

## **IS 220 International Politics**

VMI Department of International Studies and Political Science

Section 1 TR 1300-1415, SS 113

Section 2 TR 1425-1540, SS 113

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 1400-1700 & by appointment

### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- *Essentials of International Relations (6<sup>th</sup> Edition)* – Karen A. Mingst and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft (**hereafter Text**)
- *Essential Readings in World Politics (5<sup>th</sup> Edition)* – Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder (**hereafter Reader**)
- *Theories of International Politics and Zombies* – Daniel W. Drezner
- Course Blog: [www.patrickrhamey.com/irblog/](http://www.patrickrhamey.com/irblog/)

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

I am typically in my office, and if my office door is open, you are welcome to meet with me anytime without prior notice. Office hours are guaranteed Wednesday 1400-1700. However, I am usually available for an appointment at other times, including evenings and weekends.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides an introduction to international relations. International relations is a subfield of political science focused on developing a scientific understanding of state behavior. We will review the broad theoretical paradigms dominant in the international relations literature and apply those theoretical perspectives to real-world cases. This course will cover topics ranging from international conflict, security, and organization to international political economy and globalization.

As international politics is ongoing, cadets are expected to pay close attention to current events through relevant news sources. In addition to incorporating current events and historical facts into the fabric of our theoretical discussion, we will also engage in a series of simulations and activities to further apply theoretical principles.

**CADET OBJECTIVES:**

- Gain a general understanding of the international relations subfield in political science, including theoretical debates, methodological choices, and central research programs.
- Develop analytical tools to understand and evaluate the interactions of states through the lens of international relations theories
- Critically evaluate arguments in the international relations literature
- Formulate original arguments relevant to international relations and communicate those arguments effectively.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:**

Course requirements will be weighted in the following manner:

Participation/Quizzes-----	10%
Map Quiz-----	10%
Midterm -----	20%
Case Studies-----	30%
Final Exam -----	30%

**Participation/Quizzes.** Cadets are expected to participate in class discussion throughout the semester. In order to participate effectively, cadets will need to complete the readings before their assigned class sessions. Because topics may be controversial and/or complex, cadets are expected to be civil in their discussion and respectful toward viewpoints other than their own. Periodic take-home quizzes will be distributed to highlight key points within the readings.

**Map Quiz.** Understanding international interactions requires a basic understanding of geopolitical spatial relationships. Therefore, cadets will be required to place each country in the world on a map.

**Cases.** There will be two case studies for the course (15% each). Cadets will evaluate the explanatory power of each dominant theoretical perspective in international relations as applied to a relevant historical event of their choosing. Cadets are expected to synthesize theoretical and factual knowledge and develop a clear, precise argument for a single theoretical viewpoint (5-10 pages).

**Exams.** There will be a midterm exam (20%) and a final exam (30%). The midterm will consist of 2-3 short answer questions and an essay. The final exam is cumulative, following a similar format as the midterm. It will include 4-6 short answer questions and two essays.

**A Note on Grading:** If you receive a grade on an exam or assignment that you think should be re-evaluated, you may request, **within a week of when I hand it back**, that it be re-graded. You must provide a written explanation of why you believe your grade should be changed in your request.

## **Introduction to International Relations**

**January 14: Course Introduction**

**January 19:** Chapter 1 & 2 in Text  
Chapter 1 in Reader

**January 21:** Chapter 2 in Text

## **Major Paradigms**

**January 26:** Chapter 3 in Text  
Chapter 3 in Reader

**January 28:** Pages 1-64 in Drezner

**February 2: Map Quiz**  
Chapter 4 in Text  
Pages 65-94 in Drezner

**February 4:** Chapter 4 in Reader

**February 9: Diplomacy**

**February 11: Diplomacy**

**February 16: Diplomacy**

**February 18:** Chapter 5 in Text

**Case Study 1 Due 0800 Monday, February 22nd**

**February 23:** Chapter 5 in Reader

**February 25:** Chapter 6 in Text  
Chapter 6 in Reader  
Pages 95-146 in Drezner

**March 1: Midterm Exam**

## **International Organizations**

**March 3:** Chapter 7 in Text

**March 10:** Chapter 7 in Reader

**March 15: No Class, International Studies Association Conference**

**March 16: No Class, International Studies Association Conference**

## **International Conflict**

**March 29:** Chapter 8 in Text

**March 31:** Chapter 8 in Reader, pages 394-450

**April 7:** Chapter 8 in Reader, pages 451-520

**Case Study 2 Due 0800 Monday, April 11**

## **International Political Economy**

**April 12:** Chapter 9 in Text

**April 14:** Chapter 9 in Reader, pages 521-580

**April 19:** Chapter 9 in Reader, pages 581-658

## **International Norms and Globalization**

**April 21:** Chapter 10 in Text

**April 26:** Chapter 10 in Reader

**April 28:** Chapter 11 in Text

**May 3:** Chapter 11 in Reader

### **Disabilities and Accommodations:**

VMI abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 which mandate reasonable accommodations are provided for all cadets with documented disabilities. If you have a registered disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodations, please contact me early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate provision of accommodations you may need. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Office of Disabilities Services, the designated office on Post to provide services for cadets with disabilities. The office is located on the 2nd floor of the VMI Health Center. Please call or stop by the office of LTC Jones, Director of Disabilities Services, for more information, 464-7667 or [jonessl10@vmi.edu](mailto:jonessl10@vmi.edu).

### **Institute Rules for the Classroom:**

No tobacco products, food, beverages (except water in a closed container), or gum are allowed. Profanity and racial or gender slurs will not be tolerated. Use of cell phones or smart phones or other electronic devices for non-course-related communication during class is prohibited.

**Work for grade:**

The below work for grade policy is taken directly from “Part IV: Academic Regulations” of *Regulations for the Virginia Military Institute*, under “Cadets’ Responsibilities”:

Work for grade is defined as any work presented to an instructor for a formal grade or undertaken in satisfaction of a requirement for successful completion of a course or degree requirement. All work submitted for grade is considered the cadet's own work. "Cadet's own work" means that he or she has composed the work from his or her general accumulation of knowledge and skill except as clearly and fully documented and that it has been composed especially for the current assignment. No work previously submitted in any course at VMI or elsewhere will be resubmitted or reformatted for submission in a current course without the specific approval of the instructor.

In all work for grade, failure to distinguish between the cadet's own work and ideas and the work and ideas of others is known as plagiarism. Proper documentation clearly and fully identifies the sources of all borrowed ideas, quotations, or other assistance. The cadet is referred to the VMI-authorized handbook for rules concerning quotations, paraphrases, and documentation.

In all written work for grade, the cadet must include the words "HELP RECEIVED" conspicuously on the document, and he or she must then do one of two things: (1) state “none,” meaning that no help was received except as documented in the work; or (2) explain in detail the nature of the help received. In oral work for grade, the cadet must make the same declaration before beginning the presentation. Admission of help received may result in a lower grade but will not result in prosecution for an honor violation.

Cadets are prohibited from discussing the contents of a quiz/exam until it is returned to them or final course grades are posted. This enjoinder does not imply that any inadvertent expression or behavior that might indicate one's feeling about the test should be considered a breach of honor. The real issue is whether cadets received information, not available to everyone else in the class, which would give them an unfair advantage. If a cadet inadvertently gives or receives information, the incident must be reported to the professor and the Honor Court.

Each cadet bears the responsibility for familiarizing himself or herself thoroughly with the policies stated in this section, with any supplementary statement regarding work for grade expressed by the academic department in which he or she is taking a course, and with any special conditions provided in writing by the professor for a given assignment. If there is any doubt or uncertainty about the correct interpretation of a policy, the cadet should consult the instructor of the course. There should be no confusion, however, on the basic principle that it is never acceptable to submit someone else's work, written or otherwise, formally graded or not, as one's own.

The violation by a cadet of any of these policies will, if he or she is found guilty by the Honor Court, result in his or her being dismissed from VMI. Neither ignorance nor professed confusion about the correct interpretation of these policies is an excuse.

**Department of International Studies Work for Grade Policy:**

Work for Grade in this department is generally of the following types.

1. Written quizzes, tests, or examinations
2. Book reviews
3. Research papers, policy memoranda, briefing papers, and discourse analysis – identification and analysis of the critical difference is in the findings and opinions of scholars on issues of interest to the discipline.

Cadets are permitted and encouraged to study with their peers to prepare for quizzes, tests and exams. However, when a cadet takes either written or oral quizzes, tests, and examinations, answers must be his/her own work without help from any other source including notes or consultation with others.

In the case of book reviews, research and other papers, as described in “2” and “3” above, research and composing of such works must be done by the cadet alone. Cadets are permitted to use spell and grammar-checking facilities.

IS cadets are encouraged to make use of all VMI tutoring services to receive critical comments.<sup>1</sup> Cadets who do so and mark “Help Received” will not receive a lower grade on an assignment. Cadets are also permitted to seek critical comments on their written work from their peers. However, proof-reading and editing<sup>2</sup> of a cadet’s written work is not permitted.

Any exceptions to these rules, including the use of tutors, collaboration among cadets, and the use of computer style, spell and grammar checkers; must be explained in writing by the course instructor. Instructors are at liberty to stipulate exceptions only with the written approval of their department head.

**If you have any questions about the application of these rules, consult your instructor. Do not leave anything to chance.**

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<sup>1</sup> As defined on page 27 of the academic regulations, critical comments are “general advice given on such matters as organization, thesis development, support for assertions, and patterns of errors. It does not include proofreading or editing.”

<sup>2</sup> As defined on page 27 of the academic regulations, “proofreading means correcting errors (e.g., in spelling, grammar, punctuation). It is the last step taken by the writer in the editing process. In addition to the corrections made in proofreading, editing includes making such changes as the addition, deletion, or reordering of paragraphs, sentences, phrases, or words. A cadet may not have his or her work proofread or edited by someone other than the instructor.”