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 and provides a review of history. 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 and essay exams.
Administrative Guidelines

Students are expected to attend all of the lectures and all of the meetings of their discussion section. The lectures will present material beyond that presented in the readings. 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. Alternate times for the midterm and final examinations are possible only for students who can demonstrate that taking the exam at the scheduled time would impose a serious hardship on them. Students who cannot take examinations at the scheduled times for medical reasons must produce a valid medical excuse from a doctor. Students who will be out of town on the day of an exam on university business must provide documentation in advance of the need to travel that day.

All administrative matters will be handled by Ms. Marie Puccio, the administrative assistant. These matters include drop/adds, make-up exams, and complaints about grading. Only if an issue cannot be resolved with Ms. Puccio should it be brought to Professor Morrow.

There is a strict limit of 25 students in each discussion section and 20 in the honors section. Ms. Puccio will be available immediately after the first three lecture classes to address administrative issues.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me or Ms. Puccio 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. Those students who have been approved by the SSD Office for special considerations in taking examinations should bring the VISA form to me or Ms. Puccio as soon as possible so we can make arrangements to accommodate your needs.

Course Requirements and Grading

Students will write two in-class examinations and two 1000-word papers for this class. 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>October 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>October 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>December 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>December 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Various Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog Posts</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Various Times</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The GSIs and the professor will meet weekly to insure consistency of grading across the sections. We collect bluebooks in advance of the examinations and redistribute them the day of the exams. You will need to provide three bluebooks for the two exams, and we will announce when we will begin collecting them.

In addition to the papers, exams, and section activities, students will write class blogs that use the concepts of the course to explain current events. Each student will be required to write 5 posts, each worth 1% of the final grade. These posts will need to be one paragraph in length at least. I will post topics every other week with a selection of articles to read on the issue. Tentative dates of topics are: September 12, 26; October 10, 24; November 7, 21; December 5. Students can receive extra credit for superior posts. GSIs will recommend such posts to me, and I will determine if the student should receive extra credit.

Any complaints about 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. Your GSI will inform you of the dates when you can file a grade appeal when graded work is returned.

**Intellectual Honesty**

As some students are entering college, a brief review of two important issues of intellectual honesty are in order. First, the examinations are closed book; you are not allowed to use any notes or books when writing them. You should bring several pens to the examinations in case one fails. You may write the examinations in pencil, but you forfeit your right to contest your grade if you do.

Second, 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.

**Required Reading**

This course uses a draft textbook which I am writing. Paperbound copies of it will be available for purchase at the local bookstores. I will also place several copies on reserve in the library. The text contains only figures I have produced for reasons of copyright. I provide supporting graphics for the text through the CTools site for the course.

Some lectures do not have reading assignments. The material covered those days will only be available in lecture. The syllabus listed classes where you should review a chapter or two read earlier in the term. Some of the material of those chapters will be covered those days.

GSIs may also require additional readings as part of their section activities.

The course website is available through your personal page in UM CTools. 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 CTools 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

September 6: Introductory Meeting

September 8: What is World Politics?
   Chapter 1, What is World Politics?

September 13: The Logic of Threats and Promises
   Chapter 4, The Logic of Threats and the Problem of Credibility and Chapter 5, The Logic of Promises and the Problem of Commitment

September 15: Making Threats and Promises Effective
   Chapter 2, Actors in World Politics and Chapter 3, Preferences

First Paper Assignment out

September 20: The Modern World from 1492 to 1914

September 22: A Brief History of the World in the Twentieth Century

II. Conflict and Security

September 27: Interstate War and Crisis Bargaining Commitment
   Chapter 9, War and the Problem of Bargaining

September 29: Perceptions and Signaling
   Chapter 7, Perceptions and How They Matter in Decisions and Chapter 8, Persuasion and How Perceptions Change

October 4: Commitment Problems in War
   Chapter 10, Commitment Problems and War

October 6: The Domestic Politics of War
   Chapter 14, The Fate of Leaders and Chapter 15, The Enemy Outside

The First Paper is due at the end of lecture on October 6.

October 11: The Democratic Peace
   Chapter 16, The Democratic Peace

   Chapter 12, Arms and Alliances: The Elements of Security Policy and Chapter 13, Structural Theories of War: Balance of Power and Power Transition

October 18: No class; Fall Study Break
Chapter 6, Military Power and Its Limits

October 25: **Midterm Examination in Class**


November 1: Diplomacy: How States Make Foreign Policy
Chapter 11, Bureaucratic Politics

November 3: The Problem of Civil War

November 8: Terrorism
Chapter 17, Terrorism

**III. International Political Economy**

November 10: Economic Development
**Second Paper Assignment out**

November 15: The Politics of International Trade
Chapter 20, The Politics of Trade

November 17: Monetary Affairs
Chapter 21, The Politics of Monetary Affairs

November 22: The Problems of Cooperation and The Politics of International Finance
Chapter 22, Globalization: Trade, Money, and Finance in a Globalized World

November 24: **No class**; Thanksgiving Break

**IV. Transnational Challenges**

November 29: The Problems of International Cooperation
Chapter 18, International Cooperation and the Problem of Enforcement and
Chapter 19, The Problems of Cooperation: Distribution and Information

December 1: The Environment and International Cooperation
Chapter 23, Cooperation on International Environmental Issues

**The Second Paper is due at the end of lecture on December 1.**

December 6: International Law and Human Rights
Chapter 24, International Law and Norms
December 8: Why a System of Sovereign States?
   Chapter 25, Sovereignty

December 13: Wrap Up
   Chapter 26, Conclusion

The Final Examination is Friday, December 16 from 4:00 PM-6:00 PM.