

Seminar in International Politics

Political Science 600

California State University, Long Beach - Fall 2019

Meeting Time: Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.

Classroom: SPA 212

Instructor

Charles Mahoney, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Wednesday 4:00-6:00 p.m.

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Overview

The field of international relations encompasses a wide variety of topics including international security, international political economy, international organizations, climate change, terrorism, transnational activism, and normative political theory just to name a few. It is a field with a distinguished history of thought developed over centuries; however, its core ideas are constantly being evaluated and challenged by thinkers who seek to explain the evolving character of relations between actors across state borders.

This course will introduce students to the core theoretical and policy ideas of international politics as well as to new and emerging ideas in the field. The central goal of the class is to teach students to apply international relations theory to important historical and contemporary policy debates. Ultimately, it is the connection between theory and “real world” events that makes international relations thought relevant to some of the most important questions of our time.

Required Books, Readings, and Beach Board

All course readings will be posted to the course website or will be available through direct links from the course syllabus. Students are required to have an e-mail account that receives Beach Board e-mail. In addition, all students are required to regularly check the Beach Board class site for announcements and course information.

Complete all assigned reading before class on each day the class meets. Lectures will help clarify the readings and will be much more useful to students if they have already begun to think about concepts presented in the readings.

Assignments and Evaluation

- I. Papers (60%) - There will be three papers of 5-7 pages in length. Each paper will be 20% of students' final grade

- II. Final Exam (20%) - The cumulative final exam will count for 20% of students' final grade
- III. Class participation (20%) – class participation consists of well-reasoned thoughts or critical questions about course material. Simply attending class is not sufficient to receive full credit for the class participation component of the grade. The instructor will periodically inform students of their class participation grade. Students may ask the instructor about their class participation grade at any point during the semester.

Grading Scale

A = 90-100 (student demonstrates outstanding proficiency in relevant course objectives)

B = 80-89.99 (student demonstrates advanced proficiency in relevant course objectives)

C = 70-79.99 (student demonstrates proficiency in relevant course objectives)

D = 60-69.99 (student demonstrates partial proficiency in relevant course objectives)

F = 0-59.99 (student demonstrates little to no proficiency in relevant course objectives)

Class Policies

I. *Academic Integrity*

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Do not plagiarize the work of others and do not copy the work of your peers. Please read CSULB policies on academic integrity, which can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/academic_information/cheating_plagiarism.html

Confirmed cases of cheating and/or plagiarism will be dealt with through serious disciplinary action that may include a failing grade on an assignment, failing the class, and potential expulsion from the university.

II. *Late Assignments / Make-Up Exams*

Late assignments and make-up exams will be permitted only in cases of documented medical emergency, religious holidays, or university business.

III. *Class Participation and Attendance*

Students are required to attend class and demonstrate knowledge of assigned readings.

Late arrivals and early departures will not be allowed. Students arriving more than five minutes after the designated start of class will not be allowed to attend lecture. If a student leaves class without permission prior to the official end of a class session, their overall course average will be reduced by one point.

IV. Policy on Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who need reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations in this course should promptly direct their request to the course instructor. Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. If a student with a disability feels that modifications, special assistance, or accommodations offered are inappropriate or insufficient, s/he should seek the assistance of the Director of Disabled Student Services on campus. The Bob Murphy ACCESS Center (BMAC) provides support services for students with deaf or hearing impairments, communication disabilities, learning disabilities, visual limitations, mobility limitations and other functional disabilities. Prior to a student receiving assistance, documentation from a qualified professional source must be submitted to BMAC (Success Center #110, (562) 985-5401, BMAC@csulb.edu; <http://web.csulb.edu/divisions/students/dss/>

V. Withdrawal Policy

Weeks 1 - 2: Withdrawals may be made without instructor approval. Credit for registration fees may be obtained during this period.

Weeks 3 - 12: Withdrawals require approval from the instructor and the chair of the department. Except in medical emergencies filed by the end of Week 8, credit for registration fees may not be obtained.

Weeks 13 - 15: Withdrawals require approval from the instructor, the Chair of the department, and the Dean of the college. Students also must withdraw from all other classes. Credit for registration fees may not be obtained.

VI. Computer and Cell Phone Etiquette

Students are expected to arrive for class on time and to refrain from using cell phones for talking, texting, or surfing the web. Laptops are permitted in the class for taking notes and referencing class readings only. Please refrain from using the internet to check e-mail, surf the web, or access social media.

VII. Respect for Diverse Opinions

This class presents an open environment for students to discuss their opinions on some of the most contentious issues in American politics today. Students are encouraged to present their thoughtful and reasoned views on issues related to the class topic. For the class to function properly, students must treat their peers with respect. Dismissive statements or intolerance towards anyone in the class will not be permitted.

VIII. *E-mail Etiquette*

E-mails sent to the professor should be written clearly, concisely, and courteously and must come from an e-mail address that clearly indicates student's full name.

IX. *Changes to Syllabus* - Professor Mahoney reserves the right to alter the syllabus over the course of the semester.

Week 1 – Introduction

Wednesday, August 28 - Course Overview, Expectations, and Introduction to International Relations

No In-Class Meeting

- Stephen Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories."
- Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories."

Week 2 – IR Theory: Realism

Wednesday, September 4 – Realism

- Thucydides, "The Melian Dialogue."
- Steven Forde, "International Realism and the Science of Politics."
- John Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions."
- Sebastian Rosato and John Schuessler, "A Realist Foreign Policy for the United States."
- Ido Oren, "The Unrealism of Contemporary Realism."

Week 3 – IR Theory: Liberalism

Wednesday, September 11 – Liberalism

- Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History."
- John M. Owen, "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace."
- Beth Simmons, "The International Diffusion of Liberalism."
- John M. Owen, "Liberalism and Its Alternatives, Again."
- Joseph Nye, "Work with China, Don't Contain It." Link:
http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/26/opinion/work-with-china-dont-contain-it.html?_r=0

Week 4 – IR Theory: Constructivism and Marxism

Wednesday, September 18 – Constructivism and Marxism

- Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink, "The Constructivist Research Program in International Relations."
- Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It."

- Michael Rosen, “Karl Marx”
- Michael Lowy and Charlotte C. Stanley, “Toward an International Resistance Against Capitalist Globalization.”
- Leo Panitch, “Rethinking Marxism and Imperialism for the 21st Century.”

Week 5 – Systems, World Order, and War

Wednesday, September 25 – Systems and World Order

- John Ikenberry, “Unipolarity, State Behavior, and Systemic Consequences.”
- Martha Finnemore, “Legitimacy, Hypocrisy, and the Social Structure of Unipolarity.”
- Kenneth Waltz, “The Stability of a Bipolar World.”
- John Lewis Gaddis, “The Long Peace.”
- Richard Maher, “The Rise of China and the Future of the Atlantic Alliance.”

Week 6 – Sanctions and Diplomacy: Alternatives to War?

Wednesday, October 2 – Sanctions and Diplomacy

- Colin Powell, “The Craft of Diplomacy.”
- Ian Hall, “The Transformation of Diplomacy.”
- Robert Pape, “Why Economic Sanctions Do Not Work.”
- David Baldwin, “The Sanctions Debate and the Logic of Choice.”
- George A. Lopez, “Containing Iraq: Sanctions Worked.”

PAPER #1 DUE IN CLASS

Week 7 – Globalization

Wednesday, October 9 – Globalization

- Douglas Kellner, “Theorizing Globalization.”
- David Held, “Globalization.”
- Alan Spector, “Globalization or Imperialism.”
- Julie Nelson, “Rethinking Development and Globalization: Insights from Feminist Economics.”

Week 8 – Terrorism

Wednesday, October 16 – Terrorism

- Boaz Ganor, “Defining Terrorism.”
- Andrew Kydd and Barbara Walter, “The Strategies of Terrorism.”
- Max Abrahms, “Why Terrorism Does Not Work.”
- *Global Terrorism Database*. Explore at the following link:
<http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>

Week 9 – Civil War and World Order

Wednesday, October 23 – Terrorism, Civil War, Non-Violent Resistance, and World Order

- Brian Schmidt and Michael Williams, “The Bush Doctrine and the Iraq War: Neoconservatives vs. Realists.”
- Daniel Byman, “Understanding the Islamic State.”
- Maria Stephan and Erica Chenoweth, “Why Civil Resistance Works.”
- Michael J. Mazarr, “The Folly of ‘Asymmetric War’.”
- John Mueller and Mark G. Stewart, “The Terrorism Delusion.”

Week 10 – Non-State Actors in IR

Wednesday, October 30 – Non-State Actors in IR

- P.W. Singer, “Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry.”
- Lucas Kello, “The Meaning of the Cyber Revolution.”
- Michael Kenny, “Cyber Terrorism.”
- Robert Bunker, “Strategic Threat: Narcos and Narcotics Overview.”
- Kim D. Reimann, “International Politics, Norms, and the Worldwide Growth of NGOs.”

PAPER #2 DUE IN CLASS

Week 11 – International Organizations and Transnational Challenges

Wednesday, November 6 – International Organizations and Transnational Challenges

- Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore, “The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations.”
- Maria Julia Trombetta, “Environmental Security and Climate Change.”
- Shirley V. Scott, “Implications of Climate Change for the UN Security Council.”
- Samantha Power, “Bystanders to Genocide.” Link:
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2001/09/bystanders-to-genocide/304571/>
- Laurie Garrett, “Ebola’s Lessons: How the WHO Mishandled the Crisis.” Link:
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/west-africa/2015-08-18/ebola-s-lessons>

Week 12 – International Political Economy

Wednesday, November 13 – International Political Economy

- Jeffrey Frieden and Lisa Martin, “International Political Economy.”
- Robert Keohane, “The Old IPE and the New.”
- Michael Mastanduno, “System Maker and Privilege Taker: U.S. Power and International Political Economy”
- John Cavanagh, “Happily Ever NAFTA?”

- Scotty Hendricks, "[Mercantilism: The Theory that Explains Trump's Trade War.](#)"
- Tom Donilon, "[Trump's Trade War is the Wrong Way to Compete with China](#)"

Week 13 – The Next World Order

Wednesday, November 20 – The Next World Order

- Stephen Brooks, John Ikenberry, and William Wohlforth, "Don't Come Home America."
- Doug Stokes, "Trump, American Hegemony, and the Future of the Liberal International Order."
- Michael Beckley, "China's Century?"
- Slavoj Zizek, "Democracy and Capitalism and Destined to Split Up." Link: <http://bigthink.com/videos/slavoj-zizek-on-capitalism-and-the-commons>

Week 14 – Fall Break

Wednesday, November 27 – NO CLASS MEETING

Week 15 – Non-Western IR

Wednesday, December 4 – Non-Western Theories of IR

- Amitav Acharya, "In Search of International Relations Theories Beyond the West."
- Giorgio Shani, "Toward a Post-Western IR."
- John M. Hobson, "Is Critical Theory Always for the White West?"

PAPER #3 DUE IN CLASS

Final Exam

Wednesday, December 11 – Final Exam

- Final exam in-class from 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.