Political Theory and International Relations

POLS 4320.1  
Spring 2015

Course Location: Young Hall, Room 112  
Course Time: TR*, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

*This course will be scheduled as a hybrid course. What this means for you as a student is that each Tuesday will be a traditional seated class. However, approximately every other Thursday will use multiple formats. For example, some classes will be used as review or overflow periods, others will consist of online work and writing assignments intended to strengthen your understanding of the material. The format of the Thursday class will be clearly stated on the board at each Tuesday.

Professor's Name: Sam Rohrer, PhD

Office Hours  
Location: Hansford Hall, Office 319  
Time: MW 10:00 am – 12:00 pm; T 10:00 am – 11:00 am, 12:15pm – 1:15 pm

Email: sam.rohrer@ung.edu

All email should contain a subject line formatted in the following manner:  
POLS 4320.1 // First Name & Last Name // Subject

Phone: 706.864.1927

Course Description & Objectives

This course provides a detailed introduction to the major theoretical perspectives for studying how states and peoples behave and interact. Students will acquire basic analytical tools for understanding and explaining a wide array of international phenomena, including war, alliance behavior, international norms, and internal conflict to name a few. The goal is to help students better understand why we observe certain policy outcomes in international politics, and to devise policy responses that are consistent with international realities.

Required Textbooks


Professor’s Bio

- **Academic Interests:** Terrorism, modern maritime crime, and non-democratic governments
- **General Interests:** Electronic gadgets, travel, cooking, baseball (St. Louis Cardinals) & football (New Orleans Saints and the LSU Tigers.)

Course Requirements

- **Participation** – Students are expected to participate in class lectures, discussions, and activities in an active and constructive manner. It is difficult to earn participation points in a class you are not regularly attending. Participation will make up 15% of your overall score.
- **Hybrid Reflection Papers** – Over the course of the semester students will complete hybrid reflection papers. These papers will allow the student to apply the theories discussed in class to contemporary or historical international events and explore their personal understanding of the lecture material. This component will be worth 5% of your overall score.
- **Seminal Book Review** – Each student will complete a book review of a seminal international relations theory text. The objective of this paper will involve summarizing the main argument of the text. It will also involve synthesizing material discussed throughout the class to in order to assess the persuasiveness of the work. This project will make up 30% of the overall score.
- **Exams** – There will be two exams given, a midterm and a final exam. The midterm will exam will be worth 15% of your overall score. The final exam will be worth 35% of your overall score.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hybrid Papers</td>
<td>05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminal Book Review</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Important Semester Dates

January 19 (Monday) – Martin Luther King Jr. Day NO CLASS
March 16 (Monday) – Spring Break Begins NO CLASS
March 23 (Monday) – Classes resume, 7:00 am
April 24 (Friday) – Last day of class before finals week
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring 2015 – 16 Weeks</th>
<th>Class Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – April 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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### Week 1: January 5-9

- **TR – Course Introduction**
  - Syllabus Review
  - Class Format
  - Assessment of Base Knowledge
  - Role of Theory

### Week 2: January 12-16

- **T – Ideologies: Liberalism**
  - Thomas Hobbes [Ball et. Al. 3.11]
  - John Locke [Ball et. Al. 3.12]
  - Adam Smith [Ball et. Al. 3.16]
  - Immanuel Kant [Ball et. Al. 3.17]
  - Franklin D. Roosevelt [Ball et. Al. 3.21]

- **R – Ideologies: Conservatism**
  - Edmund Burke [Ball et. Al. 4.27]
  - Joseph de Maistre [Ball et. Al. 4.28]
  - Ronald Reagan [Ball et. Al. 4.31]
  - Irving Kristol [Ball et. Al. 4.32]

### Week 3: January 19-23

- **T – Ideologies: Socialism and Communism**
  - Thomas Moore [Ball et. Al. 5.34]
  - Karl Marx and Fredrich Engles [Ball et. Al. 5.36]
  - Eduard Bernstein [Ball et. Al. 6.38]
  - Leon Trotsky [Ball et. Al. 6.40]
  - Mao Zedong [Ball et. Al. 6.41]

- **R – HYBRID DAY #1**
  - Topic A
  - Topic: What is democracy?
| Week 4: January 26-30 | T – Ideologies: Fascism  
• Benito Mussolini [Ball et. Al. 7.47]  
• Alfred Rocco [Ball et. Al. 7.48]  
• Adolf Hitler [Ball et. Al. 7.49]  
R – Ideologies: Radical Islamists  
• Sayyid Qutb [Ball et. Al. 10.66]  
• Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini [Ball et. Al. 10.67]  
• Osama bin Laden and Others [Ball et. Al. 10.68] |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 5: February 2-6</td>
<td>TR – Ideologies Exam</td>
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</table>
| Week 6: February 9-13 | T – Realist Paradigm I  
• Base Assumptions of Realism  
• Thucydides [Doyle 1]  
• Machiavelli [Doyle 2]  
R – HYBRID DAY #2  
• Topic B  
• Topic: Realism v. Morality |
| Week 7: February 16-20 | International Studies Association Conference – NO CLASS |
| Week 8: February 23-27 | T – Realist Paradigm II  
• Rousseau [Doyle 3]  
• Hobbes [Doyle 4]  
• Explaining Differences  
R – Realist Paradigm III  
• Ken Waltz [TBD]  
• John Mearsheimer [Dunne et. Al. 4]  
• Classical Realism [Dunne et. Al. 3] |
| Week 9: March 2-6 | T – Liberal Paradigm I  
|                  |   • Base Assumptions  
|                  |   • John Locke and Jeremy Bentham [Doyle 6]  
|                  |   • Adam Smith and Joseph Schumpeter [Doyle 7]  
|                  | R – Liberal Paradigm II  
|                  |   • Immanuel Kant [Doyle 8]  
|                  |   • Theories of Democratic Peace  
|                  |   • Explaining Differences  
| Week 10: March 9-13 | T – Liberal Paradigm III  
|                  |   • Liberalism [Dunne et. Al. 5]  
|                  |   • Neoliberalism [Dunne et. Al. 6]  
|                  | R – HYBRID DAY #3  
|                  |   • Topic C  
|                  |   • Democratic Peace v. Dangers of Democracy  
| Week 11: March 16-20 | Spring Break – NO CLASS  
| Week 12: March 23-27 | T – Marxist Paradigm I  
|                  |   • Class Solidarity: Marx and Engles [Doyle 9]  
|                  |   • War and Revolution: Lenin [Doyle 10]  
|                  | R – Marxist Paradigm II  
|                  |   • Marxism [Dunne et. Al. 8]  
|                  |   • Modern World System  
| Week 13: March 30-April 3 | T – Constructivism  
|                  |   • [Dunne et. Al. 10]  
|                  |   • Complex Interdependence  
|                  | R – HYBRID DAY #4  
|                  |   • Topic D  
|                  |   • End of History v. Clash of Civilizations  

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### Course Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A grade of A involves a level of performance that is completely excellent in the factors indicated in the definition of B.</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A grade of B indicates a higher level of performance than the satisfactory standard defined for a grade of &quot;C.&quot; It involves excellence in some aspect of work, such as completeness, accuracy, detail of knowledge, or effective independent work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>A grade of C represents a satisfactory level of performance which can be expected of any student who gives a reasonable amount of time, effort and attention to the work of the course. Such satisfactory performance should include familiarity with the concept of the course as shown by an acceptable mastery of the information, concepts of skills involved and regular participation in the work of the class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A grade of D indicates below standard performance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>A grade of F indicates an unacceptable level of performance.</td>
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### Syllabus Policy

Each class is unique due to the composition of the students enrolled, as well as the constantly shifting nature of international relations. As a result, the professor reserves the right to revise the syllabus and listed assignments. Students will receive a revised syllabus if the listing of course assignments significantly alter.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 14: April 6-10</th>
<th>T – Feminism</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• [Dunne et. Al 11]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>R – Papers due / Flex Day</td>
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<th>Week 15: April 13-17</th>
<th>TR – Presentations</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 16: April 20-22</th>
<th>TR – Presentations</th>
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</table>

| Final Exam: | Tuesday, April 28th 10:20 am – 12:20 pm |
Inclement Weather Policy

If inclement weather occurs that results in a closure of UNG, classes will be cancelled for the duration of the closure. If inclement weather occurs that does not result in a closure of the university, but in conditions that the professor considers too hazardous for students, class can be cancelled. In these rare occurrences the class will be notified via an announcement on D2L.

Attendance & Technology Policy

Class attendance is the responsibility of the student. The student is expected to attend all classes. Inappropriate usage of technology in the classroom will result in an attendance score of zero. Inappropriate usage of technology encompasses all uses that the instructor deems irrelevant to taking notes or engaging in class discussions.

Inappropriate usage of technology include:

1. Social Media (Twitter, Pinterest, Facebook, LinkedIn, Weibo, etc.)
2. Catching up on your email.
3. Working on a project for another class.
4. Texting, instant messaging, etc.
5. This is not an exhaustive list of examples.

A student who finds it necessary to miss class assumes responsibility of notifying the professor in advance, providing original documentation to justify the absence, obtaining lecture notes, and otherwise compensating for what may have been missed. The course professor will determine the validity of a student's reason(s) for absences and will assist those students who have valid reasons and can produce original documentation.

Valid documentable reasons for absences include:

1. Illness
2. Serious family emergency
3. Special curricular requirements such as judging trips or field trips
4. Court-imposed legal obligations such as subpoenas or jury duty
5. Military obligations
6. Serious weather conditions
7. Religious observances

Students with Disabilities

The University of North Georgia System is committed to equal access to its programs, services activities, and welcomes otherwise qualified students with disabilities. Students who require accommodations and services must register with Disability Services and submit supporting documentation. The Office of Disability Services provides paperwork for eligible students that must be presented to the course professor. Students are responsible for making arrangements with professors, and must give reasonable prior notice of justifiable accommodations. If you require assistance contact Thomas.McCoy@ung.edu, visit Room 313 in the Stewart Center, or call 706.867.2782
Late Work

Late work will not be accepted unless the student was unable to submit the assignment as a result of participation in a formal university function or has a documentable absence approved by the professor prior to the due date of the assignment.

Academic Integrity

Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give an unfair academic advantage to the student.

Plagiarism and Citation Method

As a student at UNG, it is your responsibility to refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of another and to utilize appropriate citation method for all coursework. In this class, it is recommended that you use Chicago style. Ignorance of the citation methods is not an excuse for academic misconduct. One tool available to assist you in correct citations is the references function in Microsoft Word. This program automatically formats the information you input according to the citation method you select for the document. This program also has the ability to generate a reference or works cited page for the information you input. The version of Microsoft Word with these added features is available in most University computer labs. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade on the assignment, a 20% deduction from your final overall grade in the class, and an academic misconduct report will be submitted to the Dean of Students.

Expectations of Written Work

All papers are to be college level papers. They are expected to be typed, spell-checked, and grammar checked, well written with a logical flow of thought, and correctly cited. At the college level multiple primary sources are expected in your written work. Failure to meet these criteria will result in a below average grade.

Group Work and Unauthorized Assistance

All work must be completed without assistance from a classmate or group, unless explicitly stated by the professor. This is critical so that the professor can assess individual performance on each assignment. If a group or partner based project is assigned, the student may still have individual work to complete. Read the syllabus and assignment directions carefully. When in doubt, e-mail the professor or ask during class. Seeking clarification is the sole responsibility of the student.

Disruptive Behavior Policy

Students who exhibit behaviors that are considered to obstruct or disrupt the class or its learning activities are subject to sanctions under the Board of Regents Policy on Disruptive Behavior. Behaviors which may be considered inappropriate in the classroom includes, but is not limited to, sleeping, coming in late, talking out of turn, inappropriate use of laptops or mobile technology, verbal behavior that is disrespectful of other students or the faculty member, or other behaviors that may be disruptive. Students who exhibit such behavior may be temporarily dismissed from the class by the professor and will be subject to disciplinary procedures outlined in the student handbook.