In this course, students will learn about international politics, and about the study of international politics. There are three main sections in the course. The first section is focused on theoretical approaches to international politics. The second section looks at issues of conflict, human rights, and international organizations. The final section of the course is devoted to issues of trade, economics, and development. Needless to say, there are serious debates about international politics, among citizens as well as academics, and this course will focus on many of them. The point of doing so is not to arrive at a pre-determined resolution of these debates, but rather to arm students with the knowledge necessary to better understand what is at stake in these debates, and to come to their own conclusions about them.

Typically, course meetings will begin with a lecture lasting 60-90 minutes. The second half of the meeting will feature a mixture of lecture and discussion. You are encouraged to come to class with questions about the week’s reading, in order to help foster discussion. There will also be a brief in-class writing assignment each week. Unlike most college courses, this course meets only once per week, so it is especially important to not miss any meetings.

The following text is available at the bookstore:

All other readings can be accessed electronically, either through the course website or through the GMU library website. Don’t hesitate to contact me if you cannot find an assigned article.

**Course Schedule:**

**August 28: Foundations**
Kant, *Perpetual Peace* (excerpts).

**September 4: The Globalization of International Relations**
*International Relations*, ch.1.
Woodrow Wilson, “Fourteen Points.”

**September 11: Realism**
*International Relations*, ch. 2.
September 18: Liberal and Social Theories
*International Relations*, ch. 3.

September 25: Foreign Policy
*International Relations*, ch. 4.
The first midterm will be given September 25. It will pertain to material treated in the first four meetings, up to and including September 18.

October 2: International Conflict
*International Relations*, ch. 5.

October 9: Military Force and Terrorism
*International Relations*, ch. 6.

October 16: International Organization, Law, and Human Rights
*International Relations*, ch. 7.

October 23: International Trade
*International Relations*, ch. 8.
The second midterm exam will be given October 23. It will pertain to material treated in the fifth through eighth meetings, up to and including October 16.

October 30: Global Finance and Business
*International Relations*, ch. 9.
November 6: International Integration
*International Relations*, ch. 10.
Derek E. Mix, “The United Kingdom: Background, Brexit, and Relations with the United States,” March 12, 2018, Congressional Research Service, Washington D.C.

November 13: Environment and Population
*International Relations*, ch. 11.

November 20: The North-South Gap
*International Relations*, ch. 12.

December 4: International Development
*International Relations*, ch. 13-14.

Course Requirements:
1) Weekly attendance and well-informed participation in class discussions.
2) Weekly Assignments. A brief writing assignment will be given in class each week. The assignment will be based on the reading assigned for that week. None will be assigned for the first week. The best ten (out of thirteen) will count toward your grade. Makeup work for the weekly assignments will not be offered.
3) Midterm exams. The first midterm exam is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25. The second midterm exam is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23. Both midterm exams will begin promptly at the beginning of class, and will take up about half of the class period. The midterm exams will be closed-book, and closed-note.
4) Final exam. The final exam is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, at 7:30 PM. The final exam will be closed-book, and closed-note.

Grading Breakdown:
Participation and Weekly Assignments: 10%
Midterm Exam #1: 25%
Midterm Exam #2: 25%
Final Exam: 40%

Disability resources: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact Disability Services at 993-2474, http://ds.gmu.edu. All academic accommodations must be arranged through Disability Services.
**Electronic Devices:** Laptop computers may be used for taking notes or for consulting assigned texts in electronic format. Please do not use cellular phones or similar devices in the classroom.

**Academic Ethics:** Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else’s work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

**Email:** Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including communications related to this class. I may not respond to messages sent from or send messages to a non-Mason email address.

**Important deadlines for this semester:** 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: Tuesday, September 3
- Last Day to Drop: Tuesday, September 17

After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the Dean and is only allowed for non-academic reasons.