

Political Science 160
Introduction to World Politics
Fall 2020

Professor James Morrow
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Course website: umich.instructure.com

Lecture: MWF 10:00-10:50
Synchronous Virtual
Access Zoom through Canvas

Office Hours: T 1:30-4:00 and by Appointment; online through Zoom, access through Canvas

Administrative Assistant

Timothy Jones
Email: timleej@umich.edu
Office: Held remotely
Office Hours: W 1-3 pm and
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Graduate Student Instructors

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The Content of the Course

This course provides an introduction to the analysis of world politics. It focuses on theories used to explain international and domestic politics central to world politics in its full generality. The evidence for such theories lies in patterns of behavior over time, although extensive examples and cases will be presented both to illuminate the concepts of the theories and to help the student see how theories try to explain individual events.

The course begins with an introduction to world politics. Six principles focus our attention on the key things we need to know to understand why events happen in world politics. The first part of the course introduces the subject. The second part uses these principles to explain why war occurs, how states prepare for the possibility of war, and the consequences of war afterwards. The third part of the course addresses issues in international political economy. The final part of the course covers the environment, human rights, and why the state system dominates world politics.

Course Objectives

This course has the following objectives:

- To explain the strategic logics of world politics so the student can understand why events occur.
- To develop the ability to use the concepts and arguments presented in the course to analyze current issues in world politics in paper assignments and discussion in section.
- To improve the student's ability to write effective short pieces through paper assignments.

Plan for Classes

In place of the usual lecture, the class time for the entire class will be active learning delivered remote and synchronous. Sections are either remote or blended; if you do not want to attend section in person, please choose a remote section. Students will be assigned to breakout groups for the large classes for discussion of the material in class.

There will be three types of large class sessions. Q&A classes will focus on answering questions about the material in the textbook and delving into those topics in greater depth. Each of these classes lists the material to be covered, which can be found in the textbook and recordings of lectures from a previous year. Before each class, you need to read the relevant chapters of the book and/or listen to the lecture recordings and complete several online multiple choice quizzes. You will be able to submit questions on the material in advance, and I will take questions from the class during the period.

Current event classes will use the ideas in the material to analyze a current event in world politics. I will post some news articles about the event that you will read in advance. Additionally, work groups will annotate these articles to develop the skill in identifying key information in those articles for the analysis. In class, I will lead a discussion of the current event to create a common document of the class analysis of the issue.

Large group project classes will coordinate the entire class in a semester-long project to study the politics of the Covid pandemic in terms of national responses and the international politics of the issue. We will identify what elements of national responses we should collect for our study. Work groups will then collect that information outside of class with presentation of the results in class for group discussion.

All large class sections will be recorded and made available afterwards at the Course Canvas site. As part of your participation in this course, you may be recorded. If you do not wish to be recorded, please contact Professor Morrow the first week of class (or as soon as you enroll in the course, whichever is latest) to discuss alternative arrangements.

Students are prohibited from recording/distributing any class activity without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

Administrative Guidelines

Students are expected to attend all of the lectures and all of the meetings of their discussion section. Students are also expected to submit their papers by the due dates and take the examinations at the scheduled times. **Late papers will suffer a reduction of at least one grade.**

There may be instances when students must miss class due to their commitment to officially represent the University. These students may be involved in the performing arts, scientific or artistic endeavors, or intercollegiate athletics. Absence from classes while representing the University does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course missed during the period of absence. Students should provide reasonable notice for dates of anticipated absences and submit an individualized class excuse form.

Although the University of Michigan, as an institution, does not observe religious holidays, it has long been the University's policy that every reasonable effort should be made to

help students avoid negative academic consequences when their religious obligations conflict with academic requirements. Absence from classes or examinations for religious reasons does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the period of absence. Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance shall be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities.

It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent. Such notice must be given by the drop/add deadline of the given term. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments shall be offered an opportunity to make up the work, without penalty, unless it can be demonstrated that a make-up opportunity would interfere unreasonably with the delivery of the course. Should disagreement arise over any aspect of this policy, the parties involved should contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies of the Department of Political Science. Final appeals will be resolved by the Provost.

All administrative matters will be handled by Mr. Timothy Jones, the administrative assistant. These matters include drop/adds, make-up exams, and the second step of the grade appeal process. Mr. Jones encourages email contact and tries to respond within 24 hours. Please include "160" in the title of an email to him. Only if an issue cannot be resolved with Mr. Jones should it be brought to Professor Morrow.

There is a strict limit of 20 students in each discussion section.

Classroom Culture of Care

LSA is committed to delivering our mission while aiming to protect the health and safety of the community, which includes minimizing the spread of COVID-19. Our entire LSA community is responsible for protecting the collective health of all members by being mindful and respectful in carrying out the guidelines laid out in our [Wolverine Culture of Care](#) and the [University's Face Covering Policy for COVID-19](#). Individuals seeking to request an accommodation related to the face covering requirement under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the [Office for Institutional Equity](#).

In our classrooms all students are expected to adhere to the required safety measures and guidelines of the State of Michigan and the University of Michigan, including sanitizing their work areas, maintaining 6 feet or more of personal distance, wearing a face covering that covers the mouth and nose in all public spaces, and not coming to class when ill or in quarantine. This course will also limit group gatherings while being thoughtful about classroom activities and exercises that require collaboration.

Any student who is not able and willing to comply with campus safety measures for this [in-person/hybrid] course should contact the course instructor or their academic advisor to discuss alternate participation or course options. Students who do not adhere to these safety measures while in a face-to-face class setting, and do not have an approved exception or accommodation, may be asked to [participate on a remote basis or - include if available option] disenroll from the class.

For additional information refer to the [LSA Student Commitment to the Wolverine Culture of Care](#) and the OSCR Addendum to the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities on the [OSCR website](#).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let Mr. Jones or me know at least two weeks prior to the time when the accommodation will be needed. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to help us determine appropriate academic accommodations. SSD (734-763-3000; <http://www.umich.edu/sswd>) typically recommends accommodations through a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA) form. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

Sexual Misconduct Policy

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes sexual misconduct — including harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We understand that sexual violence can undermine students' academic success and we encourage anyone dealing with sexual misconduct to talk to someone about their experience, so they can get the support they need. Confidential support and academic advocacy can be found with the Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC) on their 24-hour crisis line, 734.936.3333 and at sapac.umich.edu.

Alleged violations can be non-confidentially reported to the Office for Institutional Equity (OIE) at institutional.equity@umich.edu.

Course Requirements and Grading

Students will write two 1000-word papers for this class and a final paper in place of a final exam. Additionally, each discussion leader will grade his or her students on the basis of other activities in section. The assignments will have the following weights in the calculation of final grades for the course:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Date</u>
First Paper	20%	October 2
Participation in Group Project	20%	Various Times
Second Paper	20%	November 20
Final Paper	15%	December 14
Section Assignments	20%	Various Times
Multiple Choice Questions	5%	Various Times

The GSIs and the professor will meet weekly to insure consistency of grading across the sections.

The calculation of course grades is based on 400 points total across all activities. The correspondence between final point totals and course grades is:

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
388+	387- 372	371- 360	349- 348	347- 332	331- 320	319- 308	307- 292	291- 280	279- 268	267- 252	251- 240	239-

In addition to the papers, exams, and section activities, there are multiple choice questions at the Canvas site that you should answer after completing the reading and before lecture. They are designed to help you assess how well you understood the reading and can use the material to apply to a case. They are graded only on completion, not on whether your answer are correct or not. Each completed set of question is worth ¼% of your final grade, so you need to complete 20 of them to receive full credit for this activity.

Any appeal concerning the grading of an assignment must be made in writing and submitted first to the leader of your discussion section. In the event that the disagreement cannot be resolved, you may appeal to the administrative assistant to have your assignment regraded by another reader. If you are not satisfied with the regrading, you may submit your written appeal to Professor Morrow. No appeal can be submitted until 24 hours after you have received the graded work back; no appeal can be filed more than 10 days after you have received the graded work back. The appeal must explain in writing why the grade you received was in error and what the correct grade should be; also submit a clean copy of the paper with the appeal.

If you believe the primary instructor's response fails to address your claim of unfairness or error, you may petition the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies of the Department of Political Science at the latest within the first five weeks of classes following the completion of the course. You must convey in writing the basis for the complaint, with specific evidence in support of the argument that the grade either was given in error. This formal complaint also should summarize the outcome of the initial inquiry to the course instructor, indicating which aspects are in dispute. Within three weeks of the receipt of the petition, the DUS will determine whether to convene the Undergraduate Affairs Committee, the student, and the instructor(s) for a formal hearing. Further details on this process are included on the department website under Advising > Contesting a Grade.

Intellectual Honesty

The LSA undergraduate academic community, like all communities, functions best when its members treat one another with honesty, fairness, respect, and trust. The College holds all members of its community to high standards of scholarship and integrity. To accomplish its mission of providing an optimal educational environment and developing leaders of society, the College promotes the assumption of personal responsibility and integrity and prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty and misconduct. Academic dishonesty may be understood as any action or attempted action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for oneself or an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any other member or members of the academic community. Conduct, without regard to motive, that violates the academic integrity and ethical standards of the College community cannot be tolerated. The College seeks vigorously to achieve compliance with its community standards of academic integrity. Violations of the standards will not be tolerated and will result in serious consequences and disciplinary action.

This course has an important issue of intellectual honesty. You must use quotation marks and provide proper citations when you use the exact words of another author. You also need to cite an author whose argument you summarize or paraphrase in your papers. Your papers must

provide citations and a list of references for the sources of facts you use in them. Your GSI will explain his or her preferred form of citation before the papers are due. Appropriate sources for papers will be discussed in class.

Student Mental Health and Well-being

University of Michigan is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (734) 764-8312 and <https://caps.umich.edu/> during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or through its counselors physically located in schools on both North and Central Campus. You may also consult University Health Service (UHS) at (734) 764-8320 and <https://www.uhs.umich.edu/mentalhealthsvcs>, or for alcohol or drug concerns, see www.uhs.umich.edu/aodresources. For a listing of other mental health resources available on and off campus, visit: <http://umich.edu/~mhealth/>.

Preparation for Q&A Classes

To prepare for the Q&A classes, you will need to read chapters in the textbook or listen to the lectures I recorded last year. This course uses a draft textbook that I am writing. Paperbound copies of it will be available for purchase at the local bookstores. Unfortunately, the library does not offer physical reserves this semester, so I cannot make the book available on reserve. You may be able to obtain a used copy; be sure to get a copy with a 2014 or later publication date.

Because my lectures closely follow the book, listening to them can replace reading the book. This means the book is not required for the course if you are willing to use just the lectures for the material. Of course, you can read the book and listen to the lectures for the material if you find that helps. The syllabus gives both the relevant chapters and the title of the lecture for the material with the title of the lectures in quotation marks.

Some classes cover material that is not in the text, so you will have to listen to the lecture for that material. These lectures are in **bold** on the syllabus.

I will also provide electronic versions of three chapters that review the last 500 years of world history that you will need to read for background during the first month of the course. I will make these chapters available online through the Canvas site.

GSI's may also require additional readings as part of their section activities.

The course website is available through your personal page in UM Canvas. This page contains outlines and presentations corresponding to the chapters of the text. I will also make presentation materials for each class lecture available in advance of class. The Canvas site also provides links to additional web sources that you may find useful for the course.

Outline of Lecture Topics and Required Readings

I. Introduction

August 31: Introductory Meeting

September 2: Q&A: What is World Politics? and Review of Tools used in Active Learning
Chapter 1, Six Principles of World Politics, Chapter 2, What is World Politics?, and Chapter 3, Actors in World Politics, or
“What is World Politics”

September 4: Q&A: The Logic of Threats and Promises
Chapter 5, The Logic of Threats and the Problem of Credibility and Chapter 6, The Logic of Promises and the Problem of Commitment, or
“The Logic of Threats and Promises” and “Making Threats and Promises Effective”

September 7: **No class**; Labor Day

September 9: Current Event: The Logic of Threats and Promises

First Paper Assignment out

September 11: Group Project: The Issues Posed by the Pandemic

II. Conflict and Security

September 14: Q&A: Interstate War and Crisis Bargaining
Chapter 10, War and the Problem of Bargaining, or
“Interstate War and Crisis Bargaining”

September 16: Current Event: International Conflict

September 18: Group Project: National Responses to the Pandemic

September 21: Q&A: Perceptions
Chapter 8, Perceptions and How They Matter in Decisions and Chapter 9, Persuasion and How Perceptions Change, or
“Perceptions” and “Changing Perceptions and Signaling”

September 23: Current Event: Perceptions

September 25: Group Project: Assessing Progress

September 28: Q&A: Commitment Problems and War
Chapter 11, Commitment Problems and War or
“Commitment Problems and War”

By September 30: Read three online history chapters and take online quiz on them.

September 30: Current Event: Commitment Problems

October 2: Group Project: Reporting Results

The First Paper is due at 10 am EDT on October 2.

October 5: Q&A: Security Policy

Chapter 7, Military Power: Its Sources and Limits, Chapter 13, Arms and Alliances: The Elements of Security Policy, and Chapter 14, Structural Theories of War: Balance of Power and Power Transition or
“Security Policy: Arms, Alliances, and Rivalries”, “Security Policy: The Long Run”, and “Security Policy: The Mobilization of Military Power”

October 7: Current Event: Security Policy

October 9: Group Project: Reporting Results

October 12: Q&A: Domestic Politics and War

Chapter 15, The Fate of Leaders, Chapter 16, The Enemy Outside, and Chapter 17, The Democratic Peace or
“The Domestic Politics of War”, “External Changes in Leaders and Regimes”, and “The Democratic Peace”

October 14: Current Event: Domestic Politics and War

October 16: Group Project: Analyzing State Responses

October 19: Q&A: Diplomacy: Economic Sanctions, Foreign Aid, and the Termination of Rivalries

Chapter 18, Diplomacy: Foreign Aid, Economic Sanctions, and the Termination of Rivalries and Chapter 12, Bureaucratic Politics or
“Diplomacy: Economic Sanctions, Foreign Aid, and the Termination of Rivalries” and “**Diplomacy: How States Make Foreign Policy**”

October 21: Current Event: Institutions

October 23: Group Project: Domestic Politics and State Responses to the Pandemic

October 26: Q&A: Non-state Actors and Conflict

Chapter 19, The Problem of Civil War and Chapter 20, Terrorism or
“The Problem of Civil War” and “Terrorism”

October 28: Current Event: Civil Conflict

III. International Political Economy

October 30: Q&A: The Problems of International Cooperation

Chapter 21, International Cooperation and the Problem of Enforcement and
Chapter 22, The Problems of Cooperation: Distribution and Information or
“The Problems of International Cooperation: Enforcement” and “The Problems of
International Cooperation: Distribution and Information”

Second Paper Assignment out

November 2: Current Event: International Cooperation

November 4: Q&A: Economic Development
Chapter 23, Economic Development or
“**Review of Basics of Economics**” and “Economic Development”

November 6: Group Project: International Cooperation on the Pandemic

November 9: Q&A: Trade, Money, and Finance
Chapter 24, The Politics of Trade, Chapter 25, The Politics of Monetary Affairs,
and Chapter 26, Globalization or
“The Politics of International Trade”, “Monetary Affairs”, and “**The Politics of
International Finance**”

November 11: Current Event: Trade and Institutions

November 13: Group Project: International Political Economy and the Pandemic

IV. Transnational Challenges

November 16: Q&A: The Environment and International Cooperation
Chapter 27, Cooperation on International Environmental Issues or
“The Environment and International Cooperation “

November 18: Current Event: Climate Change

November 20: Group Project: The World Health Organization

The Second Paper is due at 10 am EST on November 20.

November 23, 25, 27: **No Class**; Thanksgiving break

All classes beginning November 30 are virtual.

November 30: Q&A: International Law
Chapter 28, International Law and Norms or
“International Law and Norms” and “**Human Rights**”

Final paper assignment out

December 2: Q&A: Sovereignty
Chapter 29, Sovereignty or
“Sovereignty”

December 4: Current Event: International Law and Sovereignty

December 7: Wrap Up
Chapter 30, Conclusion or
“**Wrap Up**”

The Final Paper is due Monday, December 14 at 10 am EST.