GOVT 540-001
International Relations
Fall 2019

T 4:30-7:10 pm
Innovation Hall 215G

Instructor: Mark N. Katz
Professor of Government and Politics
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Office hours: MT 2:15-4:15 pm, and by appointment
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Overview: This is an introductory graduate seminar on international relations which surveys important theories of international relations (liberalism, realism, etc.), persistent features of international relations (great power competition, alliances, revolution, nationalism), and the international relations of the major regions of the world (Asia, Europe, etc.).

Course Requirements: 1) Four 1,250 word reading response papers (one each on all or part of the readings for any four different weeks of your choice, but each paper must be on a different week’s readings). Each paper due at 4:30 pm as per the following schedule: 1st paper due October 1; 2nd paper due October 22; 3rd paper due November 12; 4th paper due December 3. 40% of grade (each paper worth 10% of grade);

2) Take-home final exam consisting of three 1,250 word essays in response to three separate essay topics drawn from a list of ten or so on issues discussed over the course of the semester. Essay topics likely to be on subjects discussed on days when attendance has been less than full. Exam distributed on December 3; essays due (submitted in one document) at 4:30 pm on December 17. 30% of grade (each essay worth 10% of grade);

4) Class participation (attendance and contribution to class discussion). 30% of grade.

All written assignments are to be submitted via Blackboard by the assigned date and time. Failure to turn in an assignment on time is unacceptable except with the prior agreement of the instructor (which will only be given in exceptional circumstances, such as a documented illness or family emergency). Assignments turned in late without the prior agreement of the instructor may be assessed a penalty of up to a full letter grade per day per assignment.


**Other Readings:** Rita Abrahamsen, “Africa and International Relations: Assembling Africa, Studying the World,” *African Affairs*, 2016 (on Blackboard);
Ahsan I. Butt, “Anarchy and Hierarchy in International Relations: Examining South America’s War-Prone Decade, 1932-1941,” *International Organization*, 2013 (on Blackboard);
Anthony D. Smith, *National Identity*, University of Nevada Press, 1991;

**Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:**

Aug. 27—Introduction

Sept. 3—TBA

Sept. 10—IR Theory: Liberalism and Realism
Knutsen, *A History of International Relations Theory*

Sept. 17—IR Theory: Marxism, Constructivism, Feminism
Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Handbook: Sweden’s Feminist Foreign Policy*

Sept. 24—IR Theory: Non-Western Theories
Nau and Ollapally, *Worldviews of Aspiring Powers*;
Russell and Tokatlian, “Grand Strategy”

Oct. 1—Great Power Competition
   Mearsheimer, The Tragedy of Great Power Politics

Oct. 8—Alliances
   Walt, The Origins of Alliances

Oct. 15—NO CLASS (Monday classes meet Tuesday this week)

Oct. 22—Revolution
   Walt, Revolution and War

Oct. 29—Nationalism
   Smith, National Identity

Nov. 5—IR of Regions: Asia
   Tellis, et al., Strategic Asia 2017-18

Nov. 12—IR of Regions: Europe
   Creutz, et al., The Changing Global Order and its Implications for the EU

Nov. 19—IR of Regions: Middle East
   Phillips, The Battle for Syria

Nov. 26—IR of Regions: Africa, the Americas
   Herbst, “War and the State in Africa” (on Blackboard);
   Butt, “Anarchy and Hierarchy in International Relations”

Dec. 3—The Future
   Katz, “America’s Dilemma”
   Katz, “Fluid Dynamics”

Dec. 17—Extra session (if needed)
   Take-home final exam due at 4:30 pm.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible and contact the Office of Disability Resources at (703) 993-2474 or ods@gmu.edu. All academic accommodations must be arranged through this office.

**Honor Code:** George Mason University has an Honor Code which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See honorcode.gmu.edu for more detailed information.
Enrollment: Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes.

Last Day to Add: September 3

Drop Deadlines: September 9 (100% tuition refund); September 17 (50% tuition refund); September 30 (no refund)

Selective Withdrawal Period for Undergraduates: October 1-29