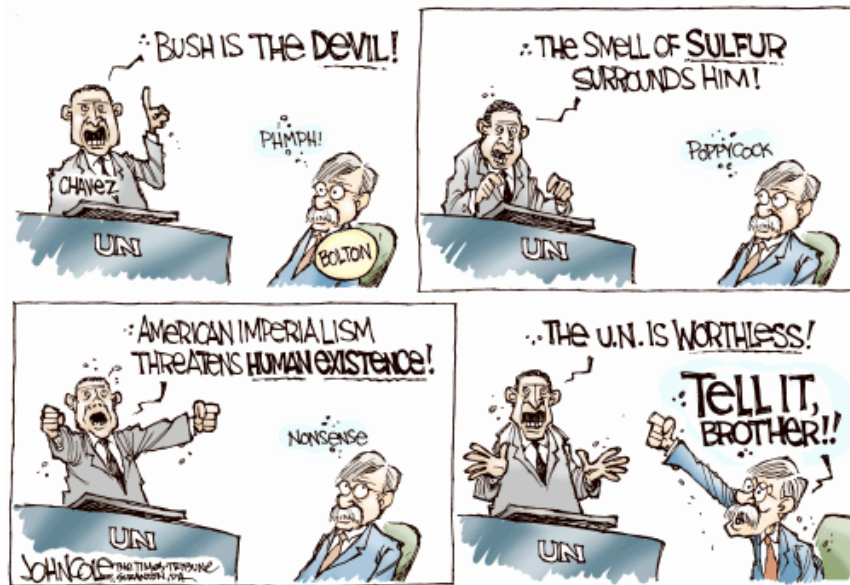


**GVPT 200: International Political Relations  
Summer Term 2008**

*Instructor:* Michael McDonald  
*Email:* mmcdonald@gvpt.umd.edu

*Office Hours:* Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:30am  
Footnotes Cafe, McKeldin Library

*Class Info:* Meets in 1102 Tydings Hall  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 – 3:50pm  
July 13, 2008 – August 22, 2008



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### Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of international relations. We will ask such questions as: What are the causes of war? When do states choose to cooperate? How should the US and other countries respond to terrorism? Do international organizations matter? What are the causes of inequality in the global economy? How do we handle issues of climate change, human rights, public health, and energy dependence?

In order to address these questions, we will discuss the analytical frameworks and theoretical approaches developed by political scientists. You will be asked to think critically, to consider what you think you know, and to challenge your own opinions and those you encounter.

Throughout the course, we will be guided by the general questions listed above, as well as these specific learning objectives. By the end of the term, students will:

- Develop an understanding of the core concepts and theories of international relations scholarship
- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills
- Learn through decision making, problem-solving, role playing, and group work
- Develop confidence confronting problems and speaking in public
- Learn to apply abstract theories and concepts to concrete “real world” problems
- Develop a broader and more critical understanding of the world around them
- Increase their own interest in world politics
- Develop a sense of their own responsibility as a member of civil society

We will be using several methods to encourage learning, including some lecture, a great deal of class discussion, several detailed case studies, and a few films. The value of this course and the bulk of your learning will come from your *active participation* in class discussion, and in your interaction with your peers. You must be willing to adequately prepare before each session, and you must commit to being open to the various activities in the course. It will require your time and effort, but the course also promises to help you explore new ideas and learn from your analysis and the analysis of your classmates.

## Organizational Matters

You are bound by the University's Code of Academic Integrity. Please make yourself familiar with this Code (available at <http://studentconduct.umd.edu/aca/index.html>). Cheating and plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated, and any violation will be penalized to the maximum extent. The following definitions come from the website above, but let me repeat them here:

***Cheating***: intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise

***Fabrication***: intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise

***Facilitation***: intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another violate any provision of the Code of Academic Integrity

***Plagiarism***: intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise

Please inform me within the first two days of class if you have a **physical or learning disability** so that I can accommodate your needs. If you have any concerns please visit the office of the Disability Support Service in the University of Maryland Counseling Center.

You will not be penalized for the observance of **religious holidays**. Please inform me within the first two days if your religious beliefs will cause you to miss any class or assignment.

If at any time you are having trouble with the demands of this course, you are encouraged to take advantage of the campus **Learning Assistance Service** in 2201 Shoemaker. They can help you with managing your time, reading, note taking, and exam preparation.

## Course Materials

### *Required Text:*

Karen A. Mingst, Essentials of International Relation, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition,  
W.W. Norton & Co., 2008.

In addition to the one required text, you will be asked to purchase **four** case studies from the Georgetown University Institute for the Study of Diplomacy ([www.guisd.org](http://www.guisd.org)). Each case can be downloaded individually for \$3.50, but you will save money by purchasing them together in a Custom Case Book for \$11.50. Simply visit [www.guisd.org](http://www.guisd.org) and search for item cb313. The title is International Political Relations, and you will see my name as the author. The cases included are:

- (1) "One Rock, Two Principles: The Gibraltar Problem" (Case # 439)
- (2) "Establishing an International Criminal Court: The Emergence of a New Global Authority?" (Case # 258)
- (3) "The Cuban Missile Crisis" (Case # 334)
- (4) "Key Decision in the Somalia Intervention" (Case # 464)

Additional readings and other resources will be available on the class website:

[www.wam.umd.edu/~mkm/gvpt200.html](http://www.wam.umd.edu/~mkm/gvpt200.html)

Finally, you will be required **daily** to read the **international reporting** of one or more major newspapers/media outlets. Here is a short list of recommendations:

Washington Post ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com))

New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com))

The Economist ([www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com))

The BBC ([www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk))

## Course Requirements

Your grade in this course will be made up of four components:

Class Participation	20%
Group Project	20%
Final Exam	30%
Research Paper	30%
Topic & Outline	5%
Paper	25%

### *Class Participation*

Your active participation in class is essential to your success in the course. While there will be some lecturing, we will depend primarily on class discussion. This means you will need to read **and think about** the assignments before class. In addition, there will be short summary questions for you to answer for each of the four case studies. Needless to say, you will have a difficult time participating in class if you are not there, so your attendance is expected at each class period.

### *Group Project*

On the first day of class you will be divided into groups and given a topic involving international politics. It will be your responsibility to examine and present your topic to the class. You will have some choice regarding *how* you present the information, and you are encouraged to be as creative as possible while getting the necessary concepts across. We will discuss the group projects in more detail at the beginning of the term.

### *Final Exam*

On the last day of class we will have a final examination assessing your comprehension of the core theories of international relations.

### *Research Paper*

The ability to conduct independent research and compose a research paper is essential to your success as a student. Your paper should be between 8 and 10 pages, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font. You will choose any topic you like, but you must incorporate a discussion of the core concepts discussed in class *as they relate to your specific topic*. The goal of the paper is for you to assimilate and apply abstract concepts and theories to real-world political events. I will approve your topic no later than Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. You will turn in an outline of your paper by Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, and your final paper will be due the last day of class, Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Course Outline

### **July 14<sup>th</sup>: Introduction**

- Introduction to the course
- The Study of International Relations
- History of the Field of International Relations
- Levels of Analysis

### **July 16<sup>th</sup>: Dominant Paradigms**

- Realism and Neorealism
- Liberalism and Neoliberal Institutionalism

#### Readings

Mingst, pp. 55-89

Thucydides, *The Melian Dialogue*

Walt, *One World, Many Theories*

Mearsheimer and Brzezinski, *Mearsheimer vs. Brzezinski*

**Case: One Rock, Two Principles: The Gibraltar Problem (Case # 439)**

### **July 21<sup>st</sup>: Alternative Theoretical Perspectives**

- Constructivism
- Radical Perspectives
- Gender Theories

#### Readings

Mingst, pp. 55-89

Goldstein and Pevehouse, pp. 96-108 (Handout)

Wendt, *Anarchy Is What States Make Of It*

Lenin, *Imperialism: the Highest Stage of Capitalism*, excerpt

Wallerstein, *The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalism System*

Tickner, *Man, the State, and War*

Snyder, *One World, Rival Theories*

### **July 23<sup>rd</sup>: The State**

- State Power
- Statecraft and Inter-state Relations
- Game Theory

#### Readings

Mingst, pp. 99-122

Krasner, *Sovereignty*

Slaughter, *The Real New World Order*

Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations?*

**Case: Establishing an International Criminal Court: The Emergence of a New Global Authority? (Case # 258)**

### **July 28<sup>th</sup>: International Relations Beyond the State**

- Challenges to the State
- Individual Personalities and Policy Elites
- Publics
- Non-State Actors

#### Readings

Mingst, pp. 129-161; 187-193

Jervis, *Hypotheses on Misperception*

Hermann and Hagan, *International Decision Making: Leadership Matters*

Keck and Sikkink, *Transnational Advocacy Networks*

### **July 30<sup>th</sup>: Foreign Policy**

- Models of Foreign Policy Decisionmaking
- Spotlight on the Cuban Missile Crisis

#### Readings

Mingst, pp. 122-128

Allison, *Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis*

**Case: The Cuban Missile Crisis (Case # 334)**

### **August 4<sup>th</sup>: International Organizations**

- International Organizations
- International Law
- Human Rights

#### Readings

Mingst, pp. 163-187; 193-205; 309-320

Mearsheimer, *The False Promise of International Institutions*

Moravcsik, *A Too Perfect Union? Why Europe Said "No"*

Jentleson, *Tough Love Multilateralism*

United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

Sen, *Universal Truths*

Ignatieff, *The Attack on Human Rights*

### **August 6<sup>th</sup>: War**

- Causes of War
- Types and Means
- The Role of Nuclear Weapons
- Civil and Resource Wars

#### Readings

Mingst, pp. 207-246

Schelling, *The Diplomacy of Violence*

Sagan, *How to Keep the Bomb From Iran*

Mueller, *The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons*

Collier, *The Market for Civil War*

### **August 11<sup>th</sup>: Other Kinds of War**

- Terrorism
- Just War Theory
- Humanitarian Intervention

#### Readings

Mingst, pp. 207-246

Bin-Ladin, *Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders*

Pape, *The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*

Atran, *Mishandling Suicide Terrorism*

Finnemore, *Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention*

Powers, *Bystanders to Genocide*

**Case: Key Decision in the Somalia Intervention (Case # 464)**

### **August 13<sup>th</sup>: International Political Economy**

- Economic Liberalism & Its Opponents
- Development & Inequality
- Economic Globalization

#### Readings

Mingst, pp. 247-276

Gilpin, *The Nature of Political Economy*

Scott, *The Great Divide in the Global Village*

Naim, *The Five Wars of Globalization*

Ferguson, *Sinking Globalization*

Drezner, *The Outsourcing Bogeyman*

### **August 18<sup>th</sup>: (Some) Contemporary Issues in International Politics**

- Energy
- Environment
- Health

#### Readings

Mingst, pp. 276-309; 320-327

Campbell, *Petroleum and People*

Friedman, *The First Law of Petropolitics*

Easterly, *The Healers: Triumph and Tragedy*

Garrett, *The Next Pandemic*

Biermann and Dingwerth, *Global Environmental Change and the Nation State*

Dabelko, *An Uncommon Peace*

### **August 20<sup>th</sup>: FINAL EXAM & PAPER DUE**