

PSCI 2223 Introduction to International Relations / GRAP Fall 2023

Instructor: Dr. Jaroslav Tir

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Canvas course page: <https://canvas.colorado.edu/courses/95618>

Meeting time: MW 11:15 am - 12:30 pm

Meeting location: Arnett Hall N200

Office hours: see Canvas

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING GOALS

This course explores the fundamental concepts, theories, practices, and problems of international politics, such as

unannounced quizzes. Please note that excessive excused or unexcused absences will also hurt your participation grade, because one cannot participate in class discussions if one is not present in class.

COURSE RULES

Grading Policy

Midterm Exam	25%	Research Report	(5% + 25%) 30%
Final Exam	30%	Participation	15%

Class Policies

1. Students are expected to turn in the assignments at the beginning of class or stated deadlines and take the exams on the date and time specified. Failure to show up for the exam on time or meet an assignment deadline does not entitle the students to make up the work at a later time.
2. Exceptions to the class requirements and rules are granted at the instructor's discretion, only under circumstances of extreme personal emergency or serious illness. In all instances, appropriate evidentiary documentation will be requested.
3. All academic work must meet the University's standards for academic honesty. Each student is responsible to inform themselves of these standards before conducting any academic work. My academic dishonesty policy is very simple: you will receive a failing grade for the class if you are found cheating on examinations, plagiarizing the work of others, attempting to turn in assignments used in previous classes, or sign the attendance sheet for another student, along with all other possible infractions noted in the University's policy on academic dishonesty. Moreover, disciplinary proceedings to dismiss you from the University may be initiated. I **will not** tolerate academic dishonesty and you **will** face the harshest punishment possible if you attempt it.
4. Students may request the instructor to re-read exam answers or papers that they feel have been unfairly evaluated. Requests for re-evaluation must be submitted within a week after it has been returned to the class or the final grade posted, whichever is earlier. The written re-evaluation request statement must explain specifically and in detail why the student thinks that the grade should be reconsidered and what grade the assignment deserves. Re-evaluation will be conducted *de novo.*, which may result in a lower, higher, or the same grade.
5. Accommodations based on disability and/or religious beliefs will be made whenever possible. But, it is the student's responsibility to let their TA know about **needing such accommodations within the first two weeks of class**. Accommodation requests after this time period may not be granted.
6. The syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary and will be announced.
7. All the lecture materials are considered to be the intellectual property of the instructor and are only to be used by the students enrolled in the class for their own education. Any distribution of the said materials and/or use for commercial purposes **is expressly prohibited**.
8. Additional short readings (e.g. articles, news stories) may be assigned as the semester progresses.
9. See the course Canvas page for additional university-mandated statements on topics such as discrimination, harassment, COVID, etc.
- 10. All students are expected to complete assigned readings before they are discussed in class and they are expected to discuss and respond to random questioning.**

COURSE OUTLINE: TOPICS AND READINGS

I. Introduction

Mingst: Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5
Canvas: Ra'anana "The Nation-State Fallacy"
Canvas: Barber "Jihad vs. McWorld"

II. Key Theories of IR

A. (Neo)Realism

Mingst: pp. 67-80, 110-114
Canvas: Hobbes "The State of Nature ..."
Canvas: Thucydides "The Melian Dialogue"
Canvas: Waltz "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory"

B. (Neo)Liberalism

Mingst: pp. 81-86, 116-118
Canvas: Pease "Philosophical Roots of Liberalism"
Canvas: Moravcsik "Taking Preferences Seriously"

C. Marxism

Mingst: pp. 92-96
Canvas: Pease "Marxism"

III. Key Topics in the Study of International Politics

A. Security

Mingst: Chapter 6
Canvas: Morgan "Deterrence: A Conceptual Analysis"
Canvas: Ziegler "Disarmament"
Canvas: Ziegler "Collective Security"
Canvas: Russett "The Fact of the Democratic Peace"

B. International Economic Relations

Mingst: Chapter 8

RESEARCH REPORT

This assignment asks you to analyze a scholarly journal article on the topic of international relations.

Assignment #1: Article Approval

5% of the course grade; due Monday, October 9 by 5 pm on via Canvas

To assure that your chosen article meets the below criteria, submit the pdf of the article via Canvas. **The requirements that MUST be met** (i.e. not meeting any one of these will result in a grade of **zero** on the entire Research Report assignment).

1. The article must be from one of these top peer-reviewed political science journals: *International*