis paper 3 due 11:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 17

Week 15 (April 22-28)  Classes end:  Tuesday, April 24

Final exam:  Saturday, April 28, 8:30-11:00 a.m.