

Political Science 2100 Syllabus

Last Updated August 15, 2011

Course Title: Introduction to International Relations

Instructor: Joe A. Green

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The United Nations Security Council

Contact Information:

- Mr. Green's Office: 652-7820
- E-mail: Use blackboard's e-mail tool.
- Ms. Crowley, the McDonald Building secretary: 652-7815

Class Interruptions

Please turn off the cell phones, iPods, watch alarms and other electronic items during class. Electronic disturbances of this class will not be allowed.

Required Texts:

1. Karen Mingst and Ivan Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations, 5th Edition*, ISBN 978-0-393-93529-5
2. Bradley A. Thayer and Nuray V. Ibryamova, *Debates in International Relations* 978-0-205-56812-3

POLS 2100 Essential Learning Outcomes

1. Students will identify and understand the major topical divisions in International Relations including the nature of politics and political science, realism and idealism, the nature of the state, international law and institutions, and international security, economic, human rights and environmental issues.
2. Students will effectively analyze decisions and processes that effect International Relations.
3. Students will argue and write analytically and coherently about significant issues and problems in International Relations.

American Institutions Requirement

This course satisfies the American Institutions category of the Dixie State College General Education requirements

Student Responsibilities

An eminent mathematician once remarked that he was never satisfied with his knowledge of a mathematical theory until he could explain it to the next person he met in the street. This is hardly exaggerated; however, we must remember that a satisfactory explanation entails duties on both sides.

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4. Students will learn about the politics of International Relations by reading significant authors and authoritative texts. .

Policies

<http://new.dixie.edu/reg/syllabus>

Use the link above to find the 1) the semester schedule, 2) information on student resources including the library, disability resource center, IT help, testing center etc., 3) policy statements including academic integrity,, disruptive behavior, absences for college functions and disability accommodation, and 4) D-Mail.

Gifts

Gift from students to the teacher can be misinterpreted. While the thought will be appreciated, Mr. Green cannot accept gifts under any circumstances. It will be better for all concerned if they were not offered.

Course Attendance Policy

Missing class will involve costs. There will is no such thing as an excused absence for any reason. As a matter of policy, I will not to go over or in any other way make up lectures or other activities for students who miss class. I will make no adjustments nor will I allow exceptions to policies regarding missing papers, quizzes, tests, or exams when the reason is discretionary such as a vacation, the deer hunt, or a visit home. This said, consideration will be given for re-scheduling class activities in the event 1) of school sponsored activities, illness, or accident and 2) if consultation if done privately [in Mr. Green's office and not in front of the class] before the scheduled time of the activities.

Grading

The course grade will be assessed using the following formula:

- **Written Exams (grades x 40%)**
 $\text{exam grade} = (\text{midterm exam grade} \times 40\%) + (\text{final exam grade} \times 60\%)$
- **Timed Tests (grade x 30%)**
 $\text{test grade} = \text{total test points divided by the class' high score}$
- **Debate (grade x 30%)**
 $\text{debate grade} = (\text{average debate paper grade} \times 50\%) + (\text{debate attendance grade} \times 50\%)$

Grade Creation

All grades, except the debate papers grade, will be determined using one of the following two methods. First, the score on the will be divided by the high score in the class. If the score is within 95% of the high, the resulting grade will be an A. The breakdown will then descend by percentages of the high until the a score that is 60% of the high earns a D- (see the % of Grade conversion box). However, if the average grade for the class, calculated using the first method, is less than a C, at the instructor's discretion a second method might be used in place the first. Under this second methodology, instead of dividing by the high score, the instructor will divide until the average grade for the class is set at or near C. Further adjustments will be made if there

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are several sections of the class and significantly differentiated denominators between the classes. If there are multiple sections of the class that use the same measuring instrument, as when all section take the same test, the average will be calculated from all sections rather than each class individually.

Written Exams

Two major written exams will be given during the semester accounting for 40% of the grade. The grade is a composite of a midterm exam grade, worth 40% of the exam grade, and a final exam, worth 60% of the exam grade.

Students must take both exam to pass the class.

Nature of the Exams

Each exam is a take-home essay composed of one question. That question will be chosen from the options below:

Possible Midterm Exam Questions

1. Compare and Contrast Essay: Identify the similarities and differences between REALISM and LIBERALISM.
2. Persuasive Essay: Is REALISM or LIBERALISM the superior approach for understanding International Relations? Why?
3. Definition Essay: Write an encyclopedia style essay in which defines Realism and Liberalism.

Possible Final Exam Questions

1. Compare and Contrast Essay: Identify the similarities and differences between REALISM and LIBERALISM that have been presented since the midterm and add CONSTRUCTIVISM to the list. Refer to or copy and paste material from the midterm essay if it is helpful.
2. Persuasive Essay: Is REALISM, LIBERALISM, or CONSTRUCTIVISM the superior approach for understanding International Relations? Show why relying on material presented since the midterm. Refer to or copy and paste material from the midterm essay if it is helpful.

Exam Grading

The exam will be graded based on 1) structure, 2) understanding of the material presented in the class slides, lectures, and discussion, 3) creativity, and, 4) formatting, grammar, and mechanics.

1. *Structure*: the paper must have a recognizable purpose statement which includes a thesis and key ideas that support the thesis. It will use good transitions and repeated key terms throughout the paper. In other words, the paper must be unified and coherent.
2. *Content*: The paper must demonstrate a clear and deep understanding of the slides and

% To Grade Conversion

95% and above	=	A
90% to 94.9%	=	A-
87% to 89.9%	=	B+
83% to 86.9%	=	B
80% to 82.9%	=	B-
77% to 79.9%	=	C+
73% to 76.9%	=	C
70% to 72.9%	=	C-
67% to 69.9%	=	D+
63% to 66.9%	=	D
60% to 62.9%	=	D-
59.9% and below	=	F

Number to Letter Grading Conversion

A	=	11
A-	=	10
B+	=	9
B	=	8
B-	=	7
C+	=	6
C	=	5
C-	=	4
D+	=	3
D	=	2
D-	=	1

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lectures including 1) the basic theory and 2) the relevance of the historical examples. Quotes from the lectures, slides, notes based on class discussions, and the Mingst textbook are acceptable and expected. Using material from Wikipedia or any other on line or hard copy encyclopedia, book, or other source, on the other hand, will hurt the grade. For the final exam, rely all the material presented during the semester.

3. *Creativity*: Essays that go beyond the obvious by showing new insights, unique organization, or other demonstrations of creative thinking, while still meeting the structure and content requirements, will receive the highest grades.
 4. *Exam Formatting*: Use the following formatting guidelines:
 - Type the paper
 - Use either an Arial or a Times Roman font
 - Use double spacing
 - 1" margins all around.
 - Use a 12 point font.
 - Use simple referencing. To cite a passage from the Mingst text, put the paraphrase or quotation's page number after the quote in brackets (ex. [307]). To paraphrase or quote a slide, just put the word slide in brackets (ex. [Slide quote]).
- Mechanics*: Use correct grammar and spelling. For your information, a chart showing Mr. Green's Writing Mechanics and Punctuation Codes is included on page 9.

Once each exam is scored, its grade will be determined using the procedure described in the **grade creation** section on page 2 above.

Exam Length

There will be no minimum or maximum page or word requirement on either the midterm or final exam.

Exam Grade Options

Most students in the class will not have been exposed to a written exam. Because of this, many will be disappointed by their performance on the midterm exam. They will not really have understood what to expect. To manage this weakness in the course structure, each student will be given a choice as to how the exam grade is calculated.

Option One: the midterm will count as 40% of the exam grade while the final exam will count as 60% of the exam grade.

Option Two: The midterm grade will be thrown out and the final exam grade alone will be the exam grade.

The default grade will be option one. To be eligible for option two, students must comply with all five of the following requirements:

1. take the midterm exam. Those who fail to take the midterm will automatically fail the class; choosing not to take the midterm makes option two meaningless.

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2. retrieve the midterm exam within one week of when the exam is turned back. [Most will receive their exams during the class period when the exam is returned. Those not in attendance on that day will have one week to pick up their graded exams from the end of that class period.]
3. go over the midterm (posted on the exams and quizzes page) and become familiar with the issues raised by the grader markings to see what areas need improvement .
4. by option one week (see the semester schedule) bring the midterm to Mr. Green's office and go over the midterm exam with Mr. Green in his office during his office hours. At this time the procedures need to improve the exam score on the final exam will be revealed and assignments for the option two meeting agreed.
5. by option week two (see the semester schedule) bring the assignments made in the first meeting to Mr. Green in his office during his office hours for critique.

Exam Time Period

The midterm exam questions and the final exam question will be posted on the home page and handed out one week before they are due. The date and hour when each is due will be printed on the test form. Neither will be accepted after that hour has passed.

Early or Late Final Exam

The date and time of the final exam are listed in the schedule bulletin and on Mr. Green's web site. The final exam must be taken within the correct class on the correct day at the correct time. Student's missing finals for any reason without written permission from Mr. Green and the Dean of the School of Arts and Letters will not be allowed to make up the exam.

Timed Tests

The grade on four tests, based on the reading of Karen Mingst and Ivan Arreguin-Toft , *Essentials of International Relations* will constitute 30% of the final grade.

The Timed Tests

Number of Tests: Three timed tests will be held during the semester. Each will be available using Blackboard's "Assessment Tool" on the dates indicated in the semester schedule. (The dates also appear with the link in the "Assessment Tool" or using Blackboard's "Calendar Tool.")

Source of Questions: The purpose of these tests are to insure a thorough reading and deep and broad understanding the material in the textbook. All questions concerning material in the textbook are written by the publisher, not Mr. Green. The questions are chosen at random by a computer program with approximately the same number of questions from each chapter. Literally anything mentioned in the text could be the focus of a test question. Students who thoroughly read and master the book usually do well.

Number of Questions: Each test will contain 60 questions, each worth one point, based on material in the text.

Test Rules

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Each test will be conducted using the assessment tool in blackboard. Each will begin on a Friday and run until Monday midnight on the scheduled weekend.

Timed Test Targets

Test #1 covers Chapters 1, 3, and 4

You will not be tested on Chapter 2

Test #2 covers Chapters 5, 6, and 7

Test #3 covers Chapters 8, 9 and 10

Grading the Tests

The score on the test will be available on Blackboard as soon as the test is completed. Once each exam is scored, its grade will be determined using the procedure described in the **grade creation** section on page 2 above. The final test grade will be created by averaging the three test grades.

The Practice Tests

Each timed test will cover 3 chapters in the textbook. To prepare for each timed test, three practice tests for each chapter are available on Blackboard using the “Assessment Tool.” These tests are not timed, each can be taken only once, and the score does not count toward the test grade.

The practice test arsenal also includes one practice timed test to correspond to each of the three timed tests. Each contains 60 questions like the timed tests, is timed for 60 minutes like the timed tests, and covers the same chapters as its corresponding timed test. Unlike the timed test, its score does not count toward the test grade. These practice tests should allow each student to thoroughly test their knowledge of the material before taking the actual timed test.

No Late or Make-up Tests

No make up of the three timed test is allowed. Refer to the semester schedule or Blackboard’s “Assessment Tool” or its “Calendar Tool” often to make none of the timed tests is missed. Excuses such as forgetting to check the schedule, getting stuck in Salt Lake or Las Vegas, or going on an upcoming family vacation will not count as acceptable excuses and will not be accepted. (See the attendance policy above.) Sometimes school sponsored activities or real emergencies will arise. These must be dealt with privately by consultation with Mr. Green (in his office, not in the classroom) before the test begins.

Debates

Debate will account for 30% of the grade. This grade come from two activities: the grades on the debate paper grade will account for 50% and the attendance grade counts for 50%

Debate Paper Assignment

There will be four debate paper assignments during the semester. Each paper will be based on a response to a set of assigned readings from Thayer and Ibryamova, *Debates in International Relations*. The paper assignments will be posted on the website. The articles may also be assigned to others in the class.

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The purpose of the paper is to create a summary and response to the reading so that other members of the class will be understand the issues raised by readings they have not read. This will be accomplish by a brief summary or both articles and a longer discussion of two reasons why one of the authors had the strongest argument. The summaries should be about one paragraph each while the critique and opinion section should constitute the bulk of the paper.

One the day the paper is due bring two copies of the paper. The due dates are on the schedule. (See the semester schedule that was passed out on the first day.) Give one copy to Mr. Green at the beginning of the class. The second is available when each student reads their paper to the class. Two class periods will be allocated for listening to each set of papers and debating the issues they raise.

Debate Paper Content Grade

The content grade will is the average grade on four papers to be turned during the semester. Each paper will be judged by five criteria

1. **CONTENT QUALITY:** is it clear that both articles have been fully read, that the issues they raise are understood, and that the student opinion is based on careful thinking about those issues?
2. **ORGANIZATION:** is the essay unified, coherent, and clear (see the wring terms section and the graphic in the writing guide on Mr. Green's Website).
3. **CORRECTNESS:** dos the paper contain correct diction, punctuation, grammar, etc. (see the section on punctuation and usage in the writing guide on Mr. Green's Website).
4. **ORIGINALITY:** is the paper the student's own work.
5. **FORMATTING:** does the paper meet all the formatting requirements in the next section.

Debate Paper Formatting

- The paper must have a recognizable purpose statement. (see the graphic in the writing guide on Mr. Green's website)
- The paper must be typed.
- The paper must use either an Arial or a Times Roman font
- The paper must be double spaced.
- The paper must have 1" margins all around.

Paper Heading Example

Name, Introduction to International Relations

Author for the first article, *first Article's Title* (title in italics); Author for the second article, *second Article's Title*

- The paper must use a 12 point font.
- The paper can use simple referencing. To cite a passage from the text, put the paraphrase or quotation's page number after the quote in brackets(ex. [307]). Do not include the author or title since they can be assumed from the page number references.

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- The paper must be only two pages: It must be no less than 600 and not more than 650 words.
- The paper must include a word count in parenthesis following the last period in the paper. [ex. (635words)]
- The heading of the paper will be two lines. The first line should include the student's name and the class. The second line should list the first assigned article (author's name first followed by the article's title) then the second article (author, title)

Unacceptable Papers

Papers will be turned back ungraded to be fixed and re-handed in if:

- they have too few or too many words
- they contain more than two physical pages
- they have the wrong font or font size
- they have incorrect margins
- they do not have the word count at the end

An unacceptable paper can be fixed and resubmitted by the next class period after it is turned back. If it is turned in any later, it will be treated as a late paper.

Debate Paper Grades

Each paper will receive a letter grade based on the structure, content, and mechanics. For your information, a chart showing Mr. Green's Writing Mechanics and Punctuation Codes is included on page 9. The debate paper grade will be created by averaging the each of final (after rewrites) paper grades.

Debate Paper Rewrites

The initial paper grade can be revise if the paper is rewritten. The rewrite is due on or before the class period positioned one week before the next debate paper is due. Students are encouraged to bring graded papers to Mr.

Green in his office and discuss ways of improve in the paper. The last rewrite paper must be turned in before the final exam begins.

Debate Paper Due Date and Late Papers

Debate Papers are due on the date listed in the schedule. Papers turned in after the class begins, that is those not available to be read in class when they are called, will lose one full grade step (A to B).

Attendance Scoring		
240 Total Points Possible		
Attendance at Each Tuesday and Thursday Debate Session		10 points per session = 80 points possible
	Late for any debate day	-5 points per session
Arrive With Paper Fully Prepared		25 points per session = 100 points possible
	Unprepared on first debate day	-5 per session
Read Your Paper to the Class		15 points per session = 60 points possible
	Late for assigned reading slot	-5 per session

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Mr. Green's Writing Mechanics and Punctuation Codes		
Code	Meaning	Explanation
SP	misspelled word	
WC	word choice	The word does not match its meaning. Choose a more appropriate word.
AK	awkward sentence	The sentence is unclear because of the arrangement and/or choice of words confuses rather than clarifies.
NT	needs transition	Transitions are like sign posts that lead the reader from one idea to another. IT is especially important to use them to introduce topic sentences when the subject changes from one idea to another. Examples: first, in the first place, finally, on the other hand, however, conse-
RO	run on sentence	Joining two sentences without proper sentence ending punctuation (a period, or a semi-colon, or a comma and a coordinating conjunction such as and, but, or, etc.)
CS	comma splice	Separating two sentences with a comma rather than a period, or a semi-colon, or a comma and a coordinating conjunction such as and, but, or, etc.
IC	improper comma	Comma used in the wrong place
NC	needs comma	Commas are necessary to set off subordinate clauses, coordinating conjunctions, series, and transitions
FR	sentence fragment	A phrase that is punctuated as a sentence but lacks either a subject or predicate (the usual error is to leave out the subject).
IS	improper semi-	Semi-colons, like periods, are used to end sentences not to start lists
PV	point of view shift	Write the entire paper in either first or third person. Normally, this error occurs when the writer switches from second person to first or third person. (Avoid all forms of the impersonal you [you, your, you've, etc] in all formal writing
NC	improper colon	Colons are never used to end sentences. Usually, they are used to start lists or to set off a quotation.
PR	pronoun reference	Pronouns, words like it, they, her, his, etc, take the place of nouns. Therefore, it must be clear which noun the pronoun is replacing. The rule is that a pronoun always refers to it last antecedent -- last noun before the pronoun appears.

Late papers will not be accepted after the conclusion of the class periods set aside for that debate topic.

Attendance and Participation Grade

The attendance and participation grade will be based on the points accumulated out of a possible 300 points using four criteria. First, 10 points are awarded for attendance at each scheduled Tuesday and Thursday debate session. Since there are four debates scheduled each lasting two day, this section is worth a possible 80 points. 5 points will be subtracted for showing up late for any of the Tuesday or Thursday sessions. Finally, the syllabus quiz (20 possible points), the pre-test (20 possible points), and the post test (20 possible points) will be added to the attendance and participation grade.

Second, 25 points are awarded for coming on time with the debate paper for each Tuesday debate session each . This section worth 100 points. 5 points will be subtracted for each and every failure to be prepared to read the paper when class starts.

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Finally, 15 points will be awarded for reading the assigned paper to the class at the assigned time slot. (Time slots will be assigned for each session on the first day of debate) 5 points will be subtracted from this section for having to read the paper as a time other than the one assigned as the time slot. This adds another 60 possible points.

The Syllabus Quiz

A syllabus quiz is posted on the “Assessment Tool” in Blackboard. The quiz contains 20 questions based on this syllabus. The quiz is worth 20 points which you will be allowed to take the quiz twice. The highest score of the two tries will count toward the grade.

The Pre-Test and the Post Test

A pre-test and post test are also posted on the “Assessment Tool” in Blackboard. The pre-test and the post test contain the same 20 questions which you will take twice — once at the beginning of the semester and one at the end. Each can be taken only once, but full credit of 20 points will be given when each is completed.

Calculating the Grade

The attendance and participation grade will be determined using the procedure described in the **grade creation** section on page 2 above.

How To Succeed in this Class

Success in this class will require focus, hard work and effort, and a success strategy. Five standards will ensure a successful outcome at the end of the semester:

- First, be in class every day. The course will revolve around the class lectures. Missing class will mean missing ideas that will be on the exams. It is especially important to attend on the five paper assignment days. Part of the paper grade derives from attendance and participation on these days.
- Second, do the reading. Fully reading the assigned texts is important for two reasons: first, to recognize selections from the text for the exams, and second, to understand and analyze the assigned reading in order to write the papers.
- Third, write all of the assigned papers and bring them to class on the paper assignment days (see the semester schedule). The grade will be significantly affected by an absence when a paper is due.
- Fourth, prepare the written exams according to the criteria set down in the syllabus. Pay special attention to writing a proper purpose statement and to showing a full and complete understanding of the lecture material.
- Fifth, write all the assigned the papers using the writing guides Mr. Green has provided. The writing guides are posted on the syllabus page on this website. In addition, be sure to read through the formatting requirements listed in the syllabus.