

**IS 201: Introduction to International Studies and Political Science**  
Department of International Studies and Political Science

MAJ J. Patrick Rhamey, Jr.  
Scott Shipp 435  
Ext. 7675  
rhameyjp@vmi.edu  
Office Hours: Wednesday, 0900-1100 & by appointment

**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 0900-1100. However, I am usually available for an appointment at other times, including evenings and weekends.

**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to political science, both as a discipline and as a profession, and is a required course for International Studies majors. Political science is the social science concerned with examining the distribution of power and resources which affect collective decision making. This semester we will focus on two central concerns for the discipline: 1) the nature of power and 2) the nature of cooperation. Readings are drawn from each of the four political science subfields: Political Theory, American Politics, Comparative Politics and International Relations. Through reading prominent works which engage with these enduring concerns from a variety of perspectives, cadets will be introduced to important political science concepts as well what it means to think social scientifically about politics. Thus, this course is intended to provide a foundation for future more specialized courses in the major.

International Studies majors must receive a C (defined as 70%) or better in the course.

**Grading Procedure:**

The final grade for this course will be based on three writing assignments, participation, a midterm and a final examination.

**Final grades will be distributed in the following manner:**

30% Writing Assignments  
30% Midterm  
30% Final  
10% Participation

**Writing Assignments:**

This course will have three writing assignments which will require that you reflect, analyze and integrate various materials. It is in your best interest to begin work on these writing assignments well before their respective due dates: these writing assignments are not designed to be begun the night before they are due.

Assignments turned in after the deadline will be deducted a letter grade. An additional letter grade will be deducted for every 24-hour period it is late thereafter.

You are required to cite using footnotes and following the Chicago Manual of Style. Details on this style can be found: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/> and [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

**Exams:**

This course will have a midterm exam on 11/1 and a comprehensive final exam.

**A Few General Polices and Recommendations:**

We will be using the canvas page associated with this course for posting slides and readings. You are expected to have copies of the readings or very detailed notes with you in class. We will often be making direct reference to the readings during class. Therefore, without the readings or very detailed notes you cannot adequately participate in class discussion. Repeated failure to bring your copy of the reading or your notes with you to class may result in a 0% for your participation grade.

I reserve the right to issue unannounced pop-quizzes should I feel that cadets are not doing the reading.

Use of social media and text messaging is not permitted while class is in session. I reserve the right to proscribe computer usage in class if I suspect that computers are being used for non-academic purposes.

No tobacco products, food, or gum are allowed in the classroom.

Exams will not be postponed except as provided by Institute regulations. Cadets must take each exam at the scheduled time; exceptions can only be made by the instructor no later than 48 hours before the scheduled exam. Failure to follow these rules will lead to a reduced grade to be determined by the professor. If you have an unexpected sickness at the time of a scheduled exam and miss it, you must contact your professor as soon as you are out of the hospital so that we can arrange a time for you to take it.

**Students with Disabilities:**

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 [joness110@vmi.edu](mailto:joness110@vmi.edu).”

**Semester outline:**

1/17 – 3/28	Topic One: Power & Politics
2/7	Assignment 1 due
3/2	Assignment 2 due
3/28	Midterm Examination
3/30 – 5/4	Topic Two: Collective Action and Coordination
5/4	Assignment 3 due
5/6 (01)	Final Examination
5/9 (02)	

**Daily Schedule/Readings**

1/17: Class overview

No Readings

***Topic One: Power and Politics***

1/24: Language, Power and Logic

- George Orwell, "Politics of the English Language"
- Orwell, George. "Shooting an elephant." 1936 Available at: [http://orwell.ru/library/articles/elephant/english/e\\_eleph](http://orwell.ru/library/articles/elephant/english/e_eleph)
- Charles King, "How to Think" [www.georgetown.edu/faculty/kingch/How\\_to\\_Think.htm](http://www.georgetown.edu/faculty/kingch/How_to_Think.htm)

1/26: What is politics? How can we study it? A classical view

- Aristotle, The politics {Selections}

1/31: What is politics II? How can we study it? A modern view

- Weber, Max Politics as a Vocation, {Selections}

2/2: Power versus Justice

- Thucydides, The Melian Dialogue
- Machiavelli, The Prince Chapters V-VIII, XV-XVII (available at <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1232/1232-h/1232-h.htm>)

***Subtopic: Power in American Politics***

2/7: (Fear of) Mass Power

- **Assignment 1 Due**
- Madison, James Federalist No. 10 1787 available at [http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fed\\_10.html](http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fed_10.html)
- de Tocqueville, Alexis. Democracy in America. 1840, Vol. I Chapter XV "Unlimited Power Of The Majority In The United States, And Its Consequences" available at [http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/DETOC/1\\_ch15.htm](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/DETOC/1_ch15.htm)

2/9: Elite Power

- Mills, C. Wright. The power elite. Oxford University Press, 1999. Chapter 12

2/14: Power of Groups

- Dahl, Robert A. "A critique of the ruling elite model." American Political Science Review 52.02 (1958): 463-469.
- Dahl, Robert Alan. Who governs?: Democracy and power in an American city. Yale University Press, 2005: 1-9, 85-6, 89-103, 163-5, 221-7.

2/16: Power and Consciousness

- Gaventa, John. Power and powerlessness: Quiescence and rebellion in an Appalachian valley. University of Illinois Press, 1982. {Selections}

2/21: An American Oligarchy I?

- Gilens, Martin, and Benjamin I. Page. "Testing theories of American politics: Elites, interest groups, and average citizens." Perspectives on Politics 12.03 (2014): 564-581.

2/23: An American Oligarchy II?

- Peter K. Enns. "Relative Policy Support and Coincidental Representation". *Perspectives on Politics*, 13, (2015): pp 1053-1064.
- Martin Gilens The Insufficiency of "Democracy by Coincidence": A Response to Peter K. Enns. *Perspectives on Politics*, 13, (2015): pp 1065-1071

Recommended:

- Peter K. Enns (2015). *Reconsidering the Middle: A Reply to Martin Gilens*. *Perspectives on Politics*, 13, pp 1072-1074.
- Gilens, Martin, and Benjamin I. Page. "Critics argued with our analysis of U.S. political inequality. Here are 5 ways they're wrong" *Monkey Cage*, May 23, 2016. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/05/23/critics-challenge-our-portrait-of-americas-political-inequality-heres-5-ways-they-are-wrong/>

*Subtopic: State Powers and Resistance*

2/28: State Power and Citizenship: the issue of rights

- Hamilton, Alexander. Federalist Paper 84. 1788. Available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html>
- "Seneca Falls Declaration." 1848. Available at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/senecafalls.asp>;
- Benhabib, Seyla. "Borders, boundaries, and citizenship." *PS: Political science and politics* 38.04 (2005): 673-677.

3/2: State Power and Citizenship: making peoples

- **Assignment 2 Due**
- Scott, James C. *Seeing like a state: How certain schemes to improve the human condition have failed*. Yale University Press, 1998. pp 64-73.
- Marx, Anthony W. "Race-making and the nation-state." *World Politics* 48.02 (1996): 180-208.

Recommended:

- Weber, Eugen. *Peasants into Frenchmen: the modernization of rural France, 1870-1914*. Stanford University Press, 1976. pp.485-496

3/7: Power and Obedience

- Wedeen, Lisa. *Ambiguities of domination: Politics, rhetoric, and symbols in contemporary Syria*. University of Chicago Press, 1999. pp.1-24
- Havel, Vaclav. *The Power of the Powerless: Citizens Against the State in Central-Eastern Europe*. Routledge, 2009. Pp 23-41

3/9: Power and Resistance

- Scott, James C. *Weapons of the weak: Everyday forms of peasant resistance*. Yale University Press, 2008. (Excerpt)
- O'Brien, Kevin J. "Rightful resistance." *World Politics* 49.01 (1996): 31-55.

3/21: *Compensatory Class Time for Speaker on Politics of Technology (Tentative 4/5)*

## 3/23: Power and Domestic Politics

- Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin, and Brandon C. Prins. "Rivalry and diversionary uses of force." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48.6 (2004): 937-961.
- Conover, Pamela Johnston and Virginia Sapiro. 1993. "Gender, Feminist Consciousness, and War." *American Journal of Political Science* 37(4): 1079-1099

3/28: **Midterm Exam*****Topic Two: Collective Action and Coordination****Subtopic: When do we cooperate?*

## 3/30: Philosophical Roots of Cooperation

- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters XIII and XIV (through, "Not All Rights are Alienable") available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3207/3207-h/3207-h.htm>

## 4/6: Philosophical Roots of Cooperation II

- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters II-V. Available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/7370/7370-h/7370-h.htm>
- Fukuyama, Francis. *The origins of political order: from prehuman times to the French Revolution*. Macmillan, 2011. Pp 26-34

## 4/11: Empirics of Cooperation I

- Axelrod, Robert M. *The evolution of cooperation*. Basic books, 1984. pp. 3-24, 73-87

## 4/13: Empirics of Cooperation II

- Hardin, Garrett. "The tragedy of the commons." *Science* 162.3859 (1968): 1243-1248.
- Ostrom, Elinor. *Governing the commons: The evolution of institutions for collective action*. Cambridge university press, 1990. pp. 1-28

*Subtopic: Domestic Cooperation, Development and Peace*

## 4/18: Associational Life and Development

- de Tocqueville, Alexis. *Democracy in America*. 1840 Volume II, Section 2 Chapter II (available at [http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DETOC/ch2\\_02.htm](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DETOC/ch2_02.htm)) and Chapter VIII ([http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DETOC/ch2\\_08.htm](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DETOC/ch2_08.htm))
- Putnam, Robert D. "Bowling alone: America's declining social capital." *Journal of democracy* 6.1 (1995): 65-78.

## 4/20: The Dark Side of Social Capital

- Levi, Margaret. "Social and unsocial capital: A review essay of Robert Putnam's *Making Democracy Work*." *Politics & Society* 24.1 (1996): 45-55.
- McDoom, Omar Shahabudin. "Antisocial Capital A Profile of Rwandan Genocide Perpetrators' Social Networks." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*(2013)

## 4/25: Building Institutions Out of Anarchy

- Olson, Mancur. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." *American Political Science Review*. 1993.

#### 4/27: The Difficulty in Cooperating to Overthrow a Dictator

- Kuran, Timur. "Now out of never: The element of surprise in the East European revolution of 1989." *World politics* 44.01 (1991): 7-48.
- Goodwin, Jeff. "Why we were surprised (again) by the Arab Spring." *Swiss Political Science Review* 17.4 (2011): 452-456.

#### 5/2: Rural Societies and Collective Action

- Popkin, Samuel L. *The rational peasant: The political economy of rural society in Vietnam*. Univ of California Press, 1979. Selections (PREFACE AND Chapter 6)
- Wood, Elisabeth Jean. *Insurgent collective action and civil war in El Salvador*. Cambridge University Press, 2003. Pp. 1-20; 193-225

#### 5/4: Review

- **Assignment 3 Due**

**Work for Grade Policy:**

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 source 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 states 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.**

---

<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.”