

IS 220: Introduction to International Politics
Section 1: TR 1235-1350
Section 2: TR 1400-1515
SSH 503

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REQUIRED TEXT:

- *Introduction to International Relations: Theory and Practice* by Joyce P. Kaufman (**hereafter *Introduction***)
- *Power, Space, and Time: An Empirical Introduction to International Relations* by J. Patrick Rhamey Jr. and Tadeusz Kugler (**hereafter *Power***)

OFFICE HOURS:

Outside official office hours, if I am in my office, you are welcome to meet with me anytime without prior notice. Otherwise, use www.calendly.com/rhameyjp for appointment scheduling. I am usually available, including nights and weekends, with 24 hours' notice.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the political science subfield of international relations. You will be introduced to the primary theories, actors, topics, and datasets prominent in the international relations literature throughout the course, and you will be expected to engage these ideas critically in both classroom discussion, written coursework, and exams. We will begin by reviewing the broad theoretical paradigms dominant in the international relations literature and apply those theoretical perspectives to real-world cases. This course will cover topics ranging from international conflict, security, and organization to international political economy and globalization.

As international politics is ongoing, cadets are expected to pay close attention to current events through relevant news sources. In addition to incorporating current events and historical facts into the fabric of our theoretical discussion, we will also engage in a series of simulations and activities to further apply theoretical principles.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES:

- Gain a general understanding of the international relations subfield in political science, including theoretical debates, methodological choices, and central research programs.
- Develop analytical tools to understand and evaluate the interactions of states through the lens of international relations theories
- Critically evaluate arguments in the international relations literature
- Formulate original arguments relevant to international relations and communicate those arguments effectively.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Course requirements will be weighted in the following manner:

Participation/Quizzes-----	10%
Map Quiz-----	10%
Midterm -----	20%
Case Studies-----	30%
Final Exam -----	30%

Participation/Quizzes. Cadets are expected to participate in class discussion throughout the semester. In order to participate effectively, cadets will need to complete the readings before their assigned class sessions. Because topics may be controversial and/or complex, cadets are expected to be civil in their discussion and respectful toward viewpoints other than their own. Periodic quizzes will occur to highlight key points within the readings.

Map Quiz. Understanding international interactions requires a basic understanding of geopolitical spatial relationships. Therefore, cadets will be required to identify a randomly selected list of countries on a map. Point values will be weighted by country economic size.

Response Papers. There will be two response papers for the course (15% each). On the first, cadets will evaluate the explanatory power of each dominant theoretical perspective to their experience playing the board game *Diplomacy* in class. On the second, cadets will design an international institution to address an issue in international politics of their choosing. Cadets are expected to synthesize theoretical and factual knowledge and develop a clear, precise argument (5-10 pages).

Exams. There will be a midterm exam (20%) and a final exam (30%). The midterm will consist of 2-3 short answer questions and an essay. The final exam is cumulative, following a similar format as the midterm. It will include 4-6 short answer questions and two essays.

News Sources:

To be successful in the classroom, on exams, and in their papers, students are expected to maintain an awareness of ongoing developments in international politics and should regularly review some portion of the following news sources.

BBC Online: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

New York Times: <http://www.nyt.com>

Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/>

CLASS SCHEDULE

30 August: Introduction

Section 1 International Relations: Theory and History

1 September

- Chapter 1 in *Introduction*

6 September

- **Map Quiz**
- Chapter 2 in *Introduction*

8 September

- “One World, Rival Theories” by Jack Snyder (Canvas)
- The Melian Dialogue by Thucydides (Canvas)

13 September

- Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points (Canvas)
- “Perpetual Peace” by Immanuel Kant (Canvas)

15 September

- *Diplomacy* Activity

20 September

- *Diplomacy* Activity

22 September

- *Diplomacy* Activity

Section 2: Applying and Evaluating International Relations Theories

27 September

- Chapters 9 and 10 in *Politics among Nations* by Hans Morgenthau (Canvas)
- Chapter 2 in *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* by John J. Mearsheimer (Canvas)

September 28: Response Paper 1 Due (CAD)

29 September

- Pages 13-28 of *The War Ledger* by A.F.K. Organski and Jacek Kugler (Canvas)
- “The End of Liberal International Order?” by G. John Ikenberry (Canvas)

4 October: No Class – Conference. Compensatory for Final Review Session (TBD)

6 October: No Class – Conference. Compensatory for Midterm Review Session (TBD)

13 October

- “Anarchy is What States Makes of It” by Alexander Wendt (Canvas)
- “The Clash of Civilizations?” by Samuel P. Huntington (Canvas)

18 October

- Chapters 1 & 2 in *Power*

20 October

- Chapter 3 in *Introduction*

25 October

- **Midterm**

Section 3: Levels of Analysis and Conflict Processes

27 October

- Chapters 3 and 4 in *Power*

31 October

- “Rationalist Explanations for War” by James D. Fearon (Canvas)

3 November

- Chapter 4 in *Introduction*

8 November

- Chapter 5 in *Power*
- “Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games” by Robert D. Putnam (Canvas)

10 November

- Chapter 6 in *Power*
- “Cooperation under the Security Dilemma” by Robert Jervis (Canvas)

Section 4: Nonstate Actors and International Order

15 November

- Chapter 5 in *Introduction*

November 16: Response Paper 2 Due (CAD)

17 November

- Chapter 7 in *Power*
- “Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions” by Robert Axelrod and Robert O. Keohane (Canvas)

29 November

- Chapters 8-10 in *Power*

Section 5: Contemporary Challengers and Looking Forward

1 December

- Chapter 6 in *Introduction*

6 December

- Chapter 11 in *Power*
- “Why Iran Should Get the Bomb” by Kenneth Waltz (Canvas)

8 December

- Chapters 12 and 13 in *Power*

13 December – Conclusion, Teaching Evaluations

TBD: Final Exam (Check Final Exam Schedule)

Disabilities and Accommodations:

VMI abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 which mandate reasonable accommodations are provided for all Cadets with documented disabilities. If you have a registered disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodations, please contact me early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate provision of accommodations you may need. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Office of Disabilities Services, the designated office on Post to provide services for Cadets with disabilities. The office is located on the 2nd floor of the VMI Health Center. Please call or stop by the office of Dr. Sarah Jones, Director of Disabilities Services, for more information, 464-7667 or email at: jonesl10@vmi.edu.

Classroom Rules:

No tobacco products, food, beverages beyond water in a closed container, or gum are allowed. Profanity or slurs will not be tolerated. Use of electronic devices for any use unrelated to class is prohibited.

Institute Work for Grade Policy:

The below work for grade policy is taken directly from “Part IV: Academic Regulations” of *Regulations for the Virginia Military Institute*, under “Cadets’ Responsibilities”:

“Work for grade” is defined as any work presented to an instructor for a formal grade or undertaken in satisfaction of a requirement for successful completion of a course or degree requirement. All work submitted for grade is considered the cadet’s own work. “Cadet’s own work” means that he or she has composed the work from his or her general accumulation of knowledge and skill except as clearly and fully documented and that it has been composed especially for the current assignment. No work previously submitted in any course at VMI or elsewhere will be resubmitted or reformatted for submission in a current course without the specific approval of the instructor.

In all work for grade, failure to distinguish between the cadet’s own work and ideas and the work and ideas of others is known as plagiarism. Proper documentation clearly and fully identifies the source of all borrowed ideas, quotations, or other assistance. The cadet is referred to the VMI-authorized handbook for rules concerning quotations, paraphrases and documentation.

In all written work for grade, the cadet must include the words "HELP RECEIVED" conspicuously on the document, and he or she must then do one of two things: (1) state "none," meaning that no help was received except as documented in the work; or (2) explain in detail the nature of the help received. In oral work for grade, the cadet must make the same declaration before beginning the presentation. Admission of help received may result in a lower grade but will not result in prosecution for an honor violation.

Cadets are prohibited from discussing the contents of a quiz/exam until it is returned to them or final course grades are posted. This enjoinder does not imply that any inadvertent expression or behavior that might indicate one's feeling about the test should be considered a breach of honor. The real issue is whether cadets received information, not available to everyone else in the class, which would give them an unfair advantage. If a cadet inadvertently gives or receives information, the incident must be reported to the professor and the Honor Court.

Each cadet bears the responsibility for familiarizing himself or herself thoroughly with the policies states in this section, with any supplementary statement regarding work for grade expressed by the academic department in which he or she is taking a course, and with any special conditions provided in writing by the professor for a given assignment. If there is any doubt or uncertainty about the correct interpretation of a policy, the cadet should consult the instructor of the course. There should be no confusion, however, on the basic principle that it is never acceptable to submit someone else's work, written or otherwise, formally graded or not, as one's own.

The violation by a cadet of any of these policies will, if he or she is found guilty by the Honor Court, result in his or her being dismissed from VMI. Neither ignorance nor professed confusion about the correct interpretation of these policies is an excuse.

Department of International Studies & Political Science
Work for Grade Policy

Work for Grade in the International Studies (IS) department is generally of the following types:

1. Written quizzes, tests, or examinations;
2. Research papers, policy memoranda, briefings, and discourse analysis – identification and analysis of the critical differences in the findings and opinions of scholars on issues of interest to the discipline, and the application of social science theory to empirical phenomena.

Policies:

- A. **Peer Collaboration:** IS Cadets are permitted and encouraged to study with their peers to prepare for quizzes, tests and exams. However, when a cadet takes either written or oral quizzes, tests, and examinations, answers must be his/her own work without help from any other source, including notes or consultation with others. Additionally, the research and composition of all papers (as described in #2 and #3 above) must be done by the individual cadet alone.
- B. **Tutoring:** IS cadets are encouraged to make use of all VMI tutoring services to receive critical comments.* Cadets who do so and mark "Help Received" will not receive a lower grade on an assignment. Cadets are also permitted to seek critical comments on their written work from their peers. However, proof-reading and editing* of a cadet's written work is not permitted.
- C. **Computer Aids:** Cadets may use electronic spelling and grammar-checking facilities, and need not cite this assistance in their Help Received statements.

* *Definition from the VMI Work for Grade Policy:* "Offering *critical comments* means giving general advice on such matters as organization, thesis development, support for assertions, and patterns of errors. *Proofreading* means correcting errors (e.g., in grammar, spelling and punctuation. It is the last step taken by the writer in the *editing* process. In addition to the corrections made in proofreading, editing includes making such changes as the addition, deletion, or reordering of paragraphs, phrases, sentences, or words. A cadet may not have his or her work proofread or edited by someone other than the instructor."

Any exceptions to these rules, including the use of tutors, collaboration among cadets, and the use of computer style, spell and grammar checkers must be explained in writing by the course instructor. Instructors are at liberty to stipulate exceptions only with the written approval of their Department Head.

If you have any questions about the application of these rules, consult your instructor. Do not leave anything to chance.



Colonel Dennis M. Foster
Professor and Head